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OCTOBER 21-NOVEMBER 3, 2009

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Parties in the debate over IRV are poles apart

BY KEVIN DRISCOLL

St. Paul voters will be asked on November 3 whether the city should adopt instant runoff voting (IRV) in future elections for mayor and City Council. Minneapolis approved a similar referendum in 2006, and voters there will be using IRV for the first time on November 3. However, judging by the comments made by activists on either side of the debate, the November 3 election won't end the controversy over IRV no matter how people vote.

IRV, also known as ranked-choice voting, supplants the need for a primary election. Every candidate for a particular office advances to the general election, where voters are asked to rank them according to preference—first choice, second choice, third choice, etc. If no candidate receives a majority of first-choice votes, the candidate with the fewest first-choice votes is eliminated and the votes of those who selected that candidate first are redistributed to those voters' second choices. That process continues until a candidate receives a majority of the votes.

IRV will "increase the variety and number of candidates on the ballot, and that will bring out more voters," said Ellen Brown, who heads up the St. Paul Better Ballot Campaign, the organization that gathered the 7,000-plus signatures that put IRV on the ballot in St. Paul.

"Voters can and often do lose their first choice in the primary election," Brown said. "That leaves them with a lesser-of-two-evils choice (in the general election) that

INSTANT RUNOFF VOTING ►5



Lighting up the night. The second annual West End Iron Pour drew plenty of sparks and spectators to the former Schmidt Brewery on October 10. The public was invited to design sand molds and then watch as they were filled with hot iron to the music of the Backstreet Boogie Band. PHOTO BY ANNE BRANDRUD

St. Paul looks to spread wealth of \$2M windfall

Large utility bill refund could benefit a dozen city projects

BY JANE MCCLURE

A nearly \$2 million refund of utility bill overpayments has become a one-time windfall for the city of St. Paul that could translate into a new field at the Oxford Recreation Center, new picnic benches in Highland Park and seed money for a circulator bus in the Summit-University neighborhood. The city's Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) Committee voted unanimously on October 12 to recommend using the money for 12 projects. That recommendation now goes to the City Council.

The money is expected to cover some projects that were shut out of the 2010-2011 CIB process, said John McCarthy of the city's Office of Financial Services. The refund came after St. Paul Parks and Recreation staff questioned the utility bills that were received following the opening of the new visitors center at the Como Park Zoo and Conservatory. The time period covering the incorrect billing was between August 2003 and March 2009.

CIB Committee member Michael Steward questioned why the money could not be used for preserving or creating jobs. However, Parks and Recreation finance

CITY WINDFALL ►4

Plucky St. Patrick's has thrived amid all the changes in church

Guild marks 60 years under ownership of Doran family

BY CAROLYN WILL

Bob Doran was a 24-year-old athletic director for the St. Paul Catholic Youth Center, recently discharged from the Army after World War II, when he was asked by a few local priests if he could supply their churches with religious pamphlets. Doran agreed, and he and his wife Norma would regularly make the rounds of the churches to restock the pamphlets and collect the money

that had been left in the coin boxes.

"Bob met a lot of priests that way and it helped him get his foot in the door," Norma recalled. Within two years, Doran had more than 100 churches subscribing to his service.

In 1949 Doran opened St. Patrick's Guild in just a sliver of a storefront at 1554 Randolph Ave. Norma remembers seeing the "for rent" sign in the window. "It had been Watson Appliances," she said. "We drove by that corner often because we stored Bob's inventory just a block away in his mother's home. We thought the storefront would be a good start."

Doran called his new store St. Patrick's Guild to honor his Irish heritage and be-

cause it connoted a team of people working together. The store, all of 1,000 square feet in those days, sold rosaries and religious medals and wholesale church supplies like hymnals, candles and altar cloths.

Sixty years later, St. Patrick's Guild is still owned by the Dorans and it still occupies the original storefront, though it has since expanded into several other adjacent storefronts as well as stores in downtown Minneapolis and Richfield. The Dorans will mark the 60th anniversary on October 22-25 with a 20 percent discount on all merchandise.

In an effort to "pay it forward," husband and wife owners Tim and Barbara Doran have de-

cided to dedicate a portion of that weekend's sales to the Plaster Foundation for the benefit of Mary Plaster. Plaster worked next door to St. Patrick's Guild, at LaPatisserie, in August 2008 when she was struck by a motorist who was fleeing the police. Plaster spent the next two months in the hospital and lost the use of her legs.

"While celebrating our past, we want to take the opportunity to retell Mary's story," said Tim Doran, one of four sons of Bob. "Much like the community has supported us for the past 60 years, we want to reciprocate by sup-

ST. PATRICK'S GUILD ►2

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Owner and past owner, respectively, Tim and Mike Doran will be celebrating the 60th anniversary of St. Patrick's Guild on October 22-25 at the store that parents Bob and Norma Doran founded at 1554 Randolph Ave. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

"Vatican II brought in a time of feel-good religion, and we had a lot of Jonathan Livingston Seagull-related items," Mike Doran said. "I still remember Dad coming home shaking his head and saying, 'I can't believe I'm selling posters now.'"

1◀ ST. PATRICK'S GUILD

porting Mary's continuing recovery."

Both LaPatisserie and the adjacent Irish Indeed will join St. Patrick's Guild in offering 20 percent discounts throughout the weekend and donating a portion of the proceeds to the Plaster Foundation.

The benefit is in keeping with a St. Patrick's Guild tradition of helping people in need, according to Helen Young, 74, a longtime St. Patrick's Guild employee. "The whole Doran family, whenever anyone is ill or in need of help, always rally around," she said.

Young began working at the Guild in 1972 when the youngest of her five children entered 1st grade. "I've seen a lot of changes, but one of the biggest is the ecumenical aspect," she said. "The business serves all faiths now, especially with the spiritual reading selections."

"Lohman's was the main competition my dad faced when he started," said Mike Doran, who became the owner of St. Patrick's Guild when his father died in 1972.

The E.M. Lohman Company in downtown St. Paul was a major publisher of religious materials, including Bibles. "They'd been around since the 1880s and sold from here to the West Coast," Mike Doran said. "But bigger businesses can't change as quickly, and when Vatican II ushered in all those changes in the Catholic Church, it put them out of business."

St. Patrick's Guild's first two decades had its own share of nail biting, Norma Doran recalled. She and Bob had six children by 1962 with one more to follow. "I remember Bob saying, 'We'll survive and grow,' and soon we had grown beyond Lohman's," she said.

Surviving meant changing to meet the changing demands of St. Patrick's Guild's customers. "Vatican II brought in a time of feel-good religion, and we had a lot of Jonathan Livingston Seagull-

related items," Mike Doran said. "I still remember Dad coming home shaking his head and saying, 'I can't believe I'm selling posters now.'"

In 1958 Bob Doran doubled the size of St. Patrick's Guild by expanding into the neighboring space vacated by Keller's Hardware. He also opened a church goods annex in an adjacent house, and soon opened a second store in Minneapolis. But sales stagnated in the years following Vatican II, and both the annex and the Minneapolis store were closed.

"The heyday ended in 1961-62," Mike Doran said. "There was a lot of confusion. The liturgy changed from Latin to English, people didn't know what to pray out of, and they didn't know what to sing."

Bob Doran died of melanoma at the age 48, leaving Norma with some difficult decisions. Only one of her children, Mike, had finished college at the time, and she still had four children at home. "I tried to sell the store at first," Norma said, "but I only had one offer and it wasn't very good." Reluctantly, she called Mike home from graduate school and asked him to run the business.

"I was young," Mike said, "but I was fortunate to be stepping in at the right time when the business was ready for growth."

In 1975 St. Patrick's Guild bought a neighboring building from Weber Grocery. In 1986 its Richfield store opened, and in 1992 Mike opened a third location in the new Mall of America. In 1997 a fourth store opened in St. Olaf Church in downtown Minneapolis, and in 1998, when a small space became available

next to their home store on Randolph Avenue, the Dorans opened a small deli there.

"We quickly learned we knew nothing about running a restaurant," Norma Doran said. The deli was sold to LaPatisserie, which has kept the passageway open between it and St. Patrick's Guild and neighboring Irish Indeed, another retail venture founded by Mike Doran and former St. Patrick's Guild manager Scott Wilhelmy.

In 2003 Tim and his wife, Barb, bought the business from Mike and his wife, Jean.

The peak season for the retail store continues to be Christmas, when its Nativity sets, Advent books, ornaments and cards are particularly popular, followed closely by the First Communions in the spring.

On the wholesale side of the operation, Easter brings in the strongest sales. "We sell a lot of consumables such as candles, altar breads and seven different kinds of altar wine," said Mark DePalma, the manager of the Guild's church goods arm. Another area of growth has been in on-line sales and in church remodeling and redecorating, "creating prayer spaces, repainting murals, anything that is nonstructural, although we can take out walls to make a space larger," DePalma said.

"I'm not sure if (running the store) has inspired my own faith life," Tim Doran said. "My faith was instilled in me at a young age by my mother and father. But this business has been an outgrowth of that strong Catholic faith and strong sense of community."



Reuse of Ford site may require big subsidy

By Jane McClure

Converting Ford Motor Company's Twin Cities Assembly Plant for "green" manufacturing is feasible, but only with a considerable public subsidy, according to a newly released study commissioned by the city of St. Paul and the Minnesota Department of Commerce.

Ford plans to close its 122-acre Highland Park plant in 2011. The closing was initially scheduled for 2008, but a rebound in light truck sales has kept about 760 people employed assembling Ford Ranger pickups.

The \$100,000 study was done by consultants Bonestroo Inc., Ryan Companies, Generate Companies, and Economic Development Services. A city task force that has also been studying potential new uses for the Ford plant has come up with five different alternatives, including light industrial, research and development uses, a mixed-use office and institutional campus, a mixed-use urban village, and a high-density neighborhood of residential, office, retail and hospitality uses.

St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman and Ward 3 City Council member Pat Harris have advocated redevelopment that would bring more jobs to the city. St. Paul has reportedly lost half of its manufacturing jobs since 1992.

Harris said the recently completed study does not contain a lot of new information. "Many of the conclusions we've already talked about," he said.

The report states that if Ford is redeveloped for green manufacturing, "expect heavy subsidies." City officials noted that those subsidies would have to come from sources other than the city. The report also indicates that any new manufacturing would likely require



A Ford plant line worker attaches a decal to the back of a new Ranger.

PHOTO BY ANNE BRANDRUD

only a portion of the site and that a mix of land uses is more feasible.

Tax breaks and other incentives would be key to any redevelopment of the site, the report states. Those incentives could include the city and state picking up the tab for building demolition and site preparation, costs that could range from \$8.2 million to \$18.3 million. The lone building on the property recommended for possible reuse is the paint building.

The report is still being reviewed by city staff, local officials and members of the Alliance to Re-Industrialize for a Sustainable Economy (ARISE), which has been pushing for the creation of green jobs and environmentally sustainable redevelopment of the Ford site. According to Russ Adams, executive director of the Alliance for Metropolitan Stability, ARISE members continue to

work with University of Minnesota students on ideas for green manufacturing at the plant.

"From what I've seen, the report does include many ideas that were brought up during the task force process," Adams said. In any case, he added, the level of public subsidy needed for redevelopment should not come as a surprise.

St. Paul city planner Merritt Clapp-Smith agreed with Adams. She and others who have been studying the redevelopment of the Ford plant were "encouraged that the report outlines ideas for potential green manufacturing reuse," she said. "It does affirm ideas discussed by the task force thus far."

According to Clapp-Smith, the report has applications beyond the Ford site and could be used for other redevelopments, such as the 3M property on St. Paul's East Side.

The report specifies the advantages and disadvantages of the Ford site. Its location in the heart of the Twin Cities is considered an asset, but the lack of convenient freeway access is considered a liability.

The report also cites the intense competition across the country for new green jobs. The Ford plant is one of about 3,600 similar sites around the U.S. that are being eyed for redevelopment. "Every community in the country is trying to develop its abandoned industrial properties," the report states.

St. Paul officials have suggested reusing the Ford plant for the manufacturing of wind turbines. However, the narrow streets around the plant would make transporting turbines difficult, according to the report. More likely industries, according to the study, include the manufacturing of heating, ventilating and air conditioning equipment, sensors and solar panels.

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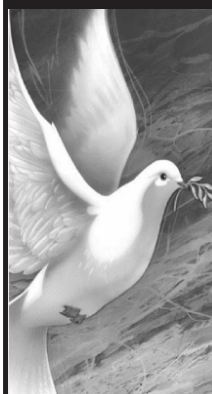
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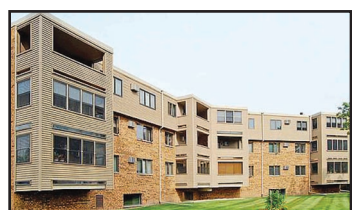
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First Tee, Shamrock's get STAR funds

By JANE MCCLURE

Two local projects are among those that were approved for funding by the St. Paul City Council on October 7 through the city's 2009 Neighborhood Sales Tax Revitalization (STAR) large grant and loan program.

The projects were reviewed this summer and were recommended for funding by the Neighborhood STAR board. Mayor Chris Coleman's administration then conducted its own review.

Ten projects were approved in all, totaling more than \$1.3 million. Nineteen other projects did not make the cut and received no money.

One local project that will receive funding is a First Tee of St. Paul learning center at Highland National Golf Course. The program was awarded a \$150,000 grant and a \$150,000 loan. First Tee, a nonprofit organization that promotes golf for children, wants to

build a 4,240-square-foot golf learning center with computer space, a protected driving range and a green for chipping and bunker practice. A \$300,000 match has been pledged.

Meefy Beat Inc. was awarded a \$49,500 grant and a \$49,500 loan for improvements to Shamrock's Irish Nook, 995 W. 7th St. The restaurant would gain a handicapped-accessible entrance and accessible restrooms, as well as remodeled kitchen and dining areas and exterior improvements. A \$186,159 match has been pledged.

Eight local projects did not make the cut, including University Avenue commercial improvements, Jewish Community Center renovations, improvements to the Higher Ground Academy charter school, streetscape improvements for the mixed-use Penfield development in downtown St. Paul, renovation of a vacant theater near University Avenue and Victoria Street into performance space,

an addition to the Model Cities Brownstone building on University Avenue, rehabilitation of affordable housing at the St. Phillips Garden apartment complex on Concordia Avenue and an elevator in the former Il Vesco Vino restaurant building on Selby Avenue.

The City Council also closed out 13 other projects, returning unspent balances totaling more than \$200,000 to the Neighborhood STAR program.

While most of the balances for local projects were small, one large project that was canceled was the Fyten Brewery planned for a West 7th Street site. That project, funded eight years ago, returned \$50,000 to the city.

The last installment of the Macalester-Groveland Community Council's Home Improvement Program, one of the first Neighborhood STAR-funded home fix-up programs, returned almost \$17,000. The district council has not operated the program for several years.

1◀ CITY WINDFALL

and planning manager Tom Russell said the windfall is one-time money that cannot be used for ongoing expenses. "When it's gone it's gone," he said.

Of the proposed projects, the one that drew the most skepticism involved spending \$215,801 for field improvements at the Oxford Community Center. Some committee members questioned putting more money into that facility.

"I just wonder, if we put a turf field in, how much use the public would actually get," said committee member Gary Unger.

Part of the planning for Oxford called for installing new fields along Lexington Parkway and making field improvements to the east. However, unstable soil and soil contamination mean the project may not get done as soon as planned. Work was to be completed this fall, but may now have to wait until spring.

The CIB Committee also recommended spending \$75,000 on a study of the area around Edgumbe Road and Montreal Avenue. Part of the study would focus on the clubhouse of the Highland National golf course and how it could be improved. Another part would focus on the former Highland swimming pool

building. Both buildings are more than 80 years old. The old pool building is in such poor condition that it is fenced off to keep people away.

"We're very nervous about it. It's in terrible condition," said Jody Martinez, who oversees facilities planning for Parks and Recreation. "We'd like to find a way to restore it."

Another project recommended by the committee is to spend \$15,000 on benches and picnic tables at Highland Park. When the picnic area and parking lot were rebuilt a few years ago at a cost of \$1.7 million, benches and picnic tables were cut out of the budget. However, concrete slabs were poured so the fixtures could be installed when money became available.

A fourth local project that would benefit from the windfall is the long-discussed circulator bus in the Summit-University and Frogtown neighborhoods. The bus would transport children to neighborhood recreation centers, schools and clubs. The CIB Committee has recommended \$50,000 in seed money to get the project started.

Circulator buses already operate in the city's East Side and West Side neighborhoods. "They're extremely popular and there's a lot of pressure to add more of

these," said Parks and Recreation finance and planning manager Tom Russell.

The committee also recommended spending \$250,000 on a Parks and Recreation facilities plan that would include an inventory of all of the buildings, fields, pools, courts and open spaces owned by the city. "This is long overdue," Martinez said. "It will really help us put the system into context."

Other projects that would be covered by the money include the following:

- \$600,000 to help complete the \$15 million polar bear habitat now under construction and set to open next year at Como Zoo.
- \$100,000 for a comprehensive study of Como Park's transportation and parking needs.
- \$75,000 to pay for a study of Mounds Park.
- \$200,000 for a Mexican-American military veterans memorial on Harriet Island.
- \$30,000 to study transit-oriented development on Smith Avenue.
- \$381,000 to tear down and replace the Front, Sylvan and Prosperity recreation centers with smaller restroom facilities. Field and outdoor improvements, such as new play areas, would also be made.

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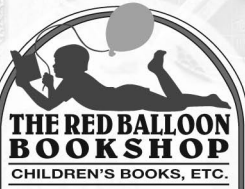
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Votes	1st choice	2nd choice	3rd choice
49	Chris	Betty	George
26	George	Chris	Betty
25	Betty	George	Chris

In a hypothetical election using instant runoff voting, George is the first choice of only 26 voters, but he defeats Chris, who is the first choice of 49 voters, when Betty is eliminated after the first round of counting and the 25 second-choice votes of Betty supporters are added to George's total. George wins even though his total of first- and second-choice votes is smaller (51) than either Chris' (75) or Betty's (74).

1 ◀ INSTANT RUNOFF VOTING

lesser-of-two-evils choice (in the general election) that we've seen so often before. It might even keep them from voting in the general election. But with more candidates on the general election ballot, more voters will have a better variety to choose from." And more voters makes it more likely that the winner will have the support of more citizens, Brown added.

A new organization called the No Bad Ballots Campaign has risen up in opposition to IRV in St. Paul. "If IRV passes, I'm confident that the general outrage of the public, once they have to actually use it, will be enough to put its repeal on the ballot the following year," said Chuck Repke, who founded No Bad Ballots along with fellow DFL activist Angie Kline. "IRV will confuse voters and will cost the city money at a time when we can't afford it. And it lets a candidate win who is not the top choice of the majority of people."

No Bad Ballots offers a hypothetical example on its website (www.site.nobadballots.com). The video shows how in a three-way race the candidate with the second most first-choice votes, but ultimately the fewest total first- and second-choice votes, can win under IRV. This candidate is the favorite of those who supported the losing candidate, and thus in the second round of counting he has more first- and second-choice votes than the other surviving candidate has first-choice votes. (See the chart above.) Is it fair, the video asks, to give two votes to the voters who supported the candidate with the fewest first-choice votes and only one vote to the voters who supported the candidate with the most first-choice votes?

"That question reflects a lack of understanding about what IRV is and how it works," said Jeanne Massey, executive director of Fair Vote Minnesota, parent organization of the Better Ballot Campaign. According to her, the above scenario is no different from what would happen in a traditional primary and general election. IRV simply combines the primary and general election in a single election, she said.

"There's a big difference between allowing one group of voters a second bite of the apple (while denying that bite to other voters) and holding a runoff election between the top two candidates," Repke countered. "New information is given to voters between a primary and a general election, giving them the ability to examine in detail the differences between the final two candidates."

According to Repke, several cities around the country that have adopted IRV are holding referendums this fall on repealing IRV.

Proponents have said that IRV ensures that the winning candidate has majority support, Repke said, "but in Burlington, Vermont, the mayor was re-elected with only a majority of the ballots still being counted in the final round. Fifteen percent of the ballots cast had no vote in the final round."

Under IRV, a voter's ballot can be exhausted before the counting is over, Massey acknowledged, if that voter does not rank all but one of the candidates running for a particular office. However, Massey does not see that as a problem. Under IRV, she said, "majority winner means the one who has a majority of the votes counted in the final round. It's always a voter's choice how far to rank candidates. Some ballots invariably exhaust before the final round,

so that the winner sometimes will have less than a majority of the initial ballots cast."

However, Massey added, if one compares the effective participation rate in an IRV election (i.e., those still participating in the final round of counting) with the effective participation rate in the traditional two-round primary and general election, they will find "much, much lower" turnout in the traditional elections.

The DFL Party in St. Paul has passed a resolution in support of IRV, according to DFL city chair Darren Tobolt. However, "that was not an endorsement of the current ballot question," he said.

The St. Paul Republican City Committee opposes the adoption of IRV. "We want to protect the right of St. Paul voters to have their first choice for mayor and City Council count," said Greg Copeland, who chairs that committee. "By voting 'no' in the November 3 referendum, voters can ensure that in the future the candidate with the most votes and a majority of the votes will take office."

One of the arguments in favor of IRV is that municipalities can save money by not having to hold a primary election. Minneapolis has budgeted \$1.3 million for its IRV election in 2009, about \$337,000 more than it spent on the city election in 2005, according to city elections director Pat O'Connor. However, any additional cost is expected to be entirely due to the one-time expenses of switching over to IRV, O'Connor said. Those expenses include voter education, outside consultants who are helping to plan the election and will help review the outcome, and the wages of the 100 people who will be hired to hand-count the ballots. The hand-counting, which could take up to seven weeks depending on the distribution of votes, is needed this year because the state of Minnesota requires the use of federally certified voting equipment and there is no IRV voting equipment that has been federally certified.

If the IRV referendum passes, St. Paul will have to purchase or maintain two kinds of voting equipment, according to Copeland, one for IRV and one for the traditional elections that will still be required for School Board and Ramsey County commissioner.

Whether or not IRV is approved in St. Paul, it will face a challenge from the Minnesota Voters Alliance (MVA). That organization filed suit a year ago against IRV in Minneapolis, claiming it was unconstitutional. Though the Minnesota Supreme Court ruled against the MVA, the organization plans to file another lawsuit this winter in Hennepin County District Court challenging the constitutionality of IRV as it is being applied in Minneapolis in 2009. "The Minnesota Supreme Court will get another chance to make the right decision," said MVA executive director Andy Cilek. "They blew it the first time. Ultimately, we believe IRV will be decided on and rejected by the U. S. Supreme Court."

The League of Women Voters of St. Paul will hold a public forum on the respective pros and cons of IRV and the traditional method of voting on Wednesday, October 21. The free program will run from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at the Hamline University School of Law, 1536 Hewitt Ave. Taking part will be Brown, Repke and Rachel Smith of the Center for the Study of Politics and Governance at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. For information, call 651-646-3827.

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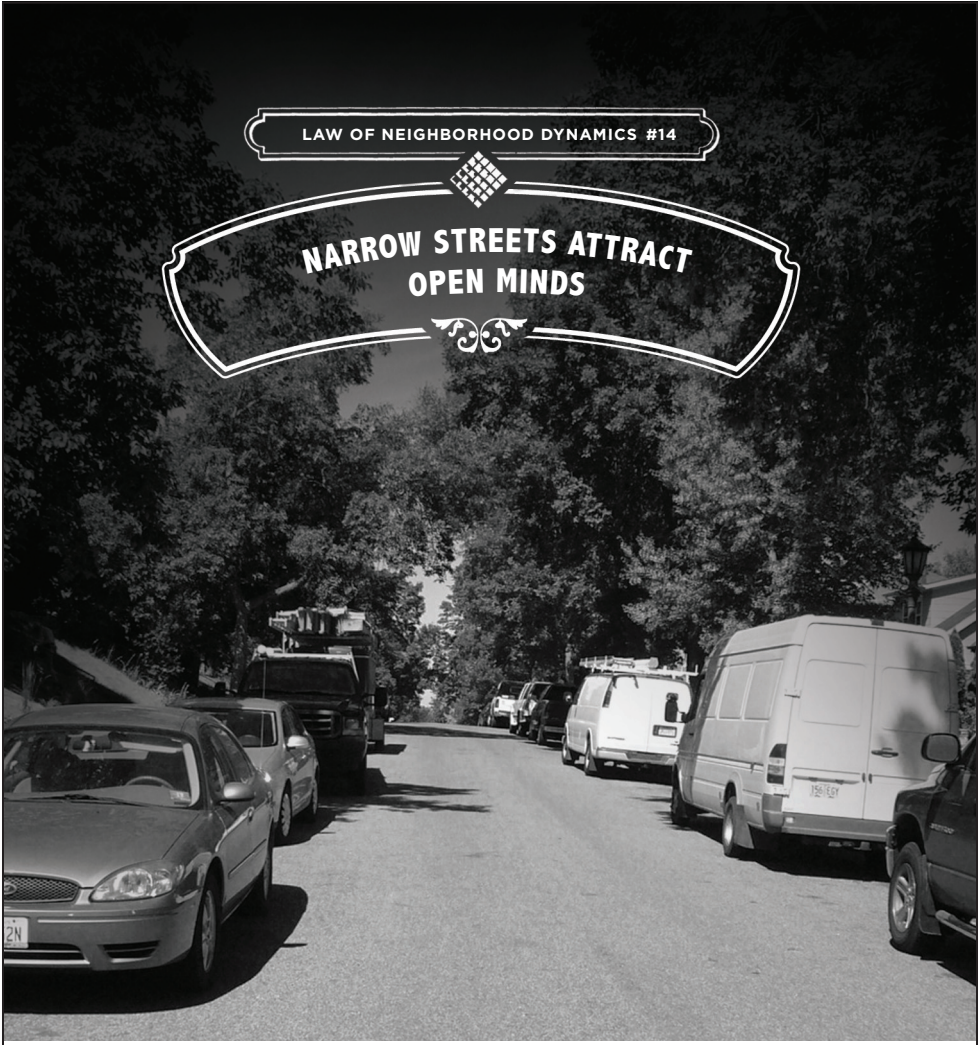
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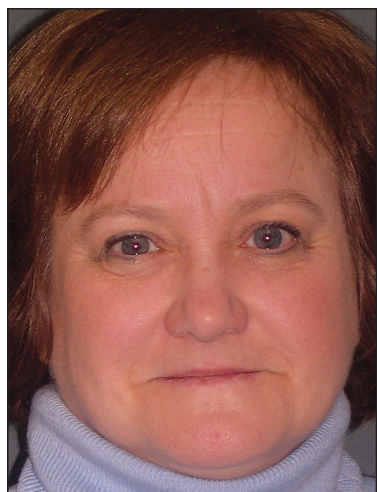
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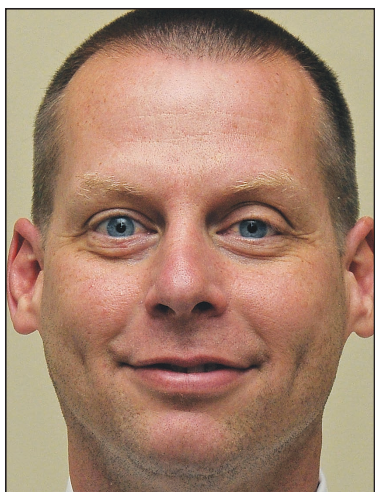
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District 197 School Board hopefuls address issues

Eight candidates file, but fewer remain in running for 3 seats

BY KEVIN DRISCOLL

Voters in Mendota Heights, West St. Paul and Eagan have a wide open field of candidates to choose from for the District 197 School Board this fall, since incumbents Elise Jamison, Tim Leslie and Reine Shiffman all decided to not run for re-election. Eight candidates filed to seek the three open seats, each of which is for a four-year term. Anne Byer-Rajput of Mendota Heights and Brenda Norman of Eagan have since dropped out, though their names will still be on the November 3 ballot. The remaining candidates are as follows:

Patricia Barnum, 52, of West St. Paul is the chief financial officer for the Printing Industry of Minnesota and its companion educational foundation. She is divorced with two sons who recently completed their senior year at Sibley High School and are now enrolled in the district's special education transitional program. Barnum said her experience with public education at the school level and as a member of advisory councils to the superintendent and school board in Minneapolis and in District 197 arm her with insights to help guide the district through tough times.

Barnum said she would like to help the district with planning, fiscal responsibility and accountability. "Our district needs a long-

term plan that will raise all students to their potential, elevate academic performance, improve the balance of socioeconomic challenges and encourage community involvement in the schools," she said. "We must look further into the future (and include) a strong marketing element to attract more families."

On the school district's budget, Barnum said the district will have to learn to do more with less. "Shaking our fists at the Capitol in St. Paul and at the Capitol in Washington, D.C., about mandates will not solve the problems we face," she said. "We need to get down to the business of streamlining our processes, researching best practices in education and taking a hard look at how shrinking budgets can be best spent to fulfill the ever-increasing needs of our students."

Jim Cichy, 48, of Eagan is a factory trainer for Andersen Windows and previously worked for the Gillette Company for 19 years in technical and managerial positions. "I bring a proven ability to get more done with less," he said. He is married with three children.

With two children attending school in District 197, Cichy said he has a vested interest in the continued success of the district. "We talk to our children about helping others and making our community a better place," he said. "My wife and I do a lot of volunteer work within the district. I have strong problem-solving skills and the ability to engage others in positive change."

Cichy identified three major challenges for the district. One, he said, is that it has shrinking budgets and increasing demands. A second is that the district needs all of its students to succeed and to make sure all of them are

getting what they need to thrive. A third is that the district needs to increase its educational market share by attracting families that are currently choosing to send their children to private schools or public schools outside the district. "We need to ensure we're listening to our customers," he said.

Dewayne Dill, 49, of Mendota Heights is president of Dalex Livestock Solutions, an agricultural technology company. He is married and has five children, all of whom attend or have attended District 197 schools. Dill said he was encouraged to run for office by many people, including current and former board members.

"After serving on the Blue Ribbon Panel on the Future of District 197, I became more aware of just how exceptional our district is, but also how difficult the challenges are to keep our district strong," he said. "The district has served our family well and I felt a sense of duty to offer my time and talents in return."

Dill's primary concerns are the district's budget, the diversity of its student body and the need to increase the district's ability to compete with private and charter schools and even other public school systems. "We must explore every opportunity for improved operational efficiency, including partnerships with local businesses, innovative employment relationships, online education, partnerships with private schools and home schooling groups," he said.

Dill said he wants the new board to work closely with the administration during what will be challenging times. "I'll insist on a level of board decorum and interaction with the administration that assures we continue to

provide strong leadership," he said.

David Koziol, 55, of Mendota Heights is an information technology consultant at Ecolab. He is married with four children, all of whom have graduated from or are attending Sibley High School. Koziol said his experience as a parent is a major reason he should be elected.


"We've had children attending District 197 schools since 1986," he said. "My wife and I have been actively involved in many school programs." A recent example of that involvement, he said, is his five years of service on the board of the Sibley Band Boosters, including one year as president.

Koziol said he is running because he has watched the board and district become increasingly removed from accountability to parents. "The administration has become inaccessible and the board has removed the public comment opportunity at board meetings, excluding parents from voicing legitimate and reasonable concerns in a public forum," he said.

He added that decisions are being made too quickly with minimal input from the public and cited last year's change in school start times as an example. "Issues like that deserve thoughtful consideration and deliberation based on community sentiment," he said.

To address what he said are "gaps in certain academic tracks where the curriculum is inadequate or nonexistent," Koziol said he would like to promote "well-defined curricula for all subject areas in the district. Without this direction, we're unable to measure the effectiveness of our facilities and administration

DISTRICT 197 ELECTION ► 7



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St. Paul targets social hosts City makes it illegal to provide minors with a place to drink

By JANE McCLURE

The St. Paul City Council unanimously adopted an ordinance on October 14 that makes it a misdemeanor to hold an event where underage guests have access to alcohol. After the ordinance takes effect in mid-November, an adult who hosts or allows a party where underage drinking takes place could face up to 90 days in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

The ordinance was brought forward by Ward 4 council member Russ Stark in response to complaints about underage students drinking in neighborhoods around colleges. His ward includes the St. Thomas, Macalester, Hamline, Concordia and University of Minnesota-St. Paul campuses.

The underage consumption, possession and purchase of alcohol are crimes, as is buying alcohol for someone under age 21. However, state law is unclear about whether it is illegal to provide young people with a place to drink. An increasing number of Minnesota cities are considering these so-called social host ordinances as a result.

A City Council public hearing on October 7 only drew a handful of people, all of whom supported the ordinance. Paul Schnell, public information officer for the St. Paul Police Department, said the ordinance would give police another tool in cracking down on underage drinking. He said officers struggle to get minors tagged and processed when breaking up large off-campus parties. According to him, police believe it would be more effective to target hosts and places where alcohol is served.

In a memo to the City Council, Assistant City Attorney Yamy Vang said the ordinance would reduce police costs and save taxpayer dollars by reducing repeat calls to the same addresses. The City Attorney's Office handled a total of 878 cases of underage drinking in 2007 and 2008. During those same years, however, police officers involved in the city's Zero Adult Providers program estimated that they came into contact with more than 2,000 underage people at drinking parties.

Most St. Paul colleges have come out in support of the ordinance. So has the West Summit Neighborhood Advisory Committee and Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

"This gives the community a practical tool to hold adults responsible," said Jean Mulvey, executive director of the Minnesota chapter of MADD. She said that in a party where under-

age consumption of alcohol occurs, it is often difficult if not impossible to find out who supplied the alcohol.

The ordinance covers parties in houses, apartments, condominiums, hotel rooms, halls, meeting rooms, yards, fields, parks or other places where three or more people are gathered. It defines the person having control of the party as the owner of a property, a tenant or lessee of the property, or the person who accepts responsibility for the event.

"This gives the community a practical tool to hold adults responsible," said Jean Mulvey, executive director of the Minnesota chapter of MADD.

It is a violation of the ordinance if at least one underage person is present and that person has consumed alcohol, is in possession of an alcoholic beverage container or a container of alcoholic beverages is present. Having a party promoted via invitations, flyers or posting on social networks such as MySpace, Facebook, Twitter or mobile phone texting would be considered as evidence when criminal citations are issued.

The key is whether people should have reasonably known that alcohol was being served, Vang said. One change to the ordinance spells out that if a landlord does not actively participate in an event or serve as a host, he or she would not be held responsible. Because the ordinance has criminal rather than civil penalties, Stark said a landlord's involvement in a party involving minors would have to be clear. Repeated police calls to a location could still trigger city penalties against landlords for excessive consumption of police services and prosecution under nuisance laws.

The ordinance does take into account "reasonable steps" to discourage underage drinking, such as carding guests or controlling access to liquor. It also exempts parents who serve alcohol to their own children in the family home and to alcohol that is served in conjunction with a religious ceremony.

6◀ DISTRICT 197 ELECTION

and the success of our students."

Joel Stone, 52, of Mendota Heights is an emergency medical technician for HealthEast. He is married with two children who attended District 197 schools. Citing his years of experience as a district parent, Stone said he would be honored to have the opportunity to "transition from a hands-on role to one of policymaking for the district."

Stone has two concerns with district leadership. One involves communication. "At the present time, a parent or a taxpayer cannot address anyone at a board meeting," he said. "They're completely shut out from district management and the district administration is completely insulated from the taxpayers." Stone said he will try to change School Board meetings so members of the audience will be allowed to speak.

His other concern is that 197 is the only district in the conference without weighted grades, which he said handicaps students ap-

plying to college. "District 197 needs to move to a dual-class rank system to get more of our graduates into more colleges, and provide their families with more scholarship money," he said.

Stone praised the district's diversity and the fact that its teachers have won awards for their promotion of minority students. Still, he said the district must raise the level of achievement for disadvantaged students. "Promoting volunteer tutoring, classroom enhancements and teacher training should all be considered as possible solutions," he said.

The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 3. For more information, including polling places and absentee voting, visit www.isd197.org or call 651-403-7002.

Editor's note: District 197 School Board candidate Kelly Gibbons of West St. Paul did not respond to requests to be included in this story.

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Viewpoint

An early warning system at work

BY NEAL BERNARDS

Recent random assaults on Snelling Avenue near our home got me thinking about neighborhoods, neighbors and crime prevention.

The National Neighborhood Watch Institute suggests that the best crime preventative is neighbors getting to know one another. National Night Out and other community events, such as the snow emergencies when our block forms car-pushing brigades to clear the streets, help neighbors come together. In healthy neighborhoods, neighbors swap parenting stories, walk each other's dogs, lend each other tools, and share the abundance of their garden plots.

Concerned neighbors also pay attention to the comings and goings of those around them. They know who has gone off to work, who drives which cars, and who has friends visiting. Over time, a neighborhood develops a discernible rhythm—a norm if you will.

But what happens when something happens outside that norm? Does anyone in your neighborhood notice? Does anyone in your neighborhood care? It's a telling sign of your neighborhood's health.

I recently learned that our neighborhood is healthy indeed.

We've got a block full of kids—13 to be exact. My wife knows this because she was home with them all summer during her unplanned sabbatical from work. As a laid-off advertising agency employee, she got to count every nose, bandage every scrape, and listen to every cry in a crowd that ranges in age from 4 to 11.

Their noisy presence, while occasionally a little annoying, serves as an early warning system when something unusual happens. They see every car that wends its way down the alley, every neighbor out in the yard, every outsider who passes through.

Case in point: Our friend Chris, a professor of theology at New Jersey's Drew University, recently came to visit during his (real, paid) sabbatical. Chris has stayed with us many times during our 16 years in St. Paul, so he is familiar with the St. Clair Broiler, Dunn Brothers, and other local lounging establishments where caffeinated academics like him can congregate to read and write in peace.

However, this year we were going to be away in Germany when Chris planned to come calling. So we hid our house keys for Chris and told him to let himself in when he arrived and have the run of the house. Unfortunately, I forgot to tell anyone else of Chris' stay.

So Chris—all 6-foot-3 of his curly-haired, hipster self—arrived at our empty Macalester-Groveland home, found the keys and began fumbling with the front door lock. Our little neighborhood crime watch kids witnessed Chris' fumbling at the front door and flew into action.

Having been instructed in the finer points of reporting unusual occurrences to their parents, three girls immediately ran down the street and told one of their mothers that a strange man was breaking into our house. The girls wanted the police called, posthaste. However, cooler parental heads prevailed, and the suggestion was made to consult another neighbor to confirm the alien nature of the man.

Thankfully, my more pragmatic, common-sense wife had mentioned to our next-door neighbor that a house guest would be in residence during our absence. That neighbor reassured our intrepid young crimefighters that Chris' presence had been blessed by us and that St. Paul's finest need not be summoned.

Chris, oblivious to the stir he had caused, watched TV that day rather than find himself doing the perp walk in handcuffs a la Harvard professor Henry Louis Gates Jr. While Chris may not be as renowned as Professor Gates, no one enjoys being grilled in the back seat of a black-and-white.

The neighborhood girls were disappointed that they didn't get to see lights flashing and a common criminal brought to justice, but the incident created excitement in the neighborhood that lasted a week.

On our return, we were quickly informed of Chris' close call. We sought out the girls and commended them for reporting the unusual activity at our house. We assured them that it was the right thing to do and told them not to hesitate to do it again. Our early warning system had done its job.



IRV's flaws are rooted in bottom-up design

BY DALE MISCHKE

When St. Paul voters go to the polls on November 3, they will be asked whether or not to amend the city charter and adopt instant runoff voting in future elections for mayor and City Council. Too bad St. Paul voters can't wait until next year to make that decision. That would give them a chance to see how well instant runoff voting (IRV) works in Minneapolis first.

St. Paul's twin city chose to go without a primary election this fall and hold a single general election on November 3 using IRV, even though the federally certified equipment to count IRV ballots by machine is not yet available. Because of that, the 2009 election is expected to cost Minneapolis more than a typical primary and general election combined. All of that hand-counting is going to be expensive. And despite what the name suggests, IRV will be far from instant. Depending on how the votes are distributed, Minneapolis may not be able to determine the winners until six weeks after the election.

IRV allows voters to rank candidates for a particular office according to preference—i.e., first choice, second choice, third choice, etc. If no candidate receives a majority of first-choice votes, then the candidate with the fewest first-choice votes is eliminated and the votes of those who picked that candidate first are redistributed to their second choices. This process continues until a candidate receives a majority of the vote.

Proponents claim that IRV is a fairer, more civil, more democratic way to elect public officials. They say it will encourage more good candidates to run for office and increase voter turnout. In Minneapolis this fall, 11 candidates are running for mayor and three or more candidates are running for City Council in all but one of the city's 13 wards. There are six candidates running in Ward 6 and five candidates each in Wards 1, 3, 5 and 8.

IRV proponents point to St. Paul's recent primary election as evidence of the need for IRV. Only 6 percent of registered voters turned out on September 15 to narrow the fields for mayor and School Board. How, IRV proponents ask, can we allow such a small percentage of voters to make such an important decision?

Perhaps we ought to ask that question of the 94 percent of voters who didn't turn out. I suspect many of them would tell us that the stakes simply weren't that high, that they were willing to let the 11,672 voters who did turn out make the decisions for them.

All that the St. Paul primary accomplished was the elimination of two perennial candidates for mayor, Sharon

As individuals, none of us can be right all of the time, but a majority of us can be right most of the time. That has been the case under our traditional practice of elevating only the strongest candidates in an election. Instant runoff voting departs from that tradition.

Anderson and Bill Dahn, and three of 11 School Board candidates—Lucky Rosenbloom, Quyen Nguyen and Richard Easton IV. It's likely the same candidates would have been eliminated if 10 times as many registered voters had turned out.

Voter turnout has been relatively small in previous St. Paul primaries. In 2005, 16 percent of registered voters turned out when seven candidates were on the primary ballot for mayor. However, only Green Party candidate Elizabeth Dickinson had an outside chance of advancing to the general election. She finished third with 19 percent of the vote to Randy Kelly's 27 percent and Chris Coleman's 52 percent. It's doubtful that IRV would have changed the outcome that year, unless there had been a much higher turnout of support for Dickinson. And if Dickinson had those supporters, why didn't they turn out for the primary?

Perhaps the biggest attraction of IRV, at least among Democrats, is its potential to eliminate the spoiler effect. The Ralph Naders of the nation would no longer be able to cut into Democratic vote totals if Nader supporters could choose a Democratic candidate as their second choice. In DFL-dominated St. Paul, where two or more DFLers often appear on the primary election ballot and the third-party candidates are almost invariably liberal, the spoiler effect is a real concern.

The members of third parties like the Green and the Reform also may expect to benefit from IRV. But what of its impact on the two major political parties? By encouraging more candidates to run for office, IRV could further erode the influence of both the Republican and DFL parties.

Can IRV on its own make city elections fairer or electoral campaigns more civil? Haven't city elections been fair and generally civil in the past? IRV is likely to be more expensive, at least until the proper equipment can be found. And it's going to be complex. Just ask an election judge who will have to explain IRV to voters at the polls. Or just wait until the first close election requires a recount.

Inbox

Host of reasons for ordinance

I was disappointed by the social-hosting cartoon in the October 7 *Villager*. On the one hand, it seems to imply that St. Paul police will be showing up at everyone's next family get-together. That's the sort of scare tactic I'd expect from Glenn Beck, not the *Villager*. On the other hand, it ignores the real import of the social-hosting proposal. The parties targeted aren't Christmas parties. They're 100 St. Thomas students packed in a garage shouting "chug, chug, chug!" They're underage drinkers urinating in public. They're drunken students shouting obscenities at each other on the street.

It may not be fair to all landlords to hold them responsible for their tenants' actions, but current laws have so far failed to adequately address the problem, and a social-hosting law would clearly encourage landlords to take an active interest in who they're renting to and how those renters are behaving. I suspect that it would take very few evictions to get the message across to partying students that St. Paul is serious about civil behavior.

Chris Parker
Merriam Park

Righting an Ayd Mill wrong

Hats off to St. Paul City Council member Russ Stark for his leadership on the Ayd Mill Road supplemental EIS resolution. The supplemental EIS is not a contest between the two-lane and four-lane alternatives. The unethical and illegal actions of the Randy Kelly administration should not be allowed to elevate the status of the four-lane option in any way. Rather, the supplemental EIS must document and evaluate the preferred alternative legitimately selected by the City Council in April 2000—the two-lane extended to St. Anthony Avenue. That means it must be compared to all the remaining alternatives, including the no-build and linear park, to determine which best satisfies the project's objectives.

The supplemental EIS must also examine the dramatically altered transportation and development landscape. In addition to Central Corridor light-rail transit, a supporting bus network is anticipated that includes routes on Fairview, Hamline, Lexington and Victoria streets. Commuter rail is a possibility for the Ayd Mill corridor and must be considered. The city's comprehensive plan calls for an increasing reliance on alternative modes of transit and transit-oriented development on University Avenue. These improvements may be a better option than a high-volume road and have led Stark and others to question the need to extend Ayd Mill Road to I-94.

Finally, the Draft EIS for Ayd Mill Road praised the contributions of the Ayd Mill Road Task Force and promised its participation through the remainder of the process. To deny meaningful citizen participation, as Mayor Kelly did, would be an affront and a terrible mistake.

Mike Madden
Merriam Park

There's a better way to collect trash

Chris Long's letter "Trashing everyday liberties" (*Villager* Inbox, October 7) is a fine example of the type of fear-mongering that has perpetuated our current, inefficient trash collection system. I haven't heard any indication from the St. Paul City Council that the city wants to jump into the trash business. Rather, I've heard support for the local mom-and-pop haulers who are also struggling in their battle against garbage behemoths like Veolia, Waste Management and BFI/Allied.

A common-sense approach would be a grid system that honors the current market share of the smaller haulers. The playing field could be leveled further by only allowing haulers into the process who don't take their trash to landfills but to the resource-recovery facility

INBOX ► 10

8◀ INSTANT RUNOFF VOTING

IRV will eliminate the spoiler effect when the so-called spoilers have limited support. But in races with three or more strong candidates, IRV could skew the results, picking winners who are not truly the most popular candidates and even punishing candidates who strive harder to win more first-choice votes. For examples of this, see the story on page 1 of this *Villager* or visit www.site.nobadballots.com.

It's intriguing to consider what might have happened in 2001 if St. Paul had had IRV. The mayor's seat was open that year, and 16 candidates were in the running, including half a dozen strong candidates. In the primary election—or what would have been the first round of counting under IRV—Jay Benanav topped the field with 30 percent of the vote, followed by Randy Kelly

at 27 percent; Bob Long, 17 percent; Jerry Blakey, 12 percent; Bob Kessler, 6 percent; and Bobbie Megard, 5 percent. (The 10 other candidates each received less than 1 percent of the vote.) How many rounds of counting would have been needed before any of the candidates received a majority of the vote? Would that candidate have needed third- or fourth-choice votes before reaching 50 percent plus one? And what difference would it have made if Megard or Kessler was eliminated first, or Blakey or Long after them? Which candidates would have gotten the second-choice votes of their supporters?

The primary election, even in a year like 2009, still serves an important purpose. It narrows the field to a manageable few candidates and gives voters another seven weeks to compare the top two vote-getters. Imagine what a candidates forum would be like if all 16 candidates were in the running

right up until the general election. Any kind of meaningful debate in the weeks prior to an election would be lost amid the cacophony.

Choosing good public officials requires the collective wisdom of the entire electorate or a sizeable portion thereof. As individuals, none of us can be right all of the time, but a majority of us can be right most of the time. That has been the case under our traditional practice of elevating only the strongest candidates in an election.

IRV departs from that tradition. Though it eliminates the weakest candidates first, it also considers the second-choices of the voters who supported the weakest candidates first. It allows the bottom to rise toward the top, so to speak, in each successive round of IRV counting. IRV's convoluted method of counting ballots may not be a problem in every election, but chances are good it will be a problem in some.

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Maurice F. Mischke, 1920-1991

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9◀ INBOX

at Newport. In addition, the city could limit bids to haulers who are willing to allow their workers to organize a union. This wouldn't hurt the mom-and-pops, but would be a deal breaker for the "biggs."

Todd Seabury-Kolod
Macalester Groveland

Give Eva a chance

St. Paul has an opportunity to put the city back on a sound financial footing. Eva Ng is hoping to replace Chris Coleman as mayor, and is pledging to put our city in the black. Eva will apply the skills she has developed over 30 years, turning failing companies into successes. Her first act will be to reduce the current mayor's staff by half. She considers herself an independent and has never run for any political office. Let's give Eva a chance.

Karl M. Neher
Summit-University

Tax numbers speak for Ng

In the November 2002 issue of the *Grand Gazette*, then the sister newspaper to the *Villager*, publisher Michael Mischke wrote an editorial titled, "Finally, some timely tax data." Then-St. Paul Mayor Randy Kelly had launched an on-line property tax calculator so that citizens could see what their 2002 property taxes were, what they would be in 2003 with the passage of the St. Paul Public Schools' excess levy referendum and what they would be in 2003 without the passage of the excess levy. The article listed seven addresses in the city with these three categories for each listed residence.

I had saved this paper for the funny editorial cartoon of then-Superintendent of Schools Pat Harvey trick-or-treating for the excess levy and, looking at it again, I found myself wondering what all these homeowners were now paying in property taxes. I found six of them at Ramsey County's website, where you can look up any address and its property taxes. The results are interesting:

Address	2002	2003	2007	2009
1084 Laurel	\$1,135.02	\$1,394.06	\$2,616.00	\$3,244.00
1282 Lincoln	1,541.02	1,868.96	2,664.00	3,034.00
548 Portland	3,201.28	3,811.48	5,886.00	5,702.00
455 Grand	3,737.96	4,441.73	6,728.00	7,938.00
754 Linwood	5,736.02	6,745.77	9,744.00	11,796.00
465 Summit	6,034.00	7,866.54	15,706.00	22,946.00

I added the property taxes for the year 2007 and 2009 so that people could see what has happened over the past six years and the past two years. I don't see how the good people of St. Paul can pay for another repeat of the kind of numbers on this chart.

Mayoral candidate Eva Ng has promised to freeze property taxes immediately, then decrease them. Please vote for her on November 3.

Georgia Dietz
Highland Park

Add a new voice to School Board

On November 3, St. Paul voters have an opportunity to add a fresh, new voice to the St. Paul School Board by electing independent candidate Jean O'Connell.

Jean has served the school district as a 3M Visiting Wizard volunteer bringing science to life for elementary students, served as a math and basic skills tutor and as a coach for teachers and principals in bringing quality management into their schools. She chaired the Superintendent's Advisory Committee on Large Scale Systems Change.

Jean graduated with a B.S. in mathematics from the University of Minnesota-Duluth and has professional certifications in chemical engineering and supply-chain management. She is a lifelong resident of St. Paul, a graduate of Central High School and has two daughters who are graduates of Central and Cretin-Derham Hall, respectively.

Ruby Hunt
Merriam Park

School Board needs O'Connell

The St. Paul School Board election on November 3 is important for everyone in the city, whether you have kids in the public schools or not. As Mayor Chris Coleman has so often said, to have a thriving city we need thriving schools. We need people with proven leadership, the ability to understand complex issues, and the capacity to make tough and timely decisions to guarantee that St. Paul kids are served well in the coming years.

Jean O'Connell brings to her School Board candidacy 30-plus years of experience at 3M, managing people and budgets. She is running with the endorsement of our city's teachers, the Chamber of Commerce and former Mayor George Latimer. All find her mix of management experience, teacher training and substantive leadership in the school district task force addressing long-term systems change a great blend of talents for tackling the tough challenges facing the district. I couldn't agree with them more.

Amy Filice
Macalester-Groveland

Re-elect Goldstein to board

On Tuesday, November 3, cast your vote for Tom Goldstein for re-election to the St. Paul School Board. Tom was elected to the board four years ago and has helped lead the reshaping of St. Paul's public schools. He is a passionate advocate for children of all ages in St. Paul and is not afraid to ask questions and seek answers from the community and the leadership within the school system to make sure all children in St. Paul receive a quality education.

The St. Paul School Board faces many challenges during the next four years, including hiring a new superintendent and improving literacy rates. Tom Goldstein has the experience, the passion and the skills to help make the right decisions for the St. Paul Public Schools.

Mary McKeown
Merriam Park

Vote for Chris Conner

I urge readers to vote for Chris Conner for St. Paul School Board. Conner is a pastor who has been an advocate for families his entire career. He has the knowledge, the vision and the experience to help set real, practical policies that will drive student achievement and address the school district's achievement gap and budget problems. Chris is known for working with people on important issues regardless of party affiliation, and St. Paul families will be well served with Chris as a member of the School Board.

Rory Koch
Macalester-Groveland

Tough times call for experience

We bought our first home in St. Paul in 1995, never dreaming we'd have four children someday. When the time to find a house with more space for a growing family, we made the decision to stay in St. Paul because we wanted our children to get a quality public education.

This has been a hard year for the St. Paul Public Schools. We're facing a superintendent search, large-scale system changes, deep budget cuts, staff layoffs, two school closings next year and a persistent achievement gap between students of color and their white counterparts. Let's face it, it's a challenging time to be an incumbent running for re-election to the St. Paul School Board. It's much easier to place blame and point fingers than to rise up and offer solutions. It's precisely because of these times that we must support leaders who have a proven track record of improving test scores, increasing graduation rates and meeting school readiness.

The strongest candidate is incumbent Elona Street-Stewart. Elona has the experience and expertise in collaborating with parents, educators and the community. She has been there for my family from prenatal classes in ECFE to support at school functions. Like the other 75 percent of students of color in the St. Paul school district, my children look to Elona and see their reflections mirrored back at them. I know that at the heart of all her work is a tireless spirit to fight for educational equity. She understands that in order to teach children to value education, we must first value them.

Sunny Kase
Macalester-Groveland

You can rely on Street-Stewart

I am writing in support of Elona Street-Stewart for St. Paul School Board. I have worked with Elona for nearly 15 years. She is amazing. She works tirelessly on behalf of children and families throughout our community. Her energy and enthusiasm are contagious. She works collaboratively with communities and a wide network of partners. I have worked with Elona on many projects and know firsthand that you can rely on her to keep our children and what is best for them her top priority. I hope that my fellow St. Paul citizens will vote for Elona and for our children on November 3.

Suzann Eisenberg Murray
Ramsey Hill

10◀ INBOX

Two thumbs up for IRV

We both like to express our opinions. That's why we like instant runoff voting (IRV). When we're talking about which movie to see, we usually each express our preferences—first, second and third. Once in a while, one of us wants to see a particular movie and has no interest in the others. We usually have mixed feelings about some of the choices, and being explicit about them leads us to a good outcome.

We're both like that about political candidates also, especially in local elections. We may have a favorite, but there are often a couple of others that we could live with. IRV seems like a great idea to us.

Some people have raised the possibility that election returns might be delayed a few weeks. That may be an annoyance to news media hungry for instant results, but we're pretty sure the city can survive until Thanksgiving without knowing who the new council members are.

Tom and Susan Moss
175 Woodlawn Avenue

A proven success at the polls

It appears a small clique of political insiders has formed a committee opposing instant runoff voting (IRV) in St. Paul, claiming it results in excessive spoiled ballots. These insiders claim that IRV will disenfranchise minority voters. Is there any actual evidence of their claim? Of course not. In North Carolina, in a survey conducted after an IRV election, more African Americans understood IRV well or very well than the community as a whole.

In Cary, North Carolina, local politicians decided to withdraw from the IRV pilot program, but this was not due to public dissatisfaction with the voting system. In fact, the chief election administrator for the county, Cherie Poucher, reported being extremely pleased with IRV. Both the IRV exit poll and a subsequent communitywide survey found voters preferred IRV, with 69 percent of the people in favor and 7 percent opposed. African Americans were the most favorable to continuing IRV, with 74 percent supportive and 61 percent very supportive.

IRV is successfully used in San Francisco, California; Aspen, Colorado; Burlington, Vermont; Henderson,

North Carolina; Takoma Park, Maryland; Pierce County, Washington; Ireland; Northern Ireland; Australia; and Scotland. It is a proven system preferred by voters.

IRV supporters also do not want any spoiled ballots in elections. We want to see every ballot cast correctly to make every vote count. Voter education, no matter the voting system, is a fundamental duty of government. What we don't understand is why, to prevent spoiled ballots, an organization wants to stop an idea that is not even in place yet. If they really are for no spoiled ballots, why don't they put forth something positive to improve the current system, such as better voter education, instead of clinging to a system with insider-driven, low-turnout primaries?

John Hottinger
Summit Hill

Stick with one voter, one vote

I am a freedom-loving American who believes in democracy, and I vote every chance I get. Our current voting system should be revered. You're given a ballot and check the candidates you like. The ballots are then counted and the candidate with the most votes is declared the winner. I'd say that's democracy at its best.

However, our democratic voting system is being challenged at the polls this November. Supporters of a new instant runoff voting (IRV) system would have us rank some or all of the candidates in order of preference, while demanding a majority of votes (50 percent-plus) to win. If a majority is not achieved, an instant runoff takes place until it is.

In IRV, a second vote is counted, but only on the ballots supporting the lowest initial vote-getter. A new false majority is then derived from the loser's ballots. That is not democracy. Let's stick with what works: One man, one vote. No IRV.

Audie Cilek
Highland Park

The choice is simple with IRV

We have heard the argument that instant runoff voting (IRV), which is on the ballot in St. Paul on November 3, is too complicated for voters to understand. Well, it may sound complicated to some, but voters in San Francisco, California, Burlington, Vermont, and Cambridge, Massachusetts, seem

to understand it. Plus, Irish voters pick their president this way.

When we go to the polls under IRV, we'll still be able to vote for our one and only choice as usual. But if we are conflicted and, say, have two candidates we like, we'll have the opportunity to rank them first and second accordingly. If our choice doesn't make the cut, our vote will be transferred to our second choice. Is this simple or what?

Nowadays, we install a lot of candidates without majority support, and we think IRV would address this problem. We're voting "yes" on IRV.

Roger and Ronnie Brooks
Highland Park

Common sense supports IRV

In the November election, St. Paul voters will be asked whether they wish to institute ranked choice voting (i.e., instant runoff voting) in our municipal elections. The chief advantage would be that voters could express their preference among the candidates in order of priority, rather than choosing only one.

At first, we heard that instant runoff voting (IRV) is unconstitutional and a violation of "one person, one vote." The state courts decisively shot that argument down. Lately, we've heard that IRV is too complicated and voters will not understand it, especially immigrants and the elderly. I have two problems with that argument. First, I am on the verge of qualifying for one of those categories myself and I am surprised to hear that I am too stupid to understand a new way of voting. More seriously, one has to wonder how Ireland, Scotland, Australia and the cities of San Francisco, Burlington, Vermont, Takoma Park, Maryland, and Cary and Hendersonville, North Carolina, have achieved their very high levels of satisfaction with IRV.

IRV is a common-sense improvement for our elections and deserves our support on November 3.

Joel Clemmer
Macalester-Groveland

The Villager welcomes letters to the editors. To be considered for publication, letters must be signed and include a telephone number for verification. Send your letter to the Villager at 757 S. Snelling Ave., St. Paul, MN 55116, e-mail it to letters@myvillager.com or fax it to 651-699-6501.

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Ian Keith,
Teacher, SPSS

"Mr. Brodrick was my Government teacher in 12th grade. He inspired me to be active not only in the political process, but in my community overall. Mr. Brodrick never let me or any of his other students fail, he pushed us to our full potential. As a school board member he has and will do the same for all the children of the Saint Paul Public Schools."

Juanita O. Lewis
Como Park Sr. High Class of '99
Community Organizer, Yonkers, New York

"As a former teacher and coach, John Brodrick knows Saint Paul schools. When tough decisions need to be made, we can count on John. He listens carefully to community concerns and will make the right decisions for students, families and Saint Paul. Let's re-elect John Brodrick so he can continue to speak out for us."

Joe Maternowski,
Parent, SPSS

"John knows the Saint Paul schools. He is attentive to student, staff and community concerns; and takes a common sense approach to developing solutions."

Toni Carter
Ramsey County Commissioner,
Former Chair of the St. Paul School Board

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Vote November 3

City lowers fees but keeps petition in place for backyard chicken coops

By JANE McCLURE

St. Paul residents interested in raising chickens in their yards will pay less for a city permit, but they will still need to get the consent of 75 percent of their neighbors living within 150 feet, the City Council decided on October 14.

Ward 4 City Council member Russ Stark, who had proposed the changes to the city's chicken ordinance, was pleased that the annual permit fee will be reduced from \$72 to \$27. That measure passed 7-0.

Stark and council members Melvin Carter III and Dave Thune also voted to remove the petition requirement, but they were opposed by council members Dan Bostrom, Pat Harris, Lee Helgen and Kathy Lantry.

For Stark, the question was, how much say should neighbors have over what another neighbor does. The city, he noted, does not impose a similar petition requirement on neighbors who own three large dogs that are disruptive or on neighbors who have a recreational fire that sends smoke into an adjoining yard.

Chickens are good pets and are quiet,

Thune said, "and fresh eggs are very tasty."

But apparently that has not prevented them from causing controversy in neighborhoods. According to the council majority, neighbors need to know when even a few chickens are being considered for raising near their homes. Prospective chicken owners in St. Paul should either go through the petition process "or get five acres out in Grant Township," Bostrom said.

"I don't think the (current) regulations are onerous," Lantry said. Though there are chicken owners in St. Paul who raise their pets with no complaints from their neighbors, "that hasn't been my experience," Lantry said. When there is a problem with chickens, it can take a long time to get the issue resolved, she added.

Harris agreed. "I've got pending chicken issues in my ward now," he said.

Among the problems cited by Harris, Lantry, Bostrom and Helgen were the presence of too many chickens in a yard, vermin attracted by chicken feed and chicken droppings, and the presence of roosters. Helgen said he has fielded complaints about people slaughtering chickens in their backyards, which can be up-



Anna Yust plays with Dagmar, her pet Rhode Island red, outside her West End home.

PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

setting to neighbors. Making it easier to have chickens could be a "huge enforcement nightmare," Helgen added. According to him, the city does not have the staff to deal with a flock of complaints.

In addition to keeping the chicken peti-

tion requirement in place, the City Council voted against a proposal to ban the raising of roosters in the city. St. Paul residents are discouraged from owning roosters, which can be noisy and aggressive, but the city does not prohibit them.

Sweeping changes urged for off-street parking requirements

New rules would ease redevelopment process

By JANE McCLURE

A St. Paul Planning Commission committee has recommended a host of sweeping changes to the city's off-street parking requirements that could make redevelopment and the reuse of existing buildings easier, but are likely to cause controversy in neighborhoods where parking is currently at a premium.

The Planning Commission will hear a presentation on the plan during its meeting at 8:30 a.m. Friday, October 30. The recommendations, which are expected to be posted this week on the city's website at www.stpaul.gov, will also be the subject of public meetings from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 28, at the Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center, 800 Conway St.; 6:30-8:00 p.m. Thursday, November 5, at the West 7th Community Center, 265

Oneida St.; and 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, November 7, at Black Bear Crossing in Como Lakeside Pavilion.

St. Paul Department of Planning and Economic Development staff discussed the parking recommendations last week with representatives of the city's district planning councils and the Grand Avenue Business Association. Meetings are also planned with the St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce, the Metro Independent Business Association and the St. Paul Business Review Council. The Planning Commission has scheduled a public hearing on the changes for January 10.

The changes are lengthy and extremely technical. They do not affect existing land uses, only those properties that change uses. Changes to city parking requirements for colleges and universities and for land uses along the proposed Central Corridor light-rail line are still being discussed.

According to city planners Meritt Clapp-Smith and Tia Anderson, the city's current parking requirements can be confusing and

cumbersome. Some commercial properties, including several storefronts in Highland Village, have remained vacant for years because of the difficulty that prospective businesses have had in meeting the city's off-street parking requirements or obtaining the needed parking variances.

The intent of the changes is to better align parking requirements with demand and encourage development and redevelopment and with efficient land uses, more shared parking and better parking lot design.

The city currently specifies off-street parking requirements for more than 90 different land uses, ranging from hotels to miniature golf courses. The current requirements are based on a variety of factors, depending on the type of land use. For example, nursing homes are required to have one parking space for every three beds. A hardware store requires one parking space for every 340 square feet of gross floor area. A coffee shop requires one parking space for every 175 square feet of gross floor area. A carryout restaurant re-

quires one space for every 225 square feet of gross floor area.

The proposed regulations would reduce the various requirements for restaurants to a single requirement of one parking space for every 225 square feet of gross floor area. Other retail, office and service uses would be lumped into one large category with a requirement of one parking space for every 400 square feet of gross floor area.

Many of the current off-street parking regulations are based on peak demand rather than average parking demand, according to Clapp-Smith. By moving toward a standard that is closer to average demand, city staff hope to eliminate what in some areas is an oversupply of off-street parking.

The proposed plan also designates several bus and light-rail routes as mixed-use corridors where parking regulations would be further relaxed. The routes include all or part of Grand Avenue, Selby Avenue, Ford Parkway, Snelling Avenue, West 7th Street and possibly part of Randolph Avenue.

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News Briefs

Dunning neighbors consent to new management of field

The use of Dunning Recreation Center's ballfields will continue to be scheduled by the St. Paul Department of Parks and Recreation with the blessings of the Dunning Booster Club, Lexington-Hamline Community Council, Union Park District Council and residents of Skyline Towers. The group decided on October 6 that it did not make sense to revive the Dunning Management Committee, an ad hoc group of park users who handled field and building scheduling for many years under the terms of a legal settlement with the city.

"I just don't see an appetite for bringing back the management committee," said Lexington-Hamline council member Karen Russell. Instead, representatives of the various organizations will meet from time to time with Parks and Rec staff to discuss field issues and any problems that crop up.

The old management agreement was the result of a lawsuit filed in 1977 by the Lex-Ham council against the city. Lexington-Hamline residents were concerned that the field was being scheduled too heavily for adult baseball and that neighborhood children were being shut out, according to neighbor Mary Lou Grahek. However, the management committee dissolved when the Lex-Ham council ceased being an official St. Paul district council three years ago and the Dunning Rec Center building closed.

The controversy over field scheduling returned this year with the Dunning Booster Club's plan to renovate a portion of the field for organized baseball. Neighborhood residents, including tenants of the nearby Skyline Towers, many of whom are recent immigrants, clamored for space to play pickup soccer.

The various neighborhood groups agreed on October 6 to post signs directing Dunning users to the available facilities at Dunning and the nearby Jimmy Lee Recreation Center. An effort will also be made to inform Skyline residents of the new arrangements.

University businesses given an early warning on light rail

Downtown business owners who have been affected by the utility work that got under way this summer for the planned Central Corridor light-rail transit line have some advice for their University Avenue counterparts: Make sure signs directing patrons to your business go up right away, not months after the work begins.

More than two dozen University Avenue business owners met on October 15 to discuss ways to prepare for the construction of the 11-mile Central Corridor line between the downtowns of St. Paul and Minneapolis. The light-rail project is expected to begin in 2010 and be completed in 2014. A growing number of University Avenue business owners are becoming concerned that their shops won't be around to reap the benefits of light rail.

"Right now, we're just focused on survival," said Son Truong, co-owner of Señor Wong, a restaurant in the Kellogg Square building at 111 E. Kellogg Blvd. At one time this summer, three of the four streets adjacent to Truong's restaurant were under construction. Pedestrians were unable to cross the street due to construction.

The utility work, which is being handled by Xcel Energy and District Energy, began in August, but it wasn't until last week that any signs directing patrons to downtown buildings were put up. "This is just absolutely ridiculous," said Fred Gates, an aide to 4th District U.S. Representative Betty McCollum. "The Metropolitan Council and the Central Corridor project staff need to learn from this, so that it doesn't happen on University Avenue."

Robin Cauffman, who oversees community outreach for the Central Corridor project, ac-

knowledge that the directional signs should have gone up sooner downtown. Putting up the signs is the responsibility of the contractors working on the Central Corridor project, Cauffman said. That is part of the contract agreement.

The new signs downtown name buildings and not individual businesses, and that isn't effective, according to Truong. "A lot of my customers don't think to look for Kellogg Square," he said. "They're looking for Señor Wong."

The University business owners told Cauffman they want their business names listed on directional signs when University Avenue is torn up for light-rail construction.

Carlos Parade, the owner of the new Parade's Cafe in Kellogg Square, told University Avenue business owners that if he had known so many streets would be torn up, he wouldn't have opened there in April. Though Parade's Cafe had a strong start, business has since fallen off by 40 to 50 percent, he said.

Señor Wong would be in worst shape today if it didn't have the use of a nearby parking ramp. "Parking access is a huge thing," Truong said. Truong added that if he had the chance to do it over, he would have saved more money to help his restaurant ride out the construction period. In the past three months, Truong said, he and his partners have had to devote more resources to marketing and making sure patrons know they can find parking and get to the restaurant.

Hearing set on reopening Ayd Mill Road to bicyclists

Bicyclists who dream of riding on Ayd Mill Road someday may want to pedal over to St. Paul's City Hall on Wednesday, October 21. A public hearing on opening the road to bikes will begin at 5:30 p.m.

St. Paul City Council member Russ Stark of Ward 4 has proposed opening the road to bicyclists, who have been prohibited from using the street since 1956, when it was known as Short Line Road. The ban also applies to pedestrians.

No one seems to remember why non-motorized traffic was prohibited on Ayd Mill Road. That it was considered as a future link between I-35E and I-94 may have been a factor. For decades, bicyclists have pushed for accommodations on and along Ayd Mill Road, which could provide one of the few north-south bike routes through the area.

Earlier this fall, Stark introduced a measure calling for the resumption of studies for rebuilding Ayd Mill Road as a two-lane parkway. That study was approved by the full City Council, but it won't resume until 2010 at the earliest. Stark also authored a bill that calls for the purchase of land along Ayd Mill Road for an off-road bicycle and pedestrian trail. That request was greeted by a lawsuit from Canadian Pacific Railroad, which owns most of the property eyed for the trail.

News Briefly was compiled by Jane McClure.

Corrections

- The plan for creating a bike boulevard on Jefferson Avenue between Mississippi River Boulevard and West 7th Street does not call for the elimination of on-street parking between Snelling Avenue and Lexington Parkway, as indicated in a story in the October 7 edition of the *Villager*.

- A story on the Minnesota Reading Corps in the October 7 edition of the *Villager* should have noted that Longfellow and Webster elementary schools also have benefited from the program.

- Scott Walker is the past chair of the Republican City Committee in St. Paul, not the current chair as was stated in a story in the October 7 edition of the *Villager*.

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District Council News

Macalester-Groveland

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Great Pumpkin Drop—Macalester-Groveland residents are welcome to bring their unpainted, wax-free pumpkins and jack-o'-lanterns to the parking lot of Immanuel Lutheran Church, 104 S. Snelling Ave., from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Saturday, November 7. The pumpkins will be used to feed pigs on a farm. The Great Pumpkin Drop is co-sponsored by the Macalester-Groveland Community Council and the Highland Park High School Student Council. For information, call Karmann Peters at the district council's office.

Tangletown tutors—Residents of the Tangletown neighborhood of Macalester-Groveland are being enlisted to tutor St. Paul children at least one hour a week. The primary goal is to help the children achieve grade-level reading by third grade. Contact Rosa Maria de la Cueva Peterson at rmdelap@umn.edu or 651-699-4286.

Crime notification updates—The Macalester-Groveland Community Council offers e-mailed updates on crime in the neighborhood. The information is based on news releases, tips and information received from the St. Paul Police Department. To be added to the e-mail list, contact Afton Martens at afton@macgrove.org.

Highland Park

www.highlanddistrictcouncil.org • 651-695-4005

Board update—Mark Forsberg was chosen during a special election on October 1 to be a new at-large representative for the Highland District Council board. He fills the seat previously held by Dan Smith. The HDC will hold another special election on Wednesday, November 4, to fill the at-large seat of Cory Tennison, who has moved out of the neighborhood. The election will be held at 6:30 that evening at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. The regular board meeting will follow at 7:00 p.m. Any adult who lives in, owns property in or operates a business in Highland Park may vote in the election. Those who are interested in running for the board should call the HDC office or visit the website for information.

Cleanup kudos—The joint neighborhood cleanup on October 10 was a success despite the frosty temperature. More than 60 volunteers braved the cold weather to help collect more than 150 appliances, 30 tires, 35 bikes, three dumpsters full of electronics and a truckload for Bridging, Cradle of Hope, Animal Ark and other charities. A special thank-you goes to Tires Plus, White Rock Coffee Roasters and Lucky Pizza for co-sponsoring the event.

Communities for a lifetime—A senior forum to discuss

the kind of neighborhood Highland Park residents want to grow old in will be held at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, October 27, at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St Paul Ave. Bob Roepke will discuss what Chaska is doing to accommodate its senior population and LaRhae Knaterud of the Minnesota Department of Human Services will discuss an effort to identify the impact of aging in Minnesota. For information, contact Kathy Carruth at the HDC office.

Crosby Park deer hunts—Crosby Farm Regional Park will be closed for a deer hunt on October 19-21 and again on November 9-11. The St. Paul Division of Parks and Recreation is partnering with the Metro Bowhunters Resource Base to reduce the park's deer herd for a second year in a row. Archers have already been selected for this year's hunt. For information on how to apply for next year, visit www.mbrb.org.

Recycle your leaves—Ramsey County compost sites will be open through November 30, weather permitting. Leaves, grass and other soft-bodied plants may be dropped off at the sites from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday; from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 Saturday; and from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sunday.

Summit Hill

www.summithillassociation.org • 651-222-1222

Spreading the love—The Summit Hill Association honored neighborhood volunteers during its annual meeting and board elections on October 8 at the Linwood Recreation Center. The volunteers received a "I Love Summit Hill" button and a certificate for a free flower from Stems & Vines. Volunteers who were unable to attend the celebration are welcome to call the SHA office to receive their own thank-yous.

Board elections—Re-elected to the SHA board at the annual meeting were Cheri Kedrowski and Tim Pramas. New board members are Adam Vetvick, Lesli Lawrence and Julie Wilberts. Elizabeth Norton Cermak of Cooks of Crocus Hill was chosen as the business representative and Adam Chelseth was named as the first board alternate.

Good neighbors honored—Summit Hill Good Neighbor Award winners for 2009 include Rebecca Ganzel Thompson

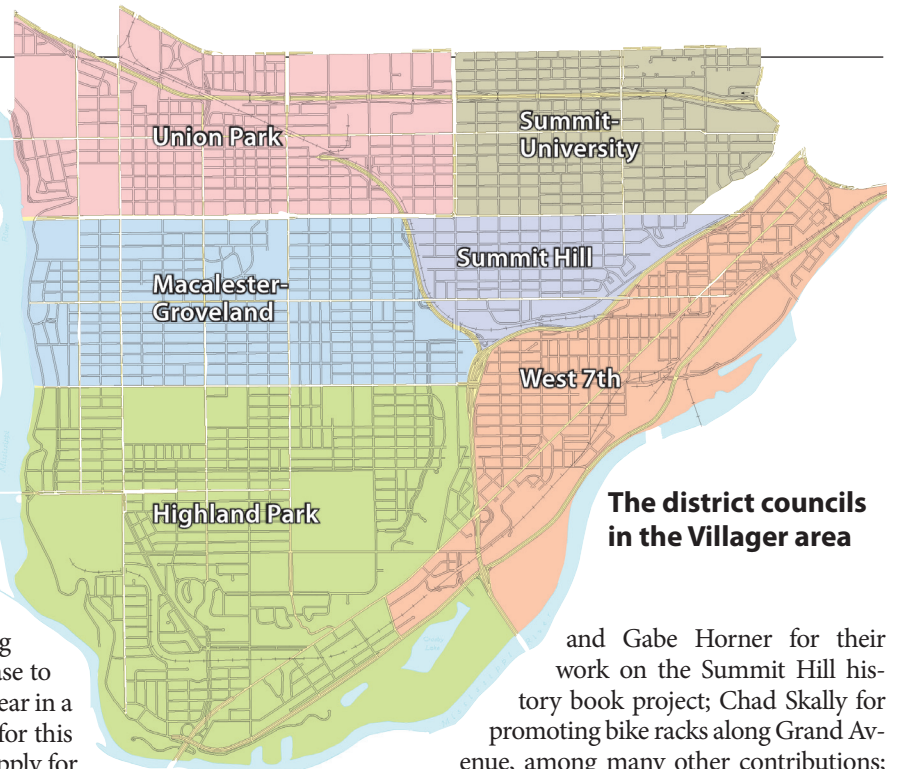
and Gabe Horner for their work on the Summit Hill history book project; Chad Skally for promoting bike racks along Grand Avenue, among many other contributions; Jan Cronquist, chair of the successful 2008

SHA House Tour; Grand Avenue Business Association executive director David Regan for fostering a positive working relationship with the SHA; Kate Pearce for her work on the SHA welcome booklet, promotion of rain gardens and worm composting, and locating an HourCar hub on Grand; and Stephanie Steele, founder of Soup Night, a popular monthly gathering of neighbors.

Love old houses?—The next Summit Hill House Tour will be held on Sunday, September 12, 2010. Volunteering on the tour committee is a great way to support the neighborhood, meet fellow residents, learn about local history and architecture, and have fun. Volunteers are needed in a wide variety of roles. Those who would like to get involved are invited to call Lisa McGann at 651-690-2828 or e-mail lem1794@hotmail.com.

Linwood rain garden—The SHA's Environment Committee, in cooperation with the St. Paul Division of Parks and Recreation and the Capitol Region Watershed District, is planning to install a rain garden this fall in front of the Linwood Recreation Center. Volunteers who are interested in rain gardening are invited to call the SHA office as soon as possible. The garden is scheduled to be installed before more snow flies.

Keep in touch—The SHA's website includes updates on neighborhood events, volunteer opportunities and information on how to sign up for the association's electronic newsletter. To receive crime updates for the neighborhood as well as crime prevention tips, e-mail cpcsummithill@visi.com.



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Crime Report

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

Highland Park

Burglary—A home on the 500 block of Montrose Lane was broken into between 9:00 and 11:30 a.m. Monday, September 28.

Theft—A vending machine was stolen from Tires Plus, 2185 Ford Pkwy., between 6:00 p.m. Sunday and 7:00 a.m. Monday, October 4-5.

—A woman's wallet was stolen at the Highland Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy., around 10:45 a.m. Tuesday, October 6.

—A purse was stolen at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 S. Snelling Ave., between 10:00 and 11:30 a.m. Sunday, October 11.

Miscellaneous—A boy was cited at Highland Park for graffiti vandalism and underage drinking at 11:45 p.m. Friday, September 18.

—A 31-year-old man was arrested for possession of marijuana with intent to sell, DWI and obstruction at Edgumbe Road and Montreal Avenue at 8:00 p.m. Monday, September 28. A large amount of marijuana was found in the man's truck.

Lexington-Hamline

Burglary—Three laptop computers and a Wii game were taken from a home on the 1100 block of Ashland Avenue between 4:00 and 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, September 29.

Macalester-Groveland

Burglary—An attempted burglary occurred at a home on the 1700 block of Princeton Avenue at 3:45 p.m. Thursday, October 1. The alarm sounded on the back door and the homeowner found the rear window broken.

Theft—A car was stolen on Mississippi River Boulevard just south of Summit Avenue around 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, October 6.

Merriam Park

Burglary—A home on the 300 block of North Mississippi River Boulevard was broken into between 7:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday, September 28.

Theft—A theft from auto occurred on the 1600 block of University Avenue between 9:00 and 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, September 30.

—A theft occurred from the vice president's office at Macalester College between 6:00 and 7:00 p.m. Thursday, October 1.

—A laptop computer was reported stolen from a classroom at the University of St. Thomas, on Friday, October 2.

—A trailer was stolen on the 600 block of Pelham Boulevard between 6:00 p.m. Thursday and 6:00 a.m. Friday, October 1-2.

Miscellaneous—Four males were cited for underage consumption of alcohol on the 100 block of North Cretin Avenue at 11:00 p.m. Sunday, September 20.

—An 18-year-old woman and eight juveniles were cited for underage consumption of alcohol after police responded to a loud party on the 1600 block of Marshall Avenue at 1:00 a.m. Sunday, September 20.

Snelling-Hamline

Theft—Employee theft was reported at the Holiday Station, 1345 Marshall Ave., on Friday, October 2. Store security showed an employee pocketing \$582 in cash and leaving the store before his shift was over on September 29. It is believed he fled to Chicago.

Summit Hill

Burglary—A home on the 300 block of Summit Avenue was burglarized between noon and 3:00 p.m. Sunday, September 27.

—An attempted burglary occurred on the

700 block of Fairmount Avenue at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, September 30. Two juveniles were seen trying to break into the home. A neighbor called police and the suspects fled. The screen on a rear window had been cut, but no entry was gained.

—A home on the 1100 block of St. Clair Avenue was burglarized at 3:30 p.m. Friday, October 9.

—A computer was taken from a home on the 900 block of Linwood Avenue between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. Sunday, October 4.

Theft—A \$250 purse was shoplifted at Quince, 850 Grand Ave., at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, September 26.

—A theft from auto occurred on the 300 block of Summit Avenue between 3:30 and 4:30 p.m. Monday, September 28.

Assault—A shoplifter drove his vehicle into an employee that tried to stop him at about 10:00 a.m. Friday, October 2, at Restoration Hardware, 791 Grand Ave.

Summit-University

Robbery—A group of bicycle-riding males in their teens to 20s robbed a 30-year-old man at gunpoint at Dayton Avenue and Louis Street around 10:00 p.m. Friday, October 2.

—A woman was robbed of her purse at gunpoint by two males at Marshall Avenue and Oxford Street about 12:30 a.m. Monday, October 5.

Burglary—Miscellaneous items were stolen from a classroom at St. Thomas More School, 1065 Summit Ave., sometime before 12:30 p.m. Monday, September 28.

—A high-definition TV was taken from a home on the 1000 block of Dayton Avenue between 11:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. Friday, October 2.

Theft—A bicycle was stolen from the bike rack at the Rondo Library, 461 Dale St., at 3:45 p.m. Sunday, September 27.

—A red 5,000-watt diesel generator was stolen from a construction truck on the 200 block of Marshall Avenue at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, October 1. A worker described the suspects as a black male and a black female, both about 35 year old, driving a green Ford Explorer.

—A theft from auto occurred on the 600 block of Aurora Avenue between 5:00 p.m. Tuesday and 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, October 6-7.

Miscellaneous—A Lakeville man was arrested for criminal damage to property after he was found breaking the windows of a parked car at Chatsworth Street and Portland Avenue at 1:00 a.m. Saturday, September 19.

West End

Burglary—Chris & Rob's, 603 W. 7th St., was broken into at 2:30 a.m. Monday, October 12. Cash was stolen from the till.

—A home on the 1600 block of West 7th Street was burglarized between 6:30 p.m. Tuesday and 7:00 a.m. Wednesday, October 6-7.

Theft—An air compressor was stolen from the new fire station construction site at 1000 W. 7th St. between 5:00 p.m. Friday and 8:30 a.m. Monday, October 2-5.

—A theft from auto occurred at Mississippi Market, 1500 W. 7th St., between 6:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Monday, October 5. A car was stolen from the market's parking lot around 2:30 a.m. Tuesday, October 6, and windows were broken out on a vehicle parked in the lot overnight.

—The business phone was stolen off the wall at Oven Hearth Bakery, 825 Montreal Way, around 2:00 a.m. Wednesday, October 7. The suspect is a young male who was filling out a job application.

Assault—Police investigated a report of two men fighting at the Lucky Foxx Bar & Grill, 731 Randolph Ave., at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, September 27.



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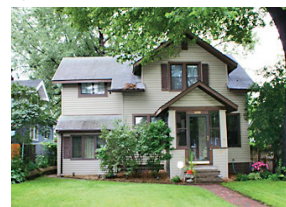
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Council approves increases in right-of-way maintenance assessments of 8-plus percent

Property owners say increases are too steep and haven't come with any increase in services

BY JANE MCCLURE

The City Council on October 7 ratified increases of 8-plus percent in the right-of-way maintenance charges assessed to property owners in St. Paul, despite complaints from residents and business people that the increases are unfair and are being applied without a corresponding increase in services rendered.

The city will collect \$28.476 million to cover its 2009 street maintenance expenses. Of that amount, \$23.9 million will be assessed against property owners with property taxes payable in 2010. The rest will come from other sources, including Municipal-State Aid, Trunk Highway Aid, County Aid and the city's reserve fund.

Many of the right-of-way maintenance assessments were first implemented during former Mayor Randy Kelly's administration as a way to collect more money from nonprofit organizations, schools and other governments that own property in St. Paul. Over the years, the services covered by the assessments have grown to include snowplowing, street sweeping, streetlights, sidewalk repair, and boulevard tree trimming and replacement.

Homeowners will see an 8 percent increase in right-of-way maintenance assessments for 2009. Some downtown

property owners say they could see an increase of more than 18 percent.

The 2009 fees vary by type of street or alley, ranging from a high of \$18.46 per frontage foot on downtown brick streets to 34 cents per frontage foot on unimproved residential alleys. The typical homeowner on a residential street will pay \$2.94 per frontage foot.

One commercial building owner in Merriam Park called the assessment increases "astronomical." He told the council, "you should cut back the way we've had to cut back."

Eight people testified against the assessments on October 7, including Mark Arth, who owns a commercial building at 304 N. Snelling Ave. Arth called the assessment increases "astronomical." He told the council, "you should cut back the way we've had to cut back."

Hamline-Midway resident Linda Sullivan said she and her neighbors are tired of paying rising fees for street improvements they never receive. "Sewer separation and street reconstruction were done 12 years ago," she said. "We were promised new street lighting, but we still have just one overhead light. And I waited 13½ years to get a tree."

Lexington Parkway resident Jimmy Sande said he and his neighbors got so tired of calling the city about needed alley repairs, "we ended up just patching

it ourselves."

Tanya Hemphill manages the 1st National Bank Building, which occupies an entire city block and is assessed on all four sides. She asked the City Council what additional services the bank building would be getting in exchange for its 18.4 percent increase in right-of-way maintenance assessments.

Max Eisenberg, owner of Eisenberg's Market downtown, complained that his right-of-way assessments have increased an "unheard of" 360 percent over the past seven years. "Fees are not taxes," Eisenberg said. "Fees are payments for services that we get. They should not be used to balance the general fund."

According to Bruce Beese, director of the city's Department of Public Works, the right-of-way fees are set by the amount of maintenance the various types of streets and alleys receive. Downtown streets have the highest fees because they are swept more often and the snow piles are removed from their curbs, he said. Neighborhood arterial streets receive fewer services than downtown streets but more than residential streets, and they are assessed accordingly, Beese added.

The city's Public Works Department has borne considerable street maintenance cost increases in recent years, Beese said. Road salt expenses, for example, have risen more than \$700,000 over the past year, he said. The cost of asphalt and fuel have also increased. Various measures have been taken to hold costs down, he said, including reducing the amount of salt used on streets during the winter and eliminating an alley paving program.

Groundwater studied around St. Kate's

Watershed district hopes to find cause of wet basements

BY JANE MCCLURE

High groundwater levels in parts of Highland Park and Macalester-Groveland near St. Catherine University continue to vex local homeowners who must keep sump pumps running to battle wet basements. At a neighborhood meeting on October 12 at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, more than two dozen residents gathered to discuss the problem with the Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD).

The CRWD is asking residents and business owners in the area bounded by Highland Parkway, Macalester Street, Juliet Avenue and Cretin Avenue to fill out a survey describing groundwater conditions on their properties. The surveys ask the owners how frequently homes and businesses have water in their basements, if they use sump pumps and whether they would be willing to have their basement floors surveyed. The surveys will help CRWD and consultants Wenck Associates pinpoint problem areas.

CRWD permit coordinator Forrest Kelley said a study of groundwater in the vicinity will be completed by the end of the year. The purpose of the

study is to document what is happening with groundwater in the area and determine what can be done to keep future development from exacerbating the problem.

The groundwater study was initiated as a result of a permitting process for the Sisters of St. Joseph's property at the southwest corner of Randolph and Fairview avenues. The sisters need a permit to build a parking lot as part of a new senior housing project and want to install three rain gardens to control water runoff. City staff, noting the ongoing groundwater issues in the neighborhood, asked for the CRWD to determine the best method for controlling the problem.

The CRWD sank 10 monitoring wells 15-25 feet into the ground throughout the area in February to check groundwater levels. Most of the wells are on boulevards, though a few are on private property. In some areas, water came up when the holes were being drilled, said Daniel Sola of Wenck Associates.

Some neighbors questioned why St. Catherine officials declined to let CRWD onto its own property to install the monitoring wells. Neighbors have been concerned about the impact of campus development on groundwater in the past. The issue was raised in 2000 when a new soccer field was built at the south edge of the campus and trees were cut down. Some neighbors said water flows like a stream on the southern edge of the campus area during heavy rainfalls.

Jim Manship, director of facilities for the university, said St. Catherine's did extensive groundwater studies in 2001 as part of a campus construction project. That information, he said, already has been shared with the city.

CRWD officials said they still want to gather more information. "We requested access to St. Catherine University, the Sisters of St. Joseph's property and St. Paul Academy," said CRWD administrator Mark Doneaux. The sisters and SPA allowed access; the university did not.

Thus far, the study indicates that a high water table and wet basements are present year-round in some areas around the university. Several people at the meeting said they frequently have to operate sump pumps. A few said they have noticed that water is slow to drain from their properties after a heavy rain. Residents of Bayard Avenue just south of St. Catherine reported the most problems.

Marilyn Tamsky, whose family has lived on Bayard for more than 30 years, said she never had a wet basement until after the city separated its storm and septic sewers over a decade ago. Others said they noticed problems when residents were forced to disconnect downspouts from the city's sewer system.

Other factors may contribute to the high water table, such as underlying soil conditions and bedrock, and the topography of the area. "This is an area where rainfall tends to pile up and flow slowly to the river," Sola said.

Business Briefs

Living Bread Catholic Gifts and Books, 618 Selby Ave., will mark Advent with a festival from noon to 4:00 p.m. Saturday, November 14. Among the attractions will be Advent music, door prizes, complimentary cookies, a book signing by *Destination: Bethlehem* authors Sharon Altman and Christine Winkelman, and lots of creative ideas for celebrating Advent. Call 651-698-5200.

Castle Building & Remodeling, which has offices on Snelling Avenue in St. Paul and Johnson Street in Minneapolis, has been named one of the nation's Top 500 remodelers by *Qualified Remodeler* magazine. The company completed \$2.1 million in remodeling projects in 2008 and is projecting \$2.5 million in 2009.

Cadenza Music, 149 N. Snelling Ave., will celebrate its 35th anniversary with a party from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Sunday, October 25, at O'Gara's Garage on Selby and Snelling avenues. Entertainment will be provided by customers, students and staff, including saxophonist Irv Williams, a jazz legend celebrating his 90th

birthday; guitarist Steve Blons, host of "Jazz and the Spirit" on KBEM 88.5 FM; and Pat Moriarty and Ellen Lease, members of the Pat Moriarty Quintet.

Cemstone, 2025 Centre Pointe Blvd., Mendota Heights, has been selected by the Minnesota Environmental Initiative and its Project Green Fleet program to upgrade 21 diesel vehicles in the company's ready-mix concrete truck fleet. When completed in January, emissions from the vehicles are expected to be reduced by up to 50 percent.

The St. Paul Festival Association will hold a celebration at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, October 29, at the Chatterbox Pub, 800 S. Cleveland Ave. The cost is \$20, which includes wine and beer tastings, appetizers and a silent auction. Call the Highland Business Association at 651-699-9042.

Free job search assistance will be offered by Goodwill-Easter Seals from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 28, at the Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy. Individual help

will be provided with job applications and resumes. Call 651-695-3700.

Aspire Chiropractic, 333 Grand Ave., will offer a free seminar on effective 10-minute workouts at 6:45 p.m. Wednesday, October 21. To register, call 651-294-2332.

A **"Going Into Business"** seminar will be offered by SCORE counselors from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 28, at University Bank, 200 University Ave.. The seminar will cover the basics of business planning, marketing, finance, management, organization, taxes, business law and insurance. The cost is \$60, which includes materials. Visit www.score-stpaul.org or call 651-261-1429.

Ten Thousand Villages, 867 Grand Ave., will hold a benefit night for Teatro del Pueblo from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. Thursday, October 22. Twenty percent of all purchases that evening will go to the theater company. Joy Chavarria will also perform part of *Doña Rosita's Jalapeño Kitchen* at 6:30 p.m. Call 651-225-1043.

The Highland Business Association will hold its monthly luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, October 29, at Bennett's Chop & Railhouse, 1305 W. 7th St. The meeting will feature the St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce team assigned to explore the creation of a farmers' market in Highland Village. The cost is \$15-\$20 and includes lunch. Call 651-699-9042.

The St. Paul Office Market Report was recently released by the Greater St. Paul Building Owners and Managers Association. The report reveals steady occupancy from 2008 to 2009 in the city's central business district. Overall occupancy is 90 percent in competitive, government and owner-occupied space combined. Companies that have leased or committed to leasing office space in downtown St. Paul in the past year include GovDelivery Inc., Tecmark, AECOM, Cray Inc., Microsoft Corp. and Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services Inc. The market report may be found at www.bomastpaul.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=7.

Senior News

An AARP driver safety class will be offered from 8:00 a.m. to noon Thursday, October 29, at Ford Motor Company's Twin Cities Assembly Plant, 966 S. Mississippi River Blvd. This is a refresher course for drivers who have previously taken the full-eight hour class. The cost is \$12-\$14. Call 651-695-3502.

Jan Viktora of Macalester-Groveland has been named the new director of the Center for Senior Citizens' Education at the University of St. Thomas. A longtime faculty member at the St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity, Viktora is the third director in the center's 36-year his-

tory. The center was founded by Mo Selim, who retired in 2004. The director since then was Sister Marie Herbert Seiter, who retired this past summer.

An Internet class for older adults who have little or no experience with computers will be offered from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, November 4, at the Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy. Call 651-695-3700.


The St. Paul Public Library is offering free programs in November for those who are concerned about aging parents or are car-

ing for an older family member. Dick Edwards, author of *Mom, Dad...Can We Talk?*, will give practical advice for initiating caring conversations with aging parents at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, November 5, at the Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave. Leanna Smith of the Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging and Maureen Davidson of the West 7th Senior Program will explain public resources that are available to caregivers at 6:00 p.m. Thursday, November 12, at the West 7th Library, 265 Oneida St. (A complimentary light meal will be served. Call 651-298-5493 by November 9

to register.) Beth Cooley from Eldercare Partners/Wilder Foundation will discuss resources and strategies for managing stress and setting goals for caregivers at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, November 17, at the Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave. Visit www.sppl.org.

The St. Paul Senior Chore Service connects older adults and persons with disabilities with young workers who can assist them with leaf raking, lawn mowing, snow shoveling and minor repairs around the house. For information on receiving assistance or becoming a paid worker, call 651-649-5984.


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UST seeks public comments on proposed student center

By JANE MCCLURE

Plans for a new student center at the University of St. Thomas will be the topic of public meetings at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, November 3 and 10, in Room 155 of Murray-Herrick Hall on the St. Thomas campus. The meetings are part of an environmental study of the \$66 million project, which would be built on the site of the school's main parking lot at the corner of Summit and Cretin avenues.

The university's board of trustees is expected to give the Anderson Student Center project a final vote of approval when it meets on October 21-22, according to a timeline recently outlined for the West Summit Neighborhood Advisory Committee (WSNAC), which reviews campus development issues.

The environmental study is being conducted by SRF engineering consultants with guidance from the city of St. Paul. The timeline calls for the study to be released in December, followed by a comment period that will last through mid-January.

Neighborhood residents had sought additional chances to com-



Work on the University of St. Thomas' new Anderson Student Center could begin as early as next spring.

ment on plans for the 240,000-square-foot student center. Residents living west of Cretin and north of Summit are especially worried about additional traffic and parking on their streets.

"There are going to be many opportunities for the public to comment on the project and its impacts," said Doug Hennes, vice president for university relations.

The environmental study will include a look at the cumulative impacts of both the planned Anderson

Student Center and the \$52 million Anderson Athletic and Recreation Complex that is currently under construction on St. Thomas' north campus. The facilities are being named for Lee and Penny Anderson, who donated \$60 million toward their construction as well the \$15 million parking ramp that is now open on the university's south campus.

The student center and athletic complex require an environmental assessment worksheet (EAW),

which will outline the potential impacts of the two projects, ranging from parking to water runoff, and make recommendations on how to mitigate those impacts. The EAW is required under state law and must be completed before any city building permits or site plans are approved.

Part of the EAW process is meant to determine whether a more in-depth environmental impact statement (EIS) is needed. That will happen after the comment period on the EAW closes on January 13. If St. Paul planning director Cecile Bedor determines that an EIS is needed, university officials said it could push the project back for up to a year.

The environmental studies for the EAW are largely on schedule, said Nancy Frick of SRF. An initial environmental site assessment is complete, as is a study of cultural resources in the area. The exception is the study of the area's pedestrian and vehicle traffic, which was supposed to be completed in September. The ongoing Cretin-Goodrich neighborhood street reconstruction project has meant that Cretin is closed south of the campus, so full

traffic counts cannot be finished.

"We'll have to do another recount as soon as Cretin is open," said Jeff Bednar of SRF.

The student center project will have a pre-application review before the St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) at 5:00 p.m. Thursday, November 5, at City Hall. That will allow the HPC to comment on the plans and suggest changes before building permits are sought. The HPC review is required because the student center would be located within the Summit Avenue West Historic District. The athletic complex will be outside of the district. The student center will also require site plan review before the St. Paul Planning Commission Zoning Committee, which is scheduled for March.

O'Shaughnessy Hall will be demolished to make room for the student center. Demolition is currently scheduled for next summer, but it could be moved up to as early as March if the athletic center is on schedule to be finished in August instead of October. The student center is expected to be completed in late 2011 or early 2012.

School Notes

Convent of the Visitation School, 2455 Visitation Drive, Mendota Heights, will host an open house for parents and students interested in grades 9-12 at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, October 29. The evening will include an overview of the school program, classroom visits and a tour. Visitation serves boys and girls in Montessori preschool through sixth grade and young women only in grades 7-12. Call 651-683-1700.

St. Paul Public Schools interim Superintendent Suzanne Kelly presented her State of the District address on October 13 to lay out the district's goals, including a 10 percentage point gain for all student groups in reading and math. The address will be shown on St. Paul cable Channel 16 at 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 21, and Friday, October 23. The address and the district's 2009 annual report also are available at www.spps.org.

The Highland Park High School class of 1988 will hold its 21-year reunion on Saturday, October 24, at Solera Restaurant in Minneapolis. Visit www.solera-restaurant.com/HP1988.html.

Free beginning-level computer classes will be offered from 10:00 a.m. to noon on Tuesdays at the Central Library, 90 W. 4th St. The schedule includes an introduction to computers on November 3, E-mail I on November 10, E-mail II on November 17 and an introduction to the Internet on November 24. Call 651-266-7000, ext. 5.

Michelle Thom of Highland Park has been hired as chief human resources officer at Normandale Community College in Bloomington. She previously worked for Hennepin County as director of administration in the Public Defender's Office.

Homework centers at the Rondo, Rice Street, Sun Ray, Dayton's Bluff and Riverview libraries need volunteers to tutor students after school. The centers are open from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Rondo and Sun Ray are also open from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Sunday. Contact Rachel at 651-266-7460 or rachel.kowarski@ci.stpaul.mn.us.

Dr. Clara Filice, a 1997 graduate of Central High School, has been chosen by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Clinical Scholars Program for a two-year fellowship that will begin in July 2010. She will spend two years at Yale studying new directions in health care. Filice received her medical and master's degrees in public health from Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine.

St. Thomas Academy alumni Mike Maxwell (class of 1984) and Jason Sedlak ('93) have joined the academy's institutional advancement staff. Maxwell will serve as the director of annual giving and Sedlak as the director of alumni relations. Maxwell comes to the academy after 11 years as owner of a custom closet and home organization company, and 10 years in membership and sales for private businesses and social clubs in the

Twin Cities. He previously coached the STA wrestling team. Sedlak, a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, joins the academy after four years in military leadership, as well as experience as founder of OneSourceGear, a headwear company. He is the linebacker coach for the STA varsity football team this year.

Dugsi Academy, 1821 University Ave., has become the 30th charter school to be approved for Minnesota's Q Comp program. The school will receive \$55,900 for the 2009-10 school year for implementation of the program, which provides professional development and compensates teachers based on performance. Dugsi primarily serves students of East African descent.

St. Thomas Academy's Experimental Vehicle Team won the high school division of *Popular Science's* first National School Inventors Challenge for its safer electric motorcycle. The street-legal motorcycle can travel 60 mph for more than 40 miles before needing to be recharged. Each winning school receives \$5,000 in science equipment. The STA team is advised by physics instructor Mark Westlake.

Twelve Visitation students were part of the Partners in Praise all-girl choir that won a silver medal in the International Choral

SCHOOL NOTES ► 19

"What's great about St. Paul?"

The Villager reader asks, Any Unusual Facts?

St. Paul is hotbed for non-profit charitable organizations.

The Dorothy Day Center at 183 Old 6th St., St. Paul, was founded only as a temporary place in 1981. Twenty-eight years later, the daytime drop-in and overnight shelter still confronts the growing problems of homelessness and poverty. In this past year, 395 adults older than 55 stayed at the Dorothy Day Center. This was over double the figure for 2007. The average number of lunch and dinner meals served at the DDC was 564.6 per day this past July—the highest number in 15 months. Catholic Charities food shelves served 73% more families in July 2009 than the year before.

Dorothy Day, who died in 1980 at age 83, believed in solidarity with the poor and their struggle for peace and justice. Because of that some people called her a communist. She was shot at, jailed and investigated repeatedly by the FBI. Please see the DDC website to contribute—Visit www.cctwincities.org.



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Campers enjoying all-inclusive fun at Camp Butwin.

JCC inclusion program is 25 and counting

The St. Paul Jewish Community Center is celebrating 25 years of offering inclusive programming for people with disabilities. According to inclusion and accessibility services director Ann Hoffer, the St. Paul JCC is believed to be the first recreational center in the nation to offer such a program.

To mark the anniversary, the JCC will hold a celebration from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Sunday, October 25, at the Lodge on the Lake at Camp Butwin in Eagan. The afternoon will include appetizers, music, dancing, sports, presentations, and arts and crafts.

The JCC inclusion program has grown from serving 12 children with disabilities in 1984 to serving more than 100 youths in 2009. Children with special needs are able to participate in all of the JCC's activities, including summer camps, athletic programs, after-school activities, swimming lessons, theater productions and child-care programs.

"The St. Paul JCC's inclusion program has allowed Drew to be a typical kid, while allowing us to be typical parents," said Christy Danisch, the mother of two children. "The program has allowed Drew to be included 100 percent with typical peers. Drew is accepted as Drew, and not the boy who has Down syndrome."

Past and current participants, staff, families and anyone else who has been affected by the inclusion program at the JCC are welcome to attend the anniversary celebration. For more information, call Hoffer at 651-255-4759.

18◀ SCHOOL NOTES

Competition in Preveza, Greece, this summer. The group also won an award for its rendition of "Amazing Grace". The Visitation students included Alison and Natalie Vandenburg, McKenna Caspers, Delfina Mancebo, Brooke Jensen, Colleen Hay, Elle Newcome, Elizabeth Roorda, Yvonne Gerten, Caitlin David, Nora Rickey and Claire Repp. The group is directed by Julia Fahey. Partners in Praise's new CD will be released this fall. For information, visit www.partnersinpraise.org.

St. Paul College, 317 Marshall Ave., will offer a class on drawing with perspective from 9:30 a.m. to noon Saturdays, October 31-November 21. The fee is \$74. Call 651-846-1800.

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Halloween Party

Saturday, Oct. 31st

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Cash/Bar Tab Winners
★ Live Music ★★

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La Hacienda Mexican Restaurant	651 699 3213
Nile Chiropractic Clinic	651 699 1222
Plaza Tobacco	651 699 6747
Subway	651 690 1333
SVS Vision	651 695 0526
TT Angel Nails	651 699 1044
Tuesday Morning	651 698 1355
Yarmo Liquor Store	651 698 0707
7th Wireless	612 205 7574

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Halloween in Highland

TRICK OR TREAT

Saturday, October 31st

Trick or Treat Stops
Saturday, October 31st
10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Look for the orange Official Trick or Treat Sign at these businesses

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- Snyders
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- Caribou Coffee
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- Barnes & Noble
- Pearle Vision
- Downing Family Farm Pumpkins (at Snelling)

CLEVELAND AVENUE SOUTH

- White Rock Coffee
- Pinehurst Bank
- Arthur Williams Optical
- Edina Realty
- Great Clips
- R.F. Moeller Jeweler
- U.S. Bank

Halloween in Highland Activities

Free Pictures taken with Winifred the Good Witch at Snyders from 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Train coloring contest at Pinehurst Bank 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon
— Win 1 of 3 U.S. Savings Bonds —

Free cup of coffee at White Rock Coffee

Cider & Cookies at Highland Café & Bakery

Great Clips Gift Bags & Colored Hair Do's

Gift bags & goodies at Fairview Clinic

Pet Costume Contest at Chuck & Don's Pet Food Outlet

MGayle Studio Free Haunted House 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Pumpkins for Sale
corner of Ford Pkwy. & Snelling Ave.
by Downing Family Farms

FREE Photos w/ Winifred the Good Witch!

Train Coloring Contest

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Bob Tschida of Macalester-Groveland and Stanley Lukar of Highland Park had a super time at a previous Trick or Treat in Highland.

PHOTO BY
BRAD STAUFFER

Scare up some Halloween fun

Dressing up and knocking on doors for candy is dandy, but those looking for a little more Halloween fun may want to check out the following events being offered locally:

Shadows and spirits will stalk the dimly lit halls of the state Capitol during special tours leaving on the half-hour from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. October 22-24. Tour-goers will meet historical "spirits" who will tell tales of the Capitol's early years. The cost is \$7.00-\$10. Call 651-296-2881.

The Como ZooBoo will be held from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. on October 23-25. The kid-friendly event offers families a trick-or-treating alternative that includes activity stations, live entertainment and more than 200 costumed characters. Children are encouraged to wear costumes and bring their own trick-or-treat bags. Admission is \$6.00 in advance at metro-area Cub Food stores or \$7.00 at the gate. A free shuttle to the zoo is available from the State Fair parking lot. Call 651-487-8226.

Victorian ghost stories, including some that purportedly took place in Summit Avenue mansions, will be told by costumed actors at 6:00 and 7:30 p.m. Sundays, October 25 and November 1, in the dimly lit parlor of the James J. Hill House, 240 Summit Ave. Tours of the mansion will follow and hot cider will be served. The cost is \$8.00-\$10. Call 651-297-2555.

Ghost hunting basics will be taught by Rick Hagen, founder of the Minnesota Ghost Hunter Society, at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, October 23, at the John H. Stevens House, 4901 Minnehaha Ave., Minneapolis. Participants will

learn about the tools used to identify "hot spots" as they explore the historic house. The cost is \$10. Call 952-896-0919 to register.

A Halloween party for children living in the neighborhoods served by recreation centers in the southwest area of St. Paul will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Saturday, October 24, at the Edgcombe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St. Kids are asked to come in costume and take part in a carnival of games, a craft project, moon walk and more. Concessions will be sold. Call 651-695-3711.

A fall festival will be held from 9:00 a.m. to noon Saturday, October 24, at Gateway Bank, Dodd Road and Highway 110, Mendota Heights. The fourth annual festival will feature balloons, refreshments and free pumpkins while supplies last. Call 651-209-4800.

Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) will be celebrated from noon to 4:00 p.m. Sunday, October 25, at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. Music, dancing, beautifully decorated altars (ofrendas), a puppet show, hands-on activities and games will all be part of the colorful Latin American holiday, which is celebrated annually to honor friends and family members who have died. Admission is \$5.00-\$10. Call 651-259-3000.

Chad Lewis, author of *The Minnesota Road Guide to Haunted Locations*, will talk about some of the most haunted places in Minnesota at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, October 25, at the Central Library, 90 W. 4th St. The program is free. Call 651-266-7000, ext. 5.

The Great Pumpkin Festival will take place

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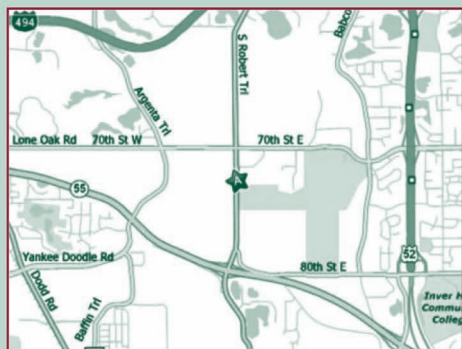
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Commission supports variances, rezoning for a Subway on Selby

By JANE McCLURE

Despite some neighborhood opposition, the St. Paul Planning Commission has approved four variances and has recommended rezoning to accommodate a proposed Subway restaurant at the northeast corner of Selby Avenue and Victoria Street. The City Council is expected to hold a public hearing on the rezoning next month.

The Planning Commission recommended rezoning the property at 857 Selby Ave. from community business to traditional neighborhoods so that the fast-food restaurant can operate there. The building on the site was originally a gas station and later housed an auto repair shop. It most recently was home to a motorcycle escort service. That business moved out a few years ago.

Plans by Jeff and Jackie Lunde to convert the building into a Subway restaurant required four variances to the traditional neighborhoods zoning standards. Two variances were for parking. Under the city's zoning code, the Subway restaurant requires 20 off-street spaces, but there is only room for 17. In addition, the parking lot is in front of the building, not behind it, which required another variance.

The commission also approved a 3-foot front setback variance (7 feet are required and 4 feet are proposed) and a 14-foot variance for the location of a curb cut on Victoria (25 feet are required from adjoining properties and 11 feet were allowed).

The proposed Subway has stirred up strong feelings in the neighborhood, both pro and con. Some neighborhood residents and business owners welcome it and others say it is not the type of shop they want to see on Selby.

"I've tried to (bring in) a business that's needed in the neighborhood," said property owner Abdalla Tobasi, who will be leasing the site to the Lundes. Tobasi, who has collected hundreds of signatures on a petition in support of the restaurant, said he decided to lease to the Lundes after he saw the way they converted a former taxi and auto repair business at 2121 University Ave. into a Subway. The couple have owned that Subway for five years. They have owned the Subway at Grand and

Fairview avenues for 20 years.

Jackie Lunde said she and her husband would be active in the management of the Selby restaurant. She said they plan to give the building an extensive makeover and install new landscaping and lighting.

Patricia Aitkin, who runs a youth program across the street, said the Subway would provide a welcome dining option in the neighborhood as well as jobs.

Dayton Avenue resident Chris Oakes, who lives north of the site and opposed the rezoning and variances, said the Subway would set a precedent for more fast-food restaurants on Selby and would generate additional litter.

The precedent was also cited by Irna Landrum, executive director of the Summit-University Planning Council. "We don't want Selby to be a fast-food corridor," she said.

The SUPC took no position on the rezoning, although the council held several meetings on the project. Landrum said that though SUPC board members generally supported the plans for the Subway, they did so with the understanding that it would require a conditional use permit, not a rezoning.

Oakes referred to the commission's recommendation as spot zoning, which is illegal in Minnesota. The site is surrounded by residentially and commercially zoned properties and there is no other traditional neighborhoods zoning nearby. City planning staff said it was not spot zoning since there are already two mixed commercial-residential buildings at the intersection, which is the kind of land use that traditional neighborhoods zoning was intended to promote.

"It would make the site consistent with two of the three other corners," said Planning Commission chair Brian Alton.

Oakes also argued that rezoning the site would mean creating a non-conforming lot, since parking would be in the front of the building. However, city planner Patricia James said the layout of the parking lot was dictated by the desire to reuse an existing building at the back of the lot. She also pointed out that moving parking to the rear would put cars closer to homes on Dayton.

20◀ HALLOWEEN

at 1:00 p.m. Sunday, October 25, at Landmark Center. There will be a costume parade, storytelling, music, art projects and more. Admission is free. Call 651-292-3276.

The Boo Bash will be presented by the Grand Avenue Business Association from noon to 4:00 p.m. Sunday, October 25. Kids can trick-or-treat along Grand Avenue and enjoy a variety of fall-themed activities hosted by local businesses. Highlights will include a blood drive, a children's costume contest, petting zoos, fall food and drink specials, inflatable bounce houses, face painting and crafts. Call 651-699-0029 or visit www.grandave.com.

"The Minneapolis Horror: Tales from the Night Shift" will be presented at 6:30, 7:00 and 7:30 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, October 26-28, at the Mill City Museum, 704 2nd St. S., Minneapolis. Costumed actors will relive the dangers of working the night shift and the horrific disasters that befell the Washburn A Mill over the years. The cost is \$10-\$14. Call 612-341-7555.

A Masquerade Ball and fundraiser will be presented by St. Paul City Ballet on Friday, October 30, at the University Club, 420 Summit Ave. A silent auction begins at 6:30 p.m., with dinner at 7:30 and the presentation of Camille Saint-Saëns' *A Danse Macabre* and a newly commissioned work *Tiny Dancer* to follow. Tickets are \$65. Call 651-690-1588.

A Halloween Extravaganza will be held from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Friday, October 30, at the Dodge Nature Center in West St. Paul.

Children may walk on the trick-or-treat trail or, if they dare, venture out onto the scary trail along the pond and prairie where ghosts and goblins await. Family activities throughout the evening include educational skits, face painting, music and a costume contest for various age levels. Admission is \$5.00-\$7.00. Guests are encouraged to bring their own trick-or-treat bags. Call 651-455-4531.

Trick or Treat in Highland will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Saturday, October 31. Children are invited to dress in costume and visit participating shops in Highland Village that will be handing out treats that day. Call 651-699-9042.

A Halloween bike ride will be offered by Union Park's Smart Trips program at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, October 31, from Trotter's Cafe, 232 N. Cleveland Ave. The public is invited to join folks from the Sibley Bike Depot for a family-friendly ride around the neighborhood before trick-or-treating for the evening. They will provide tips on how to keep kids safe and visible during the shorter days of the year. Costumes are encouraged for all ages. Healthy snacks and bike lights will be given to the first 20 people. Call 651-224-8555.

A Dead (Poe)ts & Writers Halloween Party will be held at 8:00 p.m. Saturday, October 31, at Kieran's Irish Pub, 330 2nd Ave. S., Minneapolis. The evening will include a costume contest and an open mic. Guests are encouraged to come dressed in character and read from their favorite poetry, short stories and plays. Admission is a \$10 donation to benefit the Loft, but no one will be turned away for lack of funds. Call 612-339-4499.

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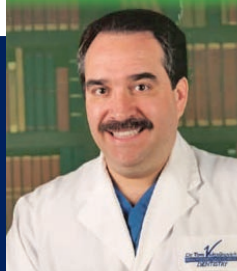
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Names in the News

Mark Koenig of Merriam Park has been selected as one of three Civil Servants of the Year by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District. Koenig has worked for the corps for more than 30 years and is chief of the district's construction activities quality assurance program.

Kari Boe-Schmidt of Merriam Park has been named board chair of the St. Paul Festival and Heritage Foundation, which runs the St. Paul Winter Carnival. She is with Hennepin County Human Services. The 124th Winter Carnival will take place on January 21-31, 2010. Visit www.winter-carnival.com.



John Stanley and **Rebecca Skally**, who operate Turtle Tales in Macalester-Groveland, have been selected as Ramsey County's 2009 Child Care Providers of the Year.

Ann Kirby McGill of Summit Hill has been named director of advancement services and marketing for St. Paul-based Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota. She previously was deputy director for the Citizens League.

Amy Vargo and **Bonnie Blodgett**, both Summit Hill residents, were elected to their first terms of office on the board of directors of Family & Children's Service. Vargo worked for 16 years with Richfield Public Schools as a teacher and reading specialist. Blodgett is a columnist for the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*.

Alex Kaardal of Macalester-Groveland was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout on August 15

at Immanuel Lutheran Church. He is a member of Troop 90.

Judith Donohue, a Macalester-Groveland resident and senior human resources manager at Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, recently earned certification as a senior professional in human resources.

Todd R. Wichman of Summit Hill has been selected to join the American Society of Landscape Architects' (ASLA) Council of Fellows. He is one of only 33 landscape architects in the nation to be chosen to join the council this year.

James Kolar of Summit-University has been named to the board of directors of the Greater Twin Cities United Way. Kolar is a managing partner at Pricewaterhouse Coopers LLP.

The Community Kids after-school program of the West 7th Community Center, 265 Oneida St., is one of just 16 organizations from across Minnesota to receive an award from the 21st Century Community Learning Center Grants. The center received a three-year grant of \$530,000 for its kindergarten to 8th-grade programming, which serves 60 students in 3 classrooms and is complemented by an 80-student summer camp program. Visit www.west7th.org or call 651-298-5493.

Cece Ziegler, a 2nd-grader at Expo Elementary School and the daughter of Evan and Tracy Ziegler, has a poem published in the "Your Own Pages" section of the October 2009 issue of *Highlights for Children*. Her poems covers the four seasons and her fondness for sports.

Stephen F. Befort of Merriam Park has teamed up with John W. Budd to write *In-*

visible Hands, Invisible Objectives: Bringing Workplace Law and Public Policy Into Focus (Stanford University Press, 2009). Befort is the Gray, Plant, Mooty, Mooty and Bennett Professor of Law at the University of Minnesota Law School and the author of *Employment Law and Practice, Second Edition* (2003). Budd is the industrial relations land grant chair at the U of M's Carlson School of Management and the author of *Labor Relations: Striking a Balance* (2006).

Jim Rogers, a Merriam Park resident and managing director of the University of St. Thomas Center for Irish Studies, took office as president of the American Conference for Irish Studies at the group's annual meeting in Ireland. Rogers, 57, will lead the 800-member ACIS through 2011.



St. Paul City Attorney John Choi of Highland Park was chosen to receive the 2009 Joseph I. Mulligan Jr. Distinguished Public Service Award at the International Municipal Lawyers Association convention in October. The annual award recognizes Choi for such work as developing a multi-city working group on foreclosures, improving opportunities for women- and minority-owned contractors and combating gang activity.

Air National Guard Airman First Class Kali L. Gilsrud graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas. She is the daughter of Jesse and Jodi Gilsrud of 44th Avenue South in Minneapolis and a 2009 graduate of South High School.

Caitlin Heaney of Macalester-Groveland has been named the winner of the Teen Champion for Life Award given by the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. The University of St. Thomas freshman helped start a Life Club at her former high school, Convent of the Visitation, and has also volunteered at Jeremiah House, Feed My Starving Children, Mother of Good Counsel Home, and Sharing and Caring Hands.

Army Reserve Pfc. Eric J. Winsor has returned to the United States after being deployed overseas at a forward operating base in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Winsor, a motor transport operator, is normally assigned to the 353rd Transportation Company. He is the son of Robert and Paula Winsor of James Avenue and is a 2007 graduate of Cretin-Derham Hall.

Army National Guard Pvt. Kayni D. Loyd has graduated from basic infantry training at Fort Benning, Georgia. Loyd is a 1997 graduate of Central High School.

Jan Selby of Macalester-Groveland has received the Emerging Filmmaker Award in the Minnesota Historical Society's 1968 Film Competition. Selby was honored for *A Circle and Three Lines*, a film that looks at the history and meaning of the peace symbol. The top five award-winning filmmakers received prizes ranging from \$1,000-\$5,000. Visit www.the1968project.org.

Army Reserve Pfc. Allen Photopoulos has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. He is the son of Judy Melby of South Minneapolis and a 2002 graduate of Richfield Senior High School.



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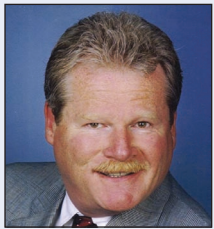
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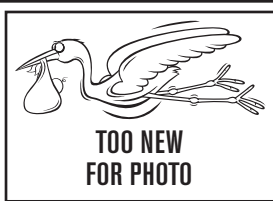
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Religious Notes

Wisdom Ways Center for Spirituality, 1890 Randolph Ave., will offering the following: "The Seasons of Life: The Spirituality of Autumn" from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Thursday, October 22 (\$25); a day of contemplative prayer from 8:45 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. Saturday, October 24 (\$30); ritual drumming from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Friday October 30 (\$25); "A River Hard to See: A Celtic View of the Patterns of Life," an evening of reflection, meditation, music and ritual, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Sunday, November 1 (free); and "Yoga for Men: How it is Relevant and Compelling" from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 4 (\$35, includes dinner). Call 651-696-2788.

"**Religion, Belief and Politics**" is the topic of a speech that will be given by Talal Asad of City University of New York at 4:45 p.m. Friday, October 23, in the campus center at Macalester College. Admission is free. Call 651-696-6141.

A Saturday Breakfast for Men on October 24 will feature the Reverend William Baer addressing the topic, "Wanted: Catholic Men to Defend and Protect the Faith." The program will begin at 8:45 a.m. at the Church of St. Helena, 3204 E. 43rd St. in Minneapolis. It will be preceded by Mass at 8:00 and a hearty breakfast at 8:30. The cost is \$5.00 on October 24, or \$20 for the full series of five monthly breakfast talks. For reservations, call 612-729-7321 by noon on October 23.

Christ Church Lutheran, 3244 34th Ave. S., Minneapolis, will present the music of Martin Luther and his contemporaries during a candlelight concert at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, October 24. The concert will feature the Elm

Quintet, the Terpsichore Ensemble, organist Robert Farlee and narrator Roger Gomoll. Tickets are \$10-\$20. Proceeds will go to preservation of the church, which was recently named as a national historic landmark. Call Roger Gomoll at 651-233-6178 or visit www.friendsofcl.org.

A choral evensong celebrating the 80th anniversary of the birth of composer Kenneth Leighton will be held at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, October 25, at St. Clement's Episcopal Church, 901 Portland Ave. Anthems by the English composer, including "Let All the World in Every Corner Sing," will be featured. A reception will follow. St. Clement's youth and adult choirs and a chamber orchestra will present the Faure Requiem during a special All Saint's Day service at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, November 1, at the church. Call 651-228-1164.

An Evensong for All Saints Day will be presented at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, November 1, by the semi-professional choir of the Church of St. John the Evangelist, 60 Kent St. Following the service, the choir will sing the "Messe Solennelle" by Louis Vierne. Call James Frazier at 651 228-1172.

Gemilut Chassadim Day will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Sunday, November 15, at the Temple of Aaron, 616 S. Mississippi River Blvd. Donations are needed to fill 100 gift baskets for Jewish families in need. Items are being sought for babies and children (bottles, diapers, etc.), teenagers (sporting goods, games, etc.), and adults and seniors (personal hygiene products, cooking utensils, etc.) All items must be new. The only clothes that will be collected will be winter hats, mittens,

UST presents Sacred Arts Fest

The University of St. Thomas will open its 31st annual Sacred Arts Festival with a reading by novelist Ron Hansen at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, October 22, in the auditorium of the university's John R. Roach Center for the Liberal Arts.

The festival will continue with the following events:

- Monday, November 2—Israeli singer-songwriter Yasmin Levy will present "Noches son de enamorar," a lecture and demonstration of Sephardic music, accompanied by Ishay Amir on the darbuka (goblet drum) and Vardan Hovanissian on the flute and clarinet, at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the O'Shaughnessy Educational Center (OEC).

- Saturday and Sunday, November 7-8—"Hidden Yearning," a theatrical and dance presentation by Minneapolis artist Leili Tajadod Pritschet in collaboration with the Washington, D.C.-based Silk Road Dance Company, will be presented at 2:30 and 7:00 p.m. in the Baumgaertner Auditorium of the Brady Educational Center. Tickets are \$18. Students will be admitted free.

- Monday, November 9—A discussion with Canadian organist and composer Rachel Laurin will be held at noon in the Luan Dummer Center for Women of the OEC (call 651-962-6119 for reservations). Laurin will also perform an organ recital at

8:15 that evening in the St. Thomas chapel.

- Tuesday, November 10—"A Call to Prayer," a demonstration of chants from various faith traditions and an interfaith discussion, will be held at 8:00 p.m. in the university chapel.

- Wednesday, November 11—Solemn vespers for All Souls' Day, with the Reverend Dennis Dease presiding and the university's women's choir singing, will be celebrated at 5:30 p.m. in the school chapel.

- Wednesday, November 18—*The Message*, Moustapha Akkad's 1976 film about the roots of Islam, will be shown at 7:00 p.m. in the OEC auditorium.

- November 30-January 15—"A Season of Joy: The Nativity in Global Perspective," an exhibition featuring selections from Westminster Presbyterian Church's collection of 160 crèches from around the world, will be on display from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays and from noon to 10:00 p.m. Sundays in the lobby of the OEC.

- Friday, December 4—Rodney Allen Schwartz of the Westminster Presbyterian Church gallery and archive will speak on "The Crèche in Many Languages" at 7:00 p.m. in the OEC auditorium.

All events are free unless otherwise noted. For information, visit www.stthomas.edu/saf.

scarves, jackets and socks. Volunteers also are needed to assemble the baskets. Food will be made available and children's learning activities will take place. Call 651-698-8874.

"**Change of Heart in Song**" will be offered from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Friday, October 30,

in the recital hall at St. Catherine University. The interactive workshop will use song, visual images and exercises as an introduction to so-called "peace training" developed by a Tibetan meditation master. The cost is \$20-\$45. Call 651-962-5826.

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651-690-8556 • \$245,000





PRIVATE POND SETTING
1883 Warrior Drive: This quality built 4-BR walkout rambler is in impeccable condition and situated on a very private wooded pond lot. It features an entertainment-sized great room and updated family-sized kitchen with center island, and delightful screen porch.

JIM BURTON
651-690-8556 • \$579,900




FABULOUS CONDITION!
1652 James Road: Immaculate 3-BR rambler with all-new hardwood floors, large main floor family room with a delightful deck off it, 2 fireplaces, eat-in kitchen, and a king-sized master bedroom and bath.

JIM BURTON
651-690-8556 • \$379,900

THE BEST AT WILDER PARK
1181 Edgcombe Rd.: Party room, guest suite, library, exercise room. #801 is 1,040 sq. ft. with 2 BRs and 2 baths, huge LR, formal DR, 3 great views for \$108,000. #1212 is 960 sq. ft., 2 BRs, 1 bath, spacious LR, formal DR, facing east: reduced to \$75,500. 55+

PAT MCGILL CRS
651-695-4311 • \$108,000 & \$75,500




UNBELIEVABLE VIEWS!
For this tree-top condo corner unit overlooking the river at 291 7th St. W #1401. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths for \$159,900. Light and bright; close before November 30th.

LOLLY SALMEN CRS • ROSEMARY MCNEELY CRS
651-690-8582 • \$159,900




604 HIGH RIDGE CIRCLE
in Mendota Heights is north of Hwy 110 and absolutely stunning! Must see all new granite, cabinets, high end decor. Soaring ceilings, unbelievably spacious. 4 BRs, 4 baths.

LOLLY SALMEN CRS • ROSEMARY MCNEELY CRS
651-690-8582 • \$600s




BRICK BEAUTY!
Completely updated from roof to windows to furnace/AC & appliances. Newer kitchen with Silestone. 4 BRs, 2 baths. Built-ins, oak wdwk., 2 FP's, sauna. Mint condition plus porch and mechanic's garage. New price.

LOLLY SALMEN CRS • ROSEMARY MCNEELY CRS
651-690-8582 • \$325,000



KENNEDY
3-6488



SARAH KINNEY
651-282-9621



BOBBI LEVITAN
651-282-9684



KATHERINE LUND
651-282-9664



NANCY MAAS
651-282-9670



PAT MCGILL
651-695-4311



JANE AUSTIN McGRATH
651-282-9625



DICK NICHOLSON
651-282-9636



T. J. PIERRET
651-755-6669

Voters' Guide

Candidates and ballot questions beckon on Nov. 3

Voters will have final word in cities' elections

Citizens of St. Paul, Minneapolis, Mendota, Mendota Heights and Lilydale will go to the polls on Tuesday, November 3, to take part in their respective municipal and School Board elections.

St. Paul voters will be choosing among candidates for mayor and four open seats on the seven-member School Board. They will also be asked whether or not the city should adopt instant runoff voting (IRV) in future elections for mayor and City Council.

Minneapolis voters will be using instant runoff voting for the first time to choose among candidates for mayor, City Council, Park and Recreation Board and Board of Estimate and Taxation. They will also be asked whether or not the city charter should be amended to have the City Council perform all of the functions of the Board of Estimate and Taxation.

Mendota, Mendota Heights and Lilydale voters will join the rest of School District 197 in electing three members to its seven-member School Board.

For this Voters' Guide, the *Villager* posed four questions to the candidates for mayor

and School Board in St. Paul. Their answers appear on this and the following two pages. This *Villager* also includes stories on the District 197 School Board race (see page 6) and the IRV referendum in St. Paul (see page 1).

The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on November 3. To vote in Minnesota, a person must be at least 18 years old, a U.S. citizen and a Minnesota resident for at least the 20 days just prior to the election. People who have never voted, have not voted in the past four years or have changed their name or address since they last voted may register to vote at the polls on election day by having a registered voter in the same precinct vouch for them or by showing a Minnesota driver's license, learner's permit or state identification card that includes their current address.

College students may register to vote by showing a current student ID card, registration card or fee statement that includes their current address, or by showing a photo ID along with a recent utility bill showing the student's name and current address.

For information about polling places, absentee ballots or other voter services, call 651-266-2171 in St. Paul, 612-673-3000 in Minneapolis or 651-438-4380 in Dakota County. Following are all of the candidates and questions appearing on area ballots:

ST. PAUL

Mayor — Chris Coleman*, Eva Ng.

School Board, four-year seats (vote for up to three) — John Brodrick*, Chris Conner, Tom Goldstein*, John Krenik, Jean O'Connell, Elona Street-Stewart*.

School Board, two-year seat — Pat Igo, Vallay Moua Varro.

Instant Runoff Voting Charter Amendment — Shall Chapter 7 of the City Charter be amended to require that the method for electing the mayor and City Council members be by Single Transferable Voting, sometimes known as Ranked Choice Voting or Instant Runoff Voting, which is a method without a separate primary election by which voters rank candidates for an office in order of preference on a single ballot: first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth and so on; and votes are then counted in rounds until one candidate emerges with a majority of votes cast; and with ballot format and rules for counting votes adopted by ordinance? Yes or no.

MINNEAPOLIS

Mayor — Bob Carney Jr., Christopher Clark, James R. Everett, Tom Fiske, Al Flow-ers, Dick Franson, Papa John Kolstad, Joey Lombard, Bill McGaughey, R.T. Rybak*, John Charles Wilson.

City Council Ward 12 — Rick L. Nyhlen, Brent Perry, Sandy Colvin Roy*, Charley Underwood.

Board of Estimate and Taxation, two at-large seats — Carol Becker*, R. Michael Martens, James Elliot Smartwood, DeWayne Townsend, David Wheeler, Phil Willkie.

Park and Recreation Board, three at-large seats — Mary Merrill Anderson*, Nancy Ber-nard, John Butler, John Erwin, Bob Fine, Tom Nordyke*, David Wahlstedt, Annie Young*.

Park and Recreation Board, District 5 — Steve Barland, Carol Kummer*, McClain Looney, Dan W. Peterson, Jason Stone.

Charter Amendment No. 168 — Should the city of Minneapolis adopt a change in its charter to the composition of the Board of Es-timate and Taxation so that the board's mem-bership consists of the members of the City Council, with the actions of the board subject to the powers and duties of the mayor?

MENDOTA HEIGHTS

School Board, four-year seats (vote for up to three) — Patricia Barnum, Jim Cichy, Dewayne E. Dill, Kelly Gibbons, David Ko-ziol, Joel Stone. The names of Anne Byer-Ra-jput and Brenda Norman will also appear on the ballot, but they have withdrawn.

* Denotes incumbent.

St. Paul Mayor

Questions	In the face of future budget deficits, what more should the city be doing to reduce spending, if anything?	Is there more the city should be doing to promote the expansion of its commercial tax base?	What will the city's major challenges be in the next four years and what would you do to address them?	What distinguishes you from your opponent in the race? Why should the voters elect you?
<div></div> <div>Chris Coleman Residence: West Side Age: 48 Occupation: Mayor Education: B.A., J.D., Uni-versity of Minnesota Party: DFL-endorsed</div>	<p>When I took office four years ago, I inherited a massive structural budget deficit created by 12 years of disinvestment. In just three years, I brought our budget into structural balance, despite the state's shorting St. Paul \$155 million in Local Government Aid. I did it by delivering better services at a better price, creating partnerships that have brought in tens of millions of dollars, and being honest with residents about the chal-lenges we faced. I have audited and consolidated city departments and invested in technology that will save millions every year. I will continue to innovate and find new partners to keep St. Paul moving forward.</p>	<p>We have seen \$1 billion in new commercial investment in St. Paul in the last four years. To further ex-pand the tax base, we must build Central Corridor light rail in a way that brings long-term prosperity to University Avenue and nearby neigh-borhoods, as well as make sure that high-speed rail to Chicago becomes reality. We must continue to attract high-paying jobs and more enter-tainment options to downtown, as I have done by bringing in Microsoft, Cray and GovDelivery and helping to revitalize Lowertown. Finally, I will continue to encourage investment in St. Paul's burgeoning healthcare sec-tor beyond the \$400 million that has already taken place.</p>	<p>I have laid the groundwork for eco-nomic recovery and prosperity by at-tracting \$1 billion in new investment in St. Paul, championing our revital-ized downtown and being the chief advocate for Central Corridor light rail, which will bring in \$1 billion more. I will continue to do so.</p> <p>I have put more police and fire-fighters on our streets than ever be-fore and will maintain our first-class public safety. I have made St. Paul a leader in creating educational oppor-tunity for our children and will keep fighting to surround them with op-portunity and close the achievement gap. I have budgeted honestly and responsibly and will continue to be a watchdog for investing wisely and saving money.</p>	<p>Four years ago, I was blessed with the job of leading the city where I've lived my entire life, after serving as a community leader, investment advis-er, attorney and City Council mem-ber. In the four years I've served as mayor, we've faced some tough chal-lenges and we've met them by work-ing together and by putting an end to finger-pointing. I'm proud that as a result, I've been endorsed by our po-lice officers and firefighters, teachers, public employees, Realtors and DFL Party, among others, not to mention our City Council members. More challenges lie ahead, but whether or not you agree with me, you can count on me to be honest about them and what it will take to keep moving St. Paul forward.</p>
<div></div> <div>Eva Ng Residence: West End Age: 51 Occupation: Business con-sultant, CEO Education: B.S., Chemical Engineering, Texas A&M Party: Independent, Republican-endorsed</div>	<p>We're operating with a budget that is \$100 million more per year than four years ago. There is enough mon-ey to fully fund our essential needs first—fire, police, emergency medi-cal services and roads. Then we'll prioritize our "wants" and fully fund the most desirable of them. Examples of cost control instruments include: eliminate redundancies in services among city, county and state govern-ment; identify best practices and set specific targets for cost containment; assess city assets as revenue produc-ers or cash drains, and find ways to optimize revenue producers and turn around cash drains; audit purchasing practices; balance workload to per-sonnel requirements in each depart-ment; restructure debt.</p>	<p>Existing businesses must be nur-tured, red tape removed, unneces-sary ordinances repealed to grow the local job market. To create jobs, let's marshal the city's entrepreneurial re-sources and create a new-enterprise incubation center. Centralized office operations amenities may be offered affordably to small-business startups deemed viable. St. Paul must em-bark on a long-term effort to grow the number of businesses that call St. Paul home. St. Paul needs to leverage its natural beauty by creating memo-rable destinations to boost tourism. The most difficult task is to bring new businesses to St. Paul to diversify the economy and create new jobs. This is something I intend to do to pull St. Paul out of its downward spiral.</p>	<p>We face a time of economic un-certainty, unemployment, businesses fleeing, residents leaving. We have a nearly 30 percent office vacancy downtown, 2,400 to 4,000 fore-closed or abandoned homes and a much heavier tax and fee burden on residents and businesses. Declining property values will likely precipitate a city revenue deficit in 2009. I have a plan to market the city to businesses from coast to coast and freeze or de-crease tax rates. We must marshal the city's philanthropic resources to di-rect youths away from destructive ac-tivities and into constructive environ-ments without dipping into taxpayers' pockets. The capital budget must be refocused on essential improvements with commercial potential.</p>	<p>A troubleshooting skill set, busi-ness savvy and the responsibility for having met a payroll are what distin-guish me from my opponent. The mayor's position readily equates to the CEO position in a company. Problem solving, organizational structures, fi-nancial and cash-flow analysis, debt restructuring, personnel evaluation and management, marketing and promotions, contract negotiations and performance, quality steward-ship and team building are all part of the essential knowledge base for both positions. Another crucial aptitude is the ability to leverage technology to bring a sensible level of automation to city government, streamlining op-erations without having to break the bank.</p>

Questions

What are the greatest barriers to student achievement? What can the School Board do to help students overcome those barriers?

The St. Paul Public Schools is considering a host of Large Scale System Changes. Which if any of these changes are necessary and why?

Faced with budget deficits in the future, where would you look in the school district's budget to reduce spending?

What distinguishes you from your opponents in the race? Why should the voters elect you?

St. Paul School Board, Four-Year Term



Tom Goldstein
Residence: Hamline-Midway
Age: 52
Occupation: Union organizer
Education: B.A., Carleton College; J.D., William Mitchell College of Law
Party: DFL-endorsed

In a school district with significant diversity and poverty, our greatest challenge is providing a consistently rigorous academic environment for all students. This requires a teaching staff that fully appreciates the cultural milieu of our students, a city that is focused on education as its number-one priority, and the collaborative support of the business, labor and faith communities. The School Board must lead this effort by promoting those things we do well, implementing the proven strategies that will dramatically improve literacy for all students, and hiring a superintendent committed to St. Paul and with the skill and experience to fulfill the educational goals of the district.

Every school system needs to be innovative if we are to provide a premier education for all students. However, in the face of declining enrollment, the resources available to our schools are continually at risk, and we have an obligation to use those limited resources in the most efficient manner possible. This may mean the elimination or consolidation of programs that haven't proved successful, as well as redirecting resources to ensure that all kids have the kind of academic rigor and enrichment opportunities necessary for them to succeed in college and beyond. Avoiding such changes is not an option.

We should always be looking to find savings through innovation, adopting best practices, and collaborating with the city and county to avoid duplicative services. At the same time, we need to reframe the debate: Operating a school district that offers a world of opportunities requires a reliable funding source from year to year, something that an outdated student-funding formula does not provide. We need to stop assuming that budget cuts year in and year out are acceptable and instead focus on how we will pay for the transformation of all of our schools into integrated centers of learning that are an all-day resource for our communities.

As a former businessman, lawyer, community activist and affordable-housing advocate and currently a labor organizer, I bring a wealth of experience and practical knowledge to my work on the School Board. As a former PTO chair and school site council member, I understand the difficulties facing schools and the impacts that budget cuts and administrative decisions can have on a school community. As a current School Board member, I've spent four years learning the inner workings of the district and fully appreciate the challenges we must overcome to make significant progress in the coming years. I value hard work and collaboration; so should voters.



Chris Conner
Residence: West Side
Age: 36
Occupation: Lutheran Pastor
Education: M.A., Cross-cultural Studies, M.Div., Luther Seminary
Party: Republican-endorsed

With such a large achievement gap, we have to begin looking at the structure of our system, not the failure of parents, for the source of our problems. We need to expand the learning day, redesign the delivery of education to give more time for intervention, right-size the district in ways that do not drive up class sizes, implement a fully integrated and researched K-12 curriculum called Direct Instruction, negotiate Q-Comp and peer-based teacher coaching, move beyond cultural proficiency training to greater accountability, make use of laws that allow for parent- and teacher-redesigned schools, and enhance site councils so parents have a larger voice and are decision makers rather than just advisers.

The Large Scale System Changes stop short of meaningful reform. Simplifying school choice and organizing the district in regions are excellent ways to save \$2.2 million in transportation, but they don't resolve the problem that half of our schools are less than 50 percent proficient in reading and math. Cultural training can be a big part of addressing the achievement gap, but it's ineffective without holding administrators and teachers accountable for student performance. Right-sizing schools to save \$1.5 million looks good until you realize that projections put future class sizes at 30. Hiring 80 new teacher coaches has good intentions, but taking the 80 best teachers out of the classroom is simply not wise.

We have enough teachers for 46,000 students with only 38,000 students enrolled. The district is structured in such a way that children are not getting the education they deserve. For things like literacy, math and ELL, the delivery of services is neither cost-effective nor educationally acceptable. We have 11 students for every teacher, but average class sizes of about 25, meaning half of our teachers aren't even in the classroom. I am opposed to closing schools and driving up class sizes. I am opposed to cutting services for students. What is sustainable, though, both fiscally and educationally, is right-sizing the district by restructuring our delivery of services and eliminating unneeded positions.

I have years of experience in social service organizations and congregations developing practical solutions for difficult times, particularly for organizations in crisis, restructuring or conflict. The St. Paul Public Schools fits into each of these categories. I am a longtime family advocate with organizations like Freeport West, Head Start and Neighborhood House and have worked for about a decade in helping organizations comprehensively address systemic inequities that affect people of color. The incumbents have advocated strongly that this district should stay the course. Staying the course of failure is no longer an option. I bring fresh ideas for the kinds of changes we need to get the district back on course.



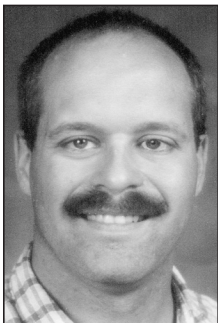
Elona Street-Stewart
Residence: Summit-University
Age: 58
Occupation: Synod associate for racial ethnic ministries, Presbyterian Church USA
Education: B.A., Anthropology, Occidental College
Party: DFL-endorsed

Poverty, language, race and behavior are perceived as critical barriers to student readiness to learn, but low expectations about what they can achieve have a deeper impact on how students and schools are challenged and assessed. The School Board must establish clear objectives and align all academic goals to requirements for college enrollment and a competitive workforce. The board must focus resources on rigorous programs in literacy, math and science and keep students engaged to prevent absenteeism, loss of credit and dropping out. We must build consensus across the community to create high expectations for students and start early to bring children to school ready to learn and prepared for success.

The initial LSSC report focused on academic results, enrollment trends and building conditions, giving the School Board, teachers and community until spring 2010 to consider school choice, professional development, integrating rigorous content in all courses, and matching site capacity and enrollment. These changes are necessary to correctly budget resources to facility conditions, use transportation more efficiently and ensure advanced instruction at every school. Our focus should be to balance demographics, reduce student travel distances and replicate quality programs so that the school day is aligned with student needs and so that we consistently support building leadership at every school.

I will examine everything in our current and projected budgets for efficient spending on instruction, operations and personnel. Public schools are the most regulated institutions in the state. If we invest in what works, we will be able to make the right decisions. When the federal government demands more of schools and students, it needs to provide sufficient funds instead of passing those unfunded mandates onto local and state taxpayers. Almost 80 percent of the district's budget goes to the classrooms and schools. Since student needs will not go away, we must approach our expenditures aggressively and our revenue conservatively to keep cuts away from the classroom.

I offer the most leadership experience as a chair and officer on the School Board and related educational affiliates such as MN School Board Directors, National School Board Association, Council on Urban Boards of Education and MN Minority Education Partnership. I have 24 years of professional experience and service with diverse communities in St. Paul. I'm a longtime classroom, school and district cultural resource and literacy volunteer, confronting stereotypes, leading racial justice initiatives and transforming institutional practices. I have been honored several times for my consensus building, passion for public education and collaborative initiatives. I am a parent of four St. Paul public school graduates.



John Krenik
Residence: Highland Park
Age: 46
Occupation: Teacher of adult education
Education: B.A., Elementary Education, University of St. Thomas
Party: Republican-endorsed

The achievement gap is totally unacceptable. This is not news; it has been going on for the last 20 years. The achievement gap issue rests squarely on the shoulders of the School Board. It is their policies and leadership that the district is following. The School Board's inability to hold senior administrators accountable for their poor performance is evident by the testing results of our district. The bottom line is the School Board needs to show leadership. Senior administrators need to be held responsible for their actions (academically and financially). The School Board needs to show leadership, not be led around by the superintendent.

There needs to be major changes in how the St. Paul Public Schools is run. Having been a teacher for over 20 years and having served on numerous School Board-appointed committees, I know the difficulties the school district faces. Holding senior administrators responsible for their actions is a major first step. My focus will be on:

1. Academics (achievement gap).
2. Financial.
3. Bringing the district back together to attack the problem, rebuilding communication between teachers and administration and using community resources.

Our district knew back in 2000 the trends in enrollment. They should have been planning to address these shifts. Their only solution was to ask for more money. Cutting central administration instead of growing senior administration should have been the rule. The district needs to provide more support to front-line teachers. Reducing senior administrative staff would have put more teachers in the classroom where they are most needed. Our district is staffed for 45,000 students when we only have 37,500. With over 200 teachers being cut, the superintendent proposed cutting central administration by 19.3 positions, six of which were contract positions.

I have a long, dedicated history with the St. Paul Public Schools as a student at Hancock Elementary and as a teacher for over 20 years in special education. As a substitute, I have taught in every St. Paul public school. Being a district employee has given me a view of the district the average board member will never see. I've served on many school district committees, such as the Citizens Budget Finance Advisory Committee, Citizens Long Range Space Planning Advisory Committee and Capital Improvement Advisory Committee, which I chaired for 14 years. I also served on my school's site council and the Executive Board of the St. Paul Federation of Teachers.

Questions

What are the greatest barriers to student achievement? What can the School Board do to help students overcome those barriers?

The St. Paul Public Schools is considering a host of Large Scale System Changes. Which if any of these changes are necessary and why?

Faced with the need for budget cuts, where would you look in the school district's budget to reduce spending?

What distinguishes you from your opponents in the race? Why should the voters elect you?

St. Paul School Board, Four-Year Term



John Brodrick
Residence: Frogtown
Age: 65
Occupation: Retired high school teacher
Education: B.A., M.A., Education, University of Minnesota
Party: DFL-endorsed

Many of our students are not performing at the level that they should be, and the achievement gap between certain student groups is very large. Some of the obstacles that create this situation can be overcome by strategies implemented by our schools. Identifying individual student learning problems and addressing them with intervention, support and best practices will increase achievement.

However, many of the challenges our schools face are the result of poverty and family instability. In these areas, the school district must partner with all of our community to ensure the well-being and education of our children.

In order to ensure a wealth of programs and choices for our families, we transport a very high percentage of our students to school on buses. As we look at Large Scale System Change, we will need to balance transportation costs with our desire to provide students with experiences that will allow them to be successful. Suggestions to modify the choice system have included going to a regional model, replicating successful programs and providing additional support to neighborhood schools. Any of these changes need to be evaluated in terms of economic cost and the impact on students and their families.

The prevailing rule is always to keep cuts as far away as possible from students and their classrooms and activities. Ineffective or redundant programs should be eliminated. If cuts are made, we must adhere to our commitment to safe and welcoming schools. The entire process must be transparent.

The school district is currently in a time of transition. The board will need experience, stability and the skills to work with the community. I believe I have these strengths. I am a product of the St. Paul Public Schools. I taught and coached in them for over 30 years, and my daughters graduated from our public school system. During my time on the School Board, I built relationships with my colleagues and other elected officials. I also pride myself on being accessible to constituents and willing to listen. If I am re-elected, I will listen to the community and work hard for the students.



Jean O'Connell
Residence: Como Park
Age: 56
Occupation: Retired after 34 years in management at 3M
Education: B.S., Mathematics, teaching degree, University of Minnesota-Duluth
Party: Independent

As a citizen of St. Paul, I am embarrassed by the disparities in student achievement and our inability to address the gap. We need to question everything we're doing, because the results we're getting now are not satisfactory.

We should take the successful programs that we've implemented at individual schools in the district and replicate them on a much broader basis. We should also implement successful programs from other school districts around the state and nation. And we must address our large class sizes.

This will take very careful budget management focused on students' needs.

We know that many of our programs are helping our children achieve. We need to extend those programs to more schools in the district. We need good programs available in all parts of the city before transportation changes are considered.

The proposed changes assume a continued drop in enrollment in the St. Paul Public Schools. If we can provide more successful programs and convince parents and students that they should stay in the district, I believe we can reverse the enrollment trend. We need to do exit interviews with parents and students who are leaving our district and learn from them.

We need to manage our money carefully so that we focus on eliminating the achievement gap and providing educational opportunities for all children. The budget should be carefully examined to identify spending not currently focused on the needs of our students. All levels of staff need input in this process. Frank discussions of what we should stop doing will be needed so that resources can be directed to achieving success for more of our students. Taking a three-to five-year view of the budget will help reduce the rollercoaster effect of the current one-year process.

My experience at 3M in leading large-scale change, effectively managing budgets and achieving results is needed on the School Board. I have participated in our school district for many years—as a concerned parent, a school volunteer and as a loaned executive to the district. A key job of the School Board is to provide decisive, well thought-out leadership and direction to the superintendent and staff. We have a good strategic plan, but it needs to be implemented with speed and urgency. As a member of the School Board, I will hold the superintendent accountable to be a leader who listens, quickly assesses options and decisively deals with the issues our schools face.

St. Paul School Board, Two-Year Term



Pat Igo
Residence: Ramsey Hill
Age: 67
Occupation: Realtor
Education: Central High School, University of Minnesota
Party: Republican-endorsed

The achievement gap is our greatest failure. We have created a school system that does not focus on the basics. There are restrictive forces in the schools that have focused on maintaining the status quo and not taking on the "hard stuff." We need to focus on creating an environment that is conducive to learning, classroom standards of acceptable behavior that are strictly enforced, and building in a solid base of English, math and science. We have many models to learn from, including the Harlem Village Academy and Governor Tim Strickland's work with Cincinnati's urban schools, which made great progress through a collaborative commission and role modeling.

I struggle with some of the proposed system changes. For example, if employees in the private sector were not performing, they would be put on a performance improvement plan and held accountable to meet those goals. If not, they would be let go. The employer would not be bringing in 80-plus "coaches" to help them understand the job they have been hired to do.

We need to follow suit in the education system. We should focus on a few outstanding schools per region, but I am not convinced the busing cost is the issue. Limiting school selections to the region restricts parental choice, and I think this needs to be rethought.

I do not believe we have a "budget cut" problem. The money directed toward education has increased over time. We have a spending problem.

It is time to review the school administrative infrastructure. Sometimes layer upon layer of people adds complexity and bureaucracy but not value. The money needs to be dedicated to those in direct contact with students. I also would look at all the real estate the school system occupies. Let's get some of those buildings back on the tax rolls and create revenue instead of cost. In these times, I do believe that we may eliminate expenses by evaluating the educational value of things like AstroTurf in our school stadiums.

Unlike my opponent, I have not been involved with the current School Board trying to resolve problems without any progress. My opponent has been in a perfect position to use the mayor's office to help with the achievement gap, but has not used those resources. I am proud of what St. Paul's public schools have done for my parents, my siblings, me, my children and grandchildren. We couldn't have bought a better education. My opponent has chosen to send her child to an affluent private school. That is not a vote of confidence in the school system.

Why vote for me? Because I am not willing to accept the status quo.



Vallay Moua Varro
Residence: East Side
Age: 33
Occupation: St. Paul Mayor's Education Policy Director
Education: B.A., M.A., Education, University of Minnesota
Party: DFL-endorsed

I am particularly concerned with the achievement gap that exists between students of color and white students. I believe that the best long-term strategy to close the achievement gap and maintain enrollment is to start early and stay focused on providing excellent learning opportunities along the way for all students.

Additionally, I believe the extended community is essential to the success of the school district, and we must work together, better and smarter to ensure that our children are prepared for school, work and life.

It is a fact that our school district faces multiple challenges on many fronts—No Child Left Behind, shrinking enrollment, a new superintendent search, an unacceptable achievement gap and a massive budget deficit. We need to deal with them head-on through steady policy leadership and new ideas. We need to right-size our district for the enrollment size we currently have, preserve successful school programs, and replicate models that have extensive waiting lists.

All areas of the budget should be considered when reviewing the school district's financial health and maximizing student achievement. Over 75 percent of the district's budget goes toward classrooms and the balance covers administration, transportation, nutrition, buildings and utilities. To say that any one area of the budget should be left untouched is unrealistic because they are all interconnected.

Meanwhile, the School Board must work closely with the state legislative delegation, city and county officials and the larger community to create flexibility with state and local revenues to provide excellent educational opportunities for St. Paul children.

I have the educational skills, policy experience and the relationships in the community to lead, govern and transform our school district into the kind of learning environment that all of our children deserve. I earned my bachelor's and master's degrees in education from the University of Minnesota. I have worked as an early childhood educator and trainer, as a program manager, and as director of the Minnesota Reading Corps. As the city of St. Paul's education policy director, I have leveraged partnerships and resources to ensure that St. Paul children have access to learning opportunities that help prepare them for school and for life.

Food



Hot Dish

By Morgan Smith

A Creole delight for adventurous palates

Believe it or not, it can be hard at times to find friends to help me out with a review and dine on this newspaper's dime at a local restaurant. Lots of them will say they're interested, but when it comes to a specific time, they're too busy. For that reason, I was a little surprised when I had more friends than I needed to accompany me to Brasa Rotisserie, which opened in June at 777 Grand Ave. in the space formerly occupied by the Italian Pie Shoppe. (The Pie Shoppe is now located at 1670 Grand Ave.)

Brasa's appeal is partly due to owner Alexander Roberts' philosophy of using local, organic and fair-trade ingredients whenever possible, taking advantage of what he calls the "amazing wealth of meat, dairy, legume and grain producers" in Minnesota. No matter where you stand in the "locavore" debate, fresh locally grown food always sounds appealing.

"All of the meat and eggs served are from non-confinement producers," Roberts said. In other words, all of the chickens, hogs and cattle that provide the meat at Brasa are either pasture-fed or grain-fed and raised without hormones or antibiotics.

Roberts, 37, was born in Buffalo, New York, but grew up in Minneapolis where his connections to the principles of organic farming and cooking were nurtured. "My father has always been an active gardener," he said, "and we shopped at the local food co-ops."

Roberts went to work busing tables and washing dishes in restaurants at the age of 15. It was then, he said, that "I realized I had a personal connection to seasonal cooking and a deeper interest in learning about food production, seed varieties and connecting with farmers." By age 16, he had been promoted to cook.

After three years of college, Roberts enrolled at the French Culinary Institute in New York City and spent five years working his way up in such notable New York venues as Gramercy Tavern, Bouley and the Union Square Cafe. He returned to Minneapolis in 1998 and the following year opened Restaurant Alma, supplying it with organic vegetables from the farm his father had started in Wisconsin. In 2007, he opened Brasa in Minneapolis. Having relatives who live near Grand Avenue, he said he "jumped at the chance" to open a similar restaurant in St. Paul.



A quarter chicken served with a side of yams and andouille sausage and a cabbage salad at the Brasa Rotisserie on Grand Avenue.

PHOTO BY JANET HOSTETTER

Those who have never dined at Brasa might be surprised to learn that the dishes are neither hot nor spicy. "Creole food isn't known for the aggressive use of cayenne pepper like Cajun food," Roberts said. In Creole cuisine, the spices are often in condiments or sauces added to the dish by the diner, not the chef.

Grand Avenue's Brasa is built like its menu. To take advantage of the warm months, it has large, garage-like doors that can be opened to bring the restaurant outdoors.

The focus of the menu at Brasa is Creole cuisine, an interest Roberts comes to quite naturally since his father's side of the family is rooted in New Orleans. Those who have never dined at Brasa might be surprised to learn that the dishes are neither hot nor spicy. Though it, too, is connected to New Orleans culture, "Creole food isn't known for the aggressive use of cayenne pepper like Cajun food," Roberts said. In Creole cuisine, the spices are often in condiments or sauces added to the dish by the diner, not the chef.

According to Roberts, "Criolla" cuisine is strongly influenced by the culinary traditions and ingredients of West African cultures as well as French, Spanish, Italian, English, German, Irish and even Middle Eastern and Chinese immigrants.

A few weeks ago, I would have laughed if you had told me I'd enjoy eating collard greens, but at Brasa I selected the collard greens with smoked turkey as one of two side dishes to come

with my 12-hour slow-roasted pork plate (\$12.50). Sure, it was the smoked turkey that had tempted me to order the collards, and it was the smoked turkey that gave the dish its flavor, but I gobbled it all up.

My other side dish was the rice and pigeon peas with smoked ham. I have to confess, I was so impressed with the collard greens that I forgot to jot anything down about the rice, but I cleaned my plate nonetheless. The pork itself—slow-roasted, pulled and tossed with citrus, olive oil and garlic sauce—was just a tad on the dry side, but quite good even without any of the additional sauces. I also ordered the homemade pineapple and ginger ale soda (\$1.75). I've always thought about making my own soda at home, and the sparkling taste of Brasa's homemade variety has convinced me to give it a go.

My dining partner chose the sides-only plate—a combination of three side dishes and cornbread or masa corncake (\$10.75). She sampled the black beans with yellow rice, the crispy yucca (which the menu spells as "yuca") tossed with citrus and olive oil, and the cornmeal crusted fried green tomatoes. We wanted the cornbread with honey butter (\$2.00 each) too, but settled instead for the masa corn and cheese cake (\$2.00 each) when we learned that the cornbread was still in the oven.

My partner loved all of her food, especially the cilantro lime aioli dipping sauce, which she drizzled over everything. I sampled the fried green tomatoes and found them delicious. The big surprise was the masa corn and cheese cake. A sort of hoe cake baked with tomatillo sauce and then covered with cheese and onions, it was a worthy substitute for the restaurant's

BRASA ►28

Tidbits

Mississippi Market will offer the following cooking and health classes in the next few weeks at its new West End store, 1500 W. 7th St.: "Cooking 101: Pizza" from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, October 24 (\$23-\$25); "Bread Without Fear" from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Saturday, October 24 (\$17-\$20); "Shopping

Co-op on a Budget" from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 28 (free); and "Cooking For Strong Bones," from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Thursday, October 29 (\$25-\$30). To register, call 651-310-9499 or 651-690-0507.

The Big Top Wine Club will learn how to select wines to pair with holiday turkey, ham,

roast beef and deserts at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 4, at the Lexington Restaurant, 1096 Grand Ave. The cost is \$20 and includes appetizers. Call 651-644-4501.

The Green Mill is converting its separate cafe at the corner of Grand and Hamline avenues into a 10-seat wine bar, though carry-

out service will continue from that space. The request was approved by the city of St. Paul on the condition that food be served with wine and beer, that food make up 60 percent of sales and that a designated driving program continue to be promoted in both the wine bar and its flagship main restaurant.

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The roasted pork sandwich with ginger mayo and shaved onion served at Brasa (above), and some of the condiments that can be found on the tables there (below).

PHOTOS BY JANET HOSTETTER

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27 ◀ BRASA

vaunted cornbread.

Much to my delight, our server brought us some cornbread with honey butter after it came out of the oven. The size and shape of a cupcake, it's as good as it gets and would put a smile on the face of the the most discriminat-ing sweet tooth.

On a separate visit to Brasa, one of my guests ordered the pulled chicken plate (\$12.50) with yucca and the creamed spinach with jalapeno on the side. She raved about the creamed spinach, declaring it the best she'd ever eaten. Not being a creamed spinach aficionado, I took her word for it. The pulled chicken was a bit too bland for me, but my guest thought it was great. We both found the yucca charming, having the taste and consistency of a baked potato without the starchy heaviness.

In addition to the pulled pork, my other guests ordered the fried sweet plantains (\$4.00 for a small side, \$7.75 for a large) and cheese grits (\$4.25 and \$8.25). I like my grits with sugar—heresy, I know—and found Brasa's grits to be a bit too salty. The plantains were flavorful, but their combination of sticky and mushy made one bite enough for everyone at our table.

I ordered the quarter-pound smoked and braised beef a la carte (\$6.00), the red beans with yellow rice (\$3.75 for a small side, \$7.25 for a large) and, off the list of daily specials, the chicken and rock shrimp etouffée (\$3.75) with peppers, onions and shellfish broth served over buttered rice.



Roberts encourages his patrons to add spices to their own dishes, and the smoked and braised beef seasoned with a mild barbeque sauce was excellent. Several kinds of hot sauces as well as an excellent habanero vinegar dressing were on our table. However, I think both the beans and rice as well as the etouffée could have used a little jazzing up in the kitchen.

For dessert we had the butterscotch pudding (\$5.50) and the chocolate and sour cream Bundt cake with fresh strawberries (\$5.50). Both were really good.

The two times I dined at Brasa, the wait staff was friendly, knowledgeable and, though extremely busy, prompt with our orders.

Overall, Brasa is a fun place to experiment. With its distinctive and varied menu as well as its daily specials, it can delight the adventurous palate for a good long time.

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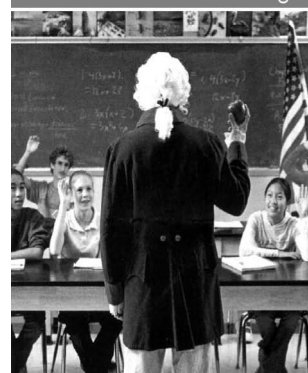
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Wednesday/October 21

A FLU SHOT CLINIC for people 4 and older will be held from 5:00 to 7:00 this evening at Fairmount Avenue United Methodist Church, 1533 Fairmount Ave. Shots will be administered and billed by the Minnesota Visiting Nurse Agency. People should bring their insurance cards. The cost is \$24.99. Pneumonia shots will also be given for \$57. To register, call 651-699-1335.

A RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. today and tomorrow in Murray-Herrick Hall at the University of St. Thomas. To make an appointment, call 1-800-448-3543.

Thursday/October 22

A WORLD WAR II HISTORY Round Table program on "German Soldier Art and Nazi Propaganda" will be held at 7:00 this evening at the Fort Snelling Visitor Center. Guest speaker will be Marylou Gjernes, retired curator of the art collection at the Center for Military History. The cost is \$5.00. Call 612-726-1171.

AN "INVESTING BEYOND the Rail" bus tour will be held to preview the proposed Central Corridor light-rail line from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. today. The tour will leave from the Wilder Center, 451 N. Lexington Pkwy. The tour is being hosted by the Central Corridor Funders Collaborative, a coalition of 11 local and national funders working to help adjoining neighborhoods, residents and businesses share in the benefits of investment in the Central Corridor. To register, contact Lori Schaefer at 612-341-4185 or lori@marketingmatters-mn.com.

THE 2009 CREATING KEEPSAKES Scrapbook Convention will return to St. Paul RiverCentre today through Saturday, October 24. More than 2,000 people are expected to attend the event, which will feature 80 technique classes, a vendor fair and late-night scrapping. Visit www.creatingkeepsakes.com/events/stpaul.

Friday/October 23

A NEIGHBORHOOD COFFEE HOUSE will be open for refreshments, live music, board games and conversation from 7:00 to 9:30 this evening at St. Luke Lutheran Church, 1807 Field Ave. A water color display by Christine Olson also will be on display. Call 651-698-9443.

THE MIDWEST VINTAGE CLOTHING, Jewelry and Textile Show and Sale will be held from 5:00 to 10:00 this evening and from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. tomorrow at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds. More than 50 vendors will be selling clothing and accessories from the 1880s to 1980s. Tonight's events also include a vintage fashion parade and cocktail bar. Visitors arriving in vintage clothing will received discounted admission. Call 612-208-1085 or visit www.catspajamasproductions.net.

Saturday/October 24

GEOCACHING BASICS will be taught at 10:00 this morning at Fort Snelling State Park. Participants will discover the challenge of geocaching and how they can use it to explore hidden treasures in the state's parks. A limited number of GPS units will be available. The program is free, but a



Evelyn Scherman, 92, an alumna of St. Mark's School and resident of Iris Park Commons, shares a laugh with kindergartner James Jaeger and other students from St. Mark's who visited the Episcopal Homes' residence as part of the grade school's first CARE-a-thon on October 14. PHOTO BY ANNE BRANDRUD

state parking permit is required. Call 612-725-2724.

ENJOY AN AFTERNOON TEA in the same manner that Mrs. Snelling would have served ladies of the fort in 1827 during a program from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. today at Fort Snelling. After tea and cakes, participants will learn a period country dance and etiquette of the early 19th century. The cost is \$25-\$30. Call 612-726-1171 to register.

THE MINNESOTA PROJECT will celebrate its 30th anniversary from 6:30 to 10:00 this evening at SteppingStone Theater, 55 N. Victoria St. The Minnesota Project will share its vision for a sustainable future over the next 30 years while guests enjoy local foods prepared by the Chowgirls and watch *Prom Night, 2039*, an original SteppingStone production commissioned by the project. To register, visit www.mnproject.org or call 651-645-6159.

THE NAUTICAL MODEL Shipbuilders Society of St. Paul will hold its annual Jim McFadden Model Boat Show from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. today in the lower level of the Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave. Models of all types of ships will be on display, including ships in bottles, an intricately carved model of a 1628 Swedish warship and a diorama of a World War II naval battle. Admission is free.

A FANTASY MINICON will be held from 11:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. today as part of Teen Read Week at the Central Library, 90 W. 4th St. Events will include monster origami, a class on costume role-playing, robotics and a screening of the movie *Coraline*. Comics Day will follow at the library from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. tomorrow and will include a

comics artists panel, a class on drawing Japanese manga characters, and a showing of the movie *One Piece—The Desert Princess and the Pirates: Adventures in Alabasta*. All events are free and open to teens and their families. Call 651-266-7034.

A PORK DINNER AND BAKE SALE will take place from 4:00 to 7:00 this evening at Mendota Heights United Church of Christ, 680 Highway 110. Tickets are \$3.00-\$10. Take-out is available. Call 651-454-1311.

A CRAFT AND COLLECTIBLE FAIR will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. today at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 436 N. Roy St. Lunch, baked goods and nuts will be sold. A raffle drawing will take place at 3:30 p.m. Call 651-646-6549.

TWIN CITIES ROTARACT is hosting a food drive for Second Harvest Heartland. Volunteers will be knocking on doors in Highland Park from 2:00 to 6:00 this evening to collect donations. Rotaract, a Rotary club for young professionals, meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. The next meetings will be held on October 28 and November 11 at the Chatterbox Pub in Highland Village. Contact Jaynee Harwood at jayneeharwood@gmail.com or visit www.2harvest.org/goto/tcrotaract.

Sunday/October 25

A CZECH ROAST PORK DINNER will be served at 12:30 and 2:30 this afternoon at the Sokol CSPA Hall, 383 Michigan St. The cost is \$8.00-\$16. Reservations are due by October 21. Call 952-831-1440

LEARN HOW ANIMALS get ready for winter during a program at 1:00 this

afternoon at Fort Snelling State Park. Participants will examine the different ways animals cope with cold weather—migration, hibernation, etc.—and head outdoors to look for some getting ready for winter. The program is free, but a state parking permit is required. Call 612-725-2724.

THE ARCHITECTURE of area churches will be discussed during a walk offered by Union Park's Smart Trips program at 3:00 this afternoon from Trotter's Cafe, 232 N. Cleveland Ave. Free cookies will be given to the first 20 people. Call 651-224-8555.

Monday/October 26

A WOMEN'S ROUNDTABLE will take place from 9:15 to 10:30 this morning at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. The guest will be Judy Mortrude of the Hubbs Center for Lifelong Learning, a University Avenue facility that offers classes in citizenship, English language learning, family literacy and GED preparation. The cost is \$2.00, which includes a continental breakfast. Call 651-255-4735.

Tuesday/October 27

THE ST. PAUL HIKING CLUB will meet at 7:30 this evening on Longfellow Avenue just north of Minnehaha Parkway for a hike around Lake Nokomis. Call 651-455-0052 or visit www.stpaulhike.org.

A BEEF AND TURKEY DINNER will be served at 5:00 and 6:30 this evening at Fairmount Avenue United Methodist Church, 1523 Fairmount Ave. Tickets are \$5.00-\$12. Take-out is available. Peanut brittle and baked goods will also be sold. Call 651-699-1335.

Wednesday/October 28

A TURKEY DINNER with all the trimmings will be served at 4:30, 5:30 and 6:30 this evening at St. Paul's United Methodist Church 700 Wesley Lane, Mendota Heights. Tickets are \$5.00-\$11 and take-out is available. Crafts and homemade delicacies also will be sold. To register, call 651-452-5683 by October 25.

Saturday/October 31

JEFFREY MORRIS of the Touro Law Center in New York will speak on "Warren Burger and Harry Blackmun: From St. Paul Roots to a National Legal Legacy" at 10:45 this morning in Courtroom 326 of Landmark Center. A guided tour of the "Uncle Sam Worked Here" exhibit will begin at 9:30 a.m. The program is free. To register, call 651-292-3063.

Monday/November 2

A RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE will be conducted from 2:30 to 7:30 this evening at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 S. Snelling Ave. For an appointment, call 1-800-448-3543.

THE RAMSEY COUNTY CHARTER Commission will hold a public hearing on a proposed salary ordinance at 6:30 this evening at City Hall. The commission is trying to determine whether to place a question on the 2010 ballot that would require salary increases over 5 percent to be approved by referendum or whether to link commissioner's salaries to compensation for district court judges.

On the Town

Theater worth its salt

Trio of seasoned vets bring new production company to the table

By BOB GILBERT

Actor Jim Robinson of Highland Park and his thespian colleagues Dennis Curley and Rachael Brogan Flanery are stretching their stagecraft by launching a local theater company to produce original works by Minnesota writers, including themselves. Called Table Salt Productions, the theater company will open its inaugural five-show season with Flanery's new play *Burned* on October 22 at the Gremlin Theatre on University Avenue.

"It's a play about the end of the world, who you're stuck with as a result and what you have to do to make it through," said Flanery, who also acts in the play. "It's my way of thinking about what it would be like if the unthinkable actually happened."

The three friends bring varied theatrical talents to the new company. Robinson is a veteran of the Brave New Workshop and has been acting in plays and improvisational troupes for more than 20 years. Local audiences may remember him from the popular *We Gotta Bingo*, which he co-wrote for Actors Theater of Minnesota. When not on stage, he teaches psychology at the universities of St. Thomas and St. Catherine.

Curley has more than 30 years of experience in musical theater. He had a

long-running stint in the musical *Forever Plaid* at Hey City Stage and has performed in productions at the Ordway, History Theatre and Guthrie. He also has served as musical director for *Schoolhouse Rock Live!*, *The Fantasticks* and *Church Basement Ladies 2*. Two years ago he directed Robinson's play *Whistling Past the Graveyard*. Recently, the duo collaborated on the comedy *The Department of Redundancy Department* at the Bryant Lake Bowl.

Flanery has more than 10 years in theater, both on stage and off. After appearing in several Brave New Workshop comedies with Robinson, she moved to California to earn a master's degree in playwriting from UCLA in 2006. Her plays have been produced from Los Angeles to New York and have received several awards.

The trio got Table Salt Productions off the ground by holding a summer fundraiser at the Lowry Lab in downtown St. Paul. The company is now exploring novel ways to market itself, including on Facebook and Minnesota Playlist, a theater blog.

"Our experience with *Whistling Past the Graveyard* taught us that we have to do every possible thing at every possible moment to get people to come to our show," Robinson said. "Word of mouth will help if we can get enough people to see it the first weekend. If



Table Salt Productions founders Jim Robinson, left, Rachael Brogan Flanery and Dennis Curley at a rehearsal of their inaugural play *Burned*. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

we can get it reviewed, that'll be even better."

Though launching a new artistic venture in an economic recession is tough, the founders are not intimidated because they think they understand the theater business.

"In times of economic belt-tightening, many theaters fall back on doing what sells," Curley said. "Chanhassen Dinner Theatres is doing *Oklahoma* for the fifth time and the Guthrie is doing *Macbeth* and *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Those shows have name recognition and are intended to draw crowds."

However, he said small theater companies

in the Twin Cities do not seem to be feeling the same pinch. "Maybe it's because, as a group, our expectations are lower," he said, "but I also think that we offer something the bigger venues don't and that's new plays intended to spark debate."

Following *Burned*, Table Salt will present a holiday-themed variety show in December at the Lowry Lab. Its inaugural season will also include the premiere of A.G. Ravi's drama *Spring of Freedom*, *Summer of Fear*, a play about the social climate in Iran during the

TABLE SALT ► 31



Penelope Freeh of the James Sewell Ballet.

PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Dancing on the cutting edge of classical

By BILL STIEGER

Dancer and choreographer Penelope Freeh began taking ballet classes at the age of 7 in her hometown of Dayton, Ohio. Early on, she found that she couldn't achieve the turnout of the hips that is required of classical ballet dancers. "It was clear from the beginning that my hip structure was very tight," she said. "But in many ways, it's been an advantage. I've probably avoided a lot of injuries, as many injuries tend to occur when a dancer is too flexible. I do have limited extension and turnout, but I work with what I have."

What she has has been enough to earn Freeh a leading role for 16 seasons with the James Sewell Ballet, a Twin Cities company known for innovative choreography that explores the outer limits of ballet. The

eight-person troupe will present the program "Moving Works" on October 22-25 in the O'Shaughnessy at St. Catherine University, including a dance choreographed by Freeh called "Simple Folk."

A resident of the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood, Freeh, 38, moved to the Twin Cities from New York City in 1994 to join James Sewell's company. Since then, she has performed throughout the Midwest and on both coasts. She has been awarded grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board and the McKnight Foundation and teaches dance at the University of Minnesota.

The Dayton Ballet School where Freeh got her start was affiliated with the Dayton Ballet, a troupe that combined the techniques of modern dance with that of ballet. "Dayton was a great place to learn," she said. "The

school wasn't a dance factory like the kind you see on the East Coast, and it wasn't just a classical ballet school."

Her instructors in Dayton were impressed with the young Freeh, and they encouraged her to consider a career in dance. She joined the Dayton Ballet's second company when she was 13 and four years later became part of its main company. "That was in the day when you could do that kind of thing," Freeh said. "I wouldn't recommend it, especially with all the great college dance programs they have today. But the experience forced me to grow up at an early age."

With a hunger for learning and a scholarship to the Alvin Ailey Dance Center, Freeh moved to New York City at age 18 and supported herself by waitressing during her two years of

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revolution in 1979; a musical cabaret written by Robinson and Curley titled, *Romance? A New Musical, or This Show Does Not Have a Decent Title Yet!*; and *Vampires! Horror!*, a campy musical that Curley co-wrote with Beau Hays about vampires trying to take over the world.

Despite the two dramas in the 2009-2010 season, comedy will be Table Salt's calling card. "We want to be a theater that's not afraid to handle the lighter side of things," Curley said. "Apart from the Brave New Workshop and occasionally the Guthrie, there aren't many companies in the Twin Cities that do comedy on a regular basis."

He said a lot of comedy is earmarked for young people, but the kind of comedy Table Salt wants to do is for people over 40. "There's an incredible pool of older actors formerly of the Brave New Workshop who are no longer performing and I think that's crazy," Curley said. "We want to put them to work with us."

The trio see a lot of opportunities here because, Flanery said, the Twin Cities is so welcoming to the arts. Their goal is to contribute to a stronger, more viable theater scene.

"There comes a point when you get tired of waiting for someone else to recognize your work and pick you out of a crowd," Flanery said. "With all our experience, we decided that there's no reason that we can't produce



Andrew Umphrey is shoved to the floor by a Madison Olimb in a scene from *Burned*.

plays ourselves."

Burned will run from October 22 through November 8 at the Gremlin Theatre, 2400 University Ave. Show times are 8:00 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, and 2:00 p.m. Sundays. For tickets, priced from \$17-\$25, visit the box office or www.TableSaltProductions.com.

30◀ PENELOPE FREEH

study at Ailey. "I learned so much in New York," she said. "I was in love with both modern dance and ballet, and the Ailey school encouraged that approach. To this day, I need both forms of dance to feed my soul. I discovered that both disciplines embellish and feed off one another."

"Penelope is a very versatile performer," said Gary Peterson, the director of the James Sewell Ballet. "Her influences are eclectic, and she's always reaching for something new in her performances. Her training in both modern and ballet is what makes her such a great dancer."

Freeh became acquainted with James Sewell while studying at the Ailey school. A graduate of St. Paul's Highland Park High School, Sewell formed his ballet company in New York in 1990 and he and his wife, Sally Rousse, moved it to the Twin Cities in 1993.

"I knew James as a dancer who was looking to stretch the boundaries of dance and ballet," Freeh said. "So when I heard he was looking for dancers, I came to the Twin Cities and auditioned."

Freeh keeps an on-line journal called "Barefootblogger: Thoughts on Dance" (at barefootpenny.blogspot.com). Her site is packed with stories, reflections, thoughts and feelings about choreography and the joys and trials of dancing and teaching dance. "But I haven't posted on my blog in a long time," she said. "I've been so busy over the last year."

Freeh was married last May and moved into her husband Jack Dant's house in Macalester-Groveland. "I met Jack about eight years ago," Freeh said. "He was friends with one of our JSB dancers, Benjamin

Johnson. We got to know one another very peripherally. We eventually became good friends, then fell in love."

Marriage appears to have put a new spring in Freeh's dance steps. According to choreographer Laurie Van Weiren, the director of programming at the Southern Theater, Freeh's dancing has reached new heights. "Penny has always been a superb performer," Van Weiren said, "but in the past year she has just taken off. Her performances have an extra life in them, which is thrilling to see."

Freeh's hope for the future is to keep doing what she has been doing. "I enjoy being a member of the Sewell Ballet, and I'll continue with it as long as I can," she said. "I still have a lot of dancing to do, but I also want to keep all of my choreography and teaching balls in the air. Those disciplines balance each other out."

"Moving Works" will be presented by the James Sewell Ballet at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, 8:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday at the O'Shaughnessy. In addition to Freeh's "Simple Folk," which is set to Beethoven's music, it will feature the dances "Moving Works" by James Sewell, "Protective Coloring for Pointe and Cello" by Sally Rousse set to music by Steve Heitzeg, and the world premiere of Sewell's "The Bad Plus Us" set to music by the jazz trio The Bad Plus. Tickets are \$32, \$16 for students and children.

"First Chance Dance," an abbreviated version of the program designed especially for children, will be presented at 11:00 a.m. Saturday. Tickets for "First Chance Dance" are \$10, free to children age 3 and under.

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Theater

Little House on the Prairie, an uplifting musical about an American family forging a new life in a new land, is playing through October 25 at the Ordway. Melissa Gilbert, who played Laura Ingalls for 10 years in the television series by the same name, returns as Laura's mom. Shows are at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, 2:00 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday and 1:00 and 6:00 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$39.50-\$80.50. Call 651-224-4222.

Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story, a musical drama about Charles Hardin Holley, the rock 'n' roll pioneer whose meteoric rise to stardom ended in 1959 in a plane crash, is being performed through November 1 at the History Theatre, 30 E. 10th St. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$28-\$32, \$25-\$30 for seniors, \$15 for students and \$10 for children. Call 651-292-4323.

Actors Theater draws a bead on your funny bone with *Deer Camp*, a musical comedy about four husbands who after decades of hunting trips have yet to bring home a deer. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, 5:00 and 8:30 p.m. Saturday and 5:00 p.m. Sunday through November 22 at the Lowry Theater, 16 W. 5th St. Tickets are \$29-\$39. Call 1-800-982-2787.

Othello, Shakespeare's tragic tale of love, jealousy and racism, is playing through November 8 at Park Square Theatre, 20 W. 7th Place. Directed by Richard Cook, it stars James A. Williams, Stacia Rice, Steve Hendrickson, Virginia Burke, Bruce Bohne and John Catron. Matinee and evening performances are scheduled. For ticket information, call 651-291-7005.

Rebecca, Daphne Du Maurier's classic tale about a naive young woman who marries a rich widower and moves into his country estate only to find that her husband and his servants are still gripped by the memory of his first wife, is playing through November 8 at Theatre in the Round, 245 Cedar Ave.



Ryan Lindberg plays David O. Selznick, Matthew Vire is Ben Hecht and Marlin Rothe is Victor Fleming in the Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company's production of *Moonlight and Magnolias*. The comic behind-the-scenes drama about the making of the movie *Gone With the Wind* opens on October 24 on the Hillcrest Recreation Center stage, 1978 Ford Pkwy. For show times and ticket information, see the listing at right. PHOTO BY SARAH WHITING

S. in Minneapolis. Directed by David Coral, it stars John Adler, MaryLynn Mennicke and Kristen Mathisen. The curtain rises at 8:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday. A discussion with the director and cast will follow the matinee on October 25. Tickets are \$20, with discounts for seniors and students. Call 612-333-3010.

Ten Thousand Things Theater has opened a new season with *Othello*, Shakespeare's tale of love, jealousy, manipulation and revenge. Directed by Michelle Hensley and Sonja Parks, it stars Ansa Akyea, Luverne Seifert

and Tracey Maloney. The curtain rises at 8:00 p.m. Friday through Sunday, October 23 through November 8, at Open Book, 1011 Washington Ave. S. in Minneapolis, and November 13-15 at the Minnesota Opera Center, 620 N. 1st St. in Minneapolis. Tickets are \$25, \$15 on Sundays for students with I.D. Reservations are required for the free performances at 7:00 p.m. Monday, October 26, at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave., and at 2:00 p.m. Thursday, November 5, at the Dorothy Day Center, 183 Old 6th St. Call 1-800-838-3006.

Judy Garland: Born in a Trunk, a celebration of the music and movies of an American icon featuring singer Alicia Renee as Garland, will be performed October 23 through November 15 in the Cabaret Theater of Camp Bar, 490 N. Robert St. Accompanied by pianist Paul Kovacovic, Renee will capture the nuances and phrasing of Garland, filling the hall with such classics as "The Trolley Song," "You Made Me Love You" and "Somewhere Over the Rainbow." Show times are 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays (except on October 31) and also at 4:00 p.m. Saturday, November 7. Tickets are \$19 for cabaret seating and \$10 for bar stools. Call 651-290-2290.

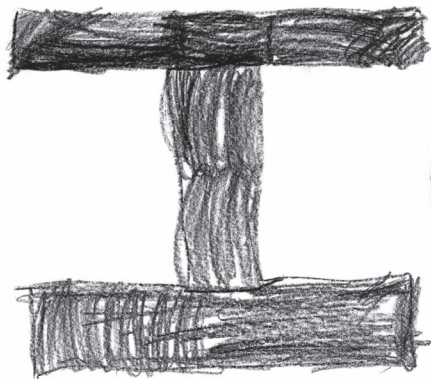
Moonlight and Magnolias, a comic behind-the-scenes drama about the making of the movie *Gone With the Wind*, will open at 8:00 p.m. Saturday, October 24, on the Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company's stage at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. Ron Hutchinson's play tells of producer David O. Selznick's five-day closed-door session with director Victor Fleming and screenwriter Ben Hecht to rescue one of the most successful films of all time. Shows are at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, 8:00 p.m. Saturday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday through November 15, and also at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, October 25. A postshow discussion on politics, race and Jews in Hollywood, led by Macalester College history professor David Itzkowitz, will be held on November 1. Tickets are \$18-\$25, or \$12 for student rush. Call 651-647-4315.

Mashed Monsters, a Halloween musical comedy for all ages, will be performed on October 29 through November 1 by People Sittin' Around Doin' Theatre. Written by Christina Akers and Shirley Mier, the show features Hubert Draculberg and his gaggle of ghouls in a journey of self-discovery. The curtain rises at 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, 4:00 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday at In the Heart of the Beast Theatre, 1500 E. Lake St. in Minneapolis. Tickets are \$12, \$10 for students and seniors, half price on Saturday if in costume and

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Music

The Schubert Club's Courtroom Concerts continue at noon on Thursdays in Courtroom 317 at Landmark Center. Emceed by local composer Randall Davidson, the free concerts will feature bassoonist Jefferson Campbell, pianist Justin Henry Rubin and the U.S. Air Force Heartland of America Band on October 22; flutist Linda Chatterton, pianists Matthew McCright and Patty Macpherson, clarinetist Rena Kraut and violinist Orieta Dado on October 29. Bring a lunch. The coffee is complimentary. Call 651-292-3267.

Zeitgeist will celebrate the grand opening of the new Studio Z with concerts at 8:00 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, October 22-24, at 275 E. 4th St. On Thursday, the audience will join in the performance of music by Pauline Oliveros, Yoko Ono, La Monte Young and Philip Blackburn. Compositions by Young and Terry Riley will be performed on Friday by Zeitgeist, Jeff Lambert of the Minneapolis Guitar Quartet, Brian Roessler and Nathan Hanson from the Fantastic Merlins, and students from Macalester College, the Perpich Center for Arts and the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. Then on Saturday, Zeitgeist will perform Philip Glass' "Music in Similar Motion" and Young's "Poem for Tables, Chairs, Benches." Admission is \$10.

St. Joseph's School of Music faculty will perform at 7:00 p.m. Friday, October 23, at Hamline United Methodist Church, 1514 Englewood Ave. Admission is free and open to all.

"Alef-Bet: Music of Hebrew Letters," a new work by pianist Joe Vass, will be performed by Vass and a chamber ensemble at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, October 24, at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. Vass' composition draws from modern, jazz, classical and Jewish music to illuminate the mysticism of the Hebrew letters that compose the Torah's opening words. Accompanying the music will be projections by letterpress artist Robyn Stoller Awend. Tickets are \$15. Call 651-698-0751.

Concordia University soprano Monica Murray and percussionist Aaron Isakson will be featured in a free faculty recital at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, October 25, in Buetow Auditorium at Concordia, 275 N. Syndicate St. Accompanied by Paul Kovacovic on piano, Murray will be singing Spanish songs she learned at the recent Barcelona Festival of Song.

Music by Mozart, Fiala, Cambini and others will be performed on October 24-25 by the Wolfgang, a period ensemble featuring Paul Jacobson on flute; Stanley King, oboe; Mary Sorlie, violin; Steve Staruch, viola; Laura Handler, cello; and Gail Olszewski, fortepiano. The music begins at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 4557 Colfax Ave. S. in Minneapolis, and at 4:00 p.m. Sunday at Central Baptist Church, 420 N. Roy St. in St. Paul. Admission is \$10. Call 612-927-8766.

The Musical Offering will open its 39th season on Sunday, October 25, with a celebration of the 200th birthday of Felix Mendelssohn. The chamber ensemble will perform Mendelssohn's String Quartet, Tcherepnin's Trio for flute, violin and cello, and Beethoven's

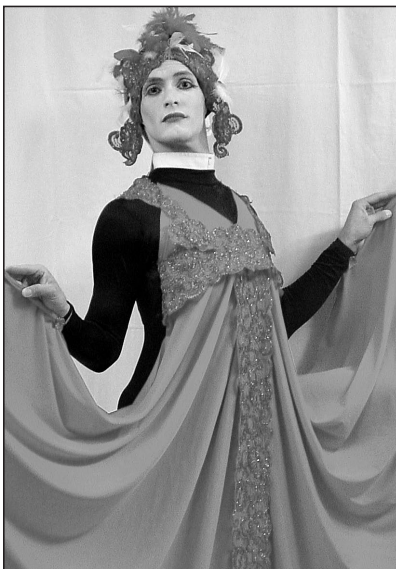
Twin Cities artists collaborate on showcase of Russian culture

An annual celebration of the best in Russian music, art and dance will return at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, October 25, to Park Square Theatre, 20 W. 7th Place. Highland Park impresario Tatyana Dikareva has put together a high-caliber show titled Russian Seasons in Minnesota in collaboration with the University of Minnesota School of Music, the Voices of Vienna and the St. Paul City Ballet.

Among the highlights of the show are arias from the operas *Eugene Onegin*, *Queen of Spades* and *Iolanta* by Tchaikovsky and *Boris Godunov* by Mussorgsky. They will feature the talents of the U of M Opera Orchestra, internationally acclaimed baritone Philip Zawisza fresh off an engagement with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra and SPCO Chorale, coloratura soprano Linh Kauffman, mezzo soprano Anna DeGraff, bass Nicholas Nelson and Cantus co-artistic director and tenor Aaron Humble.

St. Paul City Ballet choreographer and dancer Andrew Lester will present his new ballet, *To Paint a Bird's Portrait*, and the Land of Lakes Choirboys will perform under the direction of Francis Stockwell.

This is the 10th time that Dikareva has staged Russian Seasons. A native of Ukraine who immigrated to the U.S. 12 years ago, she serves as the pianist for the St. Paul City Ballet. On October 25, she will perform three of her own



compositions, the new works "Who's Afraid of Darkness," "To Paint a Bird's Portrait" and "Seasons of Hope." Meanwhile, her husband, artist Vladimir Dikarev, will be showing more than a half dozen of his paintings in the lobby of the Park Square Theatre.

Tickets for Russian Seasons in Minnesota are \$25, \$20 for students and seniors. Call 651-695-0792 or visit www.russianseasons-mn.com.

at the Ordway. Tickets are \$10-\$59, \$5.00 for children. Call 651-291-1144.

The University of St. Thomas Liturgical Choir, under the baton of founding director Robert Strusinski, will sing Andrew Wright's "A Requiem of Peace" for All Souls' Day at 8:15 p.m. Monday, November 2, in the Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas on campus. Soprano Maria Jette will serve as soloist. Admission is free. Call 651-962-5850.

Books

Minnesota Book Award winners of 2009 are featured this fall in free readings sponsored by the Friends of the St. Paul Public Library. The schedule includes Susan Marie Swanson and her children's book, *The House in the Night*, at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, October 21, at the Central Library, 90 W. 4th St.; Kao Kalia Yang and her memoir, *The Latehomecomer*, at 7:00 p.m. Monday, October 26, at the Hayden Heights Library, 1456 White Bear Ave.; *Stalking Susan* novelist Julie Kramer at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 28, at the Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy.; Catherine Friend and *The Compassionate Carnivore* at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, October 29, at the Hamline-Midway Library, 1558 W. Minnehaha Ave. Call 651-222-3242.

St. Paul author Jaymee Chanen will read from her book, *Ruby Slippers: Finding Your Way Home from Emotional Abuse*, in a free program at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 21, at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy.

"Exploring Adoption Connections," a writing workshop for people who were adopted, adoptive parents, birth parents or anyone has been affected by adoption, will be offered on Thursday,

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October 22, by writers Kate St. Vincent Vogl, Margaret Hasse and Linda Back McKay. The program runs from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Children's Home Society and Family Services, 1605 Eustis St. The cost is \$10.

"Soap Boxing," a poetry slam for spoken word artists ages 18 and older, will be held at 8:00 p.m. on November 2 and the first Monday of every month at the Artists' Quarte, 408 St. Peter St. Admission is \$5.00, or free if you compete. November's special guest is Northern California poetry-slammer Laura Yes Yes. Call 612-207-7991.

Film

"Tortured Cinema: The Great Works of Lon Chaney," film excerpts from the career of the late star of the silent cinema, will be screened at 7:00 p.m. Friday, October 30, at the Fitzgerald Theater, 10 E. Exchange St. Accompanying scenes from such flicks as *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* and *The Phantom of the Opera* will be Michael Grandchamp on the Fitzgerald's Mighty Wurlitzer Organ. Minnesota Public Radio movie maven Stephanie Curtis will emcee the program, which will also feature stories by actor Peter Moore and new theater organ compositions and arrangements by deVon Gray and Alicia Wiley. Tickets at \$12, \$6.00 for children under age 16, include popcorn. Call 651-290-1221.

Exhibits

"Spirit of the Southwest," a juried exhibit of more than 40 sculptural works in wood, is being displayed through December 21 at the American Association of Woodturners Gallery in Landmark Center. Admission is free. Call 651-484-9094.

"Two by Two," works in wood, stone, fiber and clay by two Minnesota couples, Kinji Akagawa and Nancy Gipple and Nancy and Warren MacKenzie, is on view through November 9 at the Grand Hand Gallery, 619 Grand Ave. Call 651-312-1122.

"Hungry Planet: What the World Eats," a provocative exhibit based on the best-selling book by Peter Menzel and Faith D'Alusio, is being displayed through May 9 at the Bell Museum of Natural History, 17th and University avenues in Southeast Minneapolis. The show combines mesmerizing photos with hands-on displays about the origins of what people eat. An international snack-food tasting event will be held in the gallery from 6:00-9:00 p.m. Thursday, October 22. An open house with free admission for K-12 teachers is scheduled from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Thursday, October 29. The variety of table manners found around the world and why people are sensitive about the way food is

consumed will be discussed by University of Minnesota anthropology professor William Beeman from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Thursday, November 5. Admission to the exhibit is \$5.00, \$3.00 for seniors and children ages 3-16. Call 612-624-7083.

"Minnesota Eye," an exhibit of new works by 17 photographers from the North Star State, will open with a reception from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Saturday, October 31, in the gallery of the College of Visual Arts, 173 N. Western Ave. A related gallery talk by David E. Little of the Minneapolis Institute of Arts will be offered at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, November 8 (\$10). A panel discussion with Leslie Hammons of the Weinstein Gallery will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Thursday, November 5. Call 651-757-4000.

Family

Stories, rhymes, songs and activities for preschoolers and their families will be offered at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, October 23 and 30, at the Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy. The Highland Park Library will offer a similar program for babies and their families at 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, October 27. Both programs are free. Call 651-695-3700.

"Saturday Live!," free entertainment for children at 11:15 a.m. Saturdays at St. Paul's Central Library, 90 W. 4th St., will feature "Ways of the White-Tail Deer" with the Three Rivers Park District, October 24; and live raptors introduced by the University of Minnesota Raptor Center, October 31. Visit www.sppl.org.

Commando Cody flies again at the Parkway Theater, 4814 Chicago Ave. S. in Minneapolis. The action-packed serial "Radar Men from the Moon" is being shown at noon on Saturdays, now through December 19. Helping Cody save the universe will be such characters as Superman, Betty Boop, Popeye, Our Gang, the Three Stooges, John Wayne, Roy Rogers, Laurel and Hardy, Flash Gordon, Tarzan, Bela Lugosi, W.C. Fields, Sherlock Holmes and the East Side Kids. Admission to the Saturday matinee and a date with the great comedians and celluloid superheroes of yesteryear is \$2.00 regardless of age.

Learn a squirrel song, explore squirrel habitat, search for squirrel nests, unearth buried acorns and make a squirrely craft with pine cones in "Squirrels and Their Nuts." The nature program for toddlers and their families will be offered from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. Thursday, November 5, at the Bell Museum of Natural History, 17th and University avenues in Southeast Minneapolis. Admission is \$5.00, \$3.00 for seniors and children ages 3-16. Registration is required. Call 612-624-9050.

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Sports



The Wright Call

By Dave Wright

It was a nice run for Twins, but...

Home plate has been dug up, Minnesotan Twins players who don't live here have left for warmer climes, and baseball beneath the Hump is no more. All things considered, the Twins gave their fans a great ride, and probably got off the playoff bus when their level of talent suggested they should.

However, a few issues came up during the postseason that need to be addressed before the 2010 campaign starts in four months. Over the course of the regular season, it's easy to overlook mistakes, but when those same miscues occur in the playoffs, they garner greater importance.

This was a ballclub that ran the bases poorly at times. The Twins got away with it against lesser foes. A player who got thrown out when he shouldn't have was often forgotten because a Jason Kubel or Michael Cuddyer hit the next pitch into the seats.

However, the Twins didn't get away with it against the Yankees. There will be much bemoaning all winter Carlos Gomez's slip at second base in Game 2 of the playoffs and Nick Punto's hell-bent skid rounding third in Game 3. Both resulted in outs that killed rallies. As Ron Darling wisely noted on the telecasts, the goof-ups were due to an urge to do too much on the bases—a baseball sin that usually leads to disaster.

Minnesota manager Ron Gardenhire made his bones as a player because he was a good defensive infielder and an intelligent base runner. He has a few of those guys on this team—Joe Mauer and Denard Span spring quickly to mind. But there are also guys who run the bases like wild colts. One suspects base running will be a topic for some discussion at spring training next year.

There was much ado over umpire Phil Cuzzi's hideous call on Mauer's would-be double in Game 2. Yes, it was fair by a foot and you wonder how in the world the guy missed the call. But Mauer simply shrugged the bad call off, returned to the plate and hit a single up the middle. Minnesota then loaded the bases with no outs, but failed to score.

When you play a team with superior talent, you simply can't miff those chances. Mark Teixeira made them pay for it a couple of minutes later. Game over.

WRIGHT CALL ► 36

Prep soccer playoffs

STA focuses on making strong postseason run

BY BRIAN JOHNSON

The St. Thomas Academy soccer team is hoping to finish what it started last season when it came within a shootout goal of qualifying for the state Class A tournament for the first time since 2005.

But if the Cadets are to erase the memories of that tough 2-1 loss to Blake in last year's Section 3A finals, they'll have to do it with a couple of key players on the sidelines, including team leader and senior midfielder Michael Neuberger.

About two minutes into a September 29 game against Tartan, Neuberger suffered a season-ending injury when he stepped into a hole in the field and dislocated his kneecap. To add insult to injury, the Cadets lost the game 3-1. At that point it was only the second loss of the season for the team, which entered the section playoffs with an 11-4-3 record and a 6-4 conference mark, good for third place behind Simley and Mahtomedi. The Cadets opened the Section 3A playoffs on October 13 with a 5-1 win at home over Highland Park.

The injury to Neuberger "really, really challenged us," STA coach Julius Tangwe said following a 1-1 tie against Chisago



STA's David Drake scores the second of his two first-half goals as Highland's Noah Selman pursues during Section 3A play on October 13. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Lakes on October 10 in the regular-season finale. "You could tell, after his injury, it really affected our team because he was like three players in one. He plays multiple positions: defense, midfield and forward. It's really tough not having him on the team."

Neuberger's injury was not the first for the Cadets. Starting junior goalie Alvaro Pinto was injured in the second half of a game against Simley on September 24 and was forced to leave the field. The

BOYS' SOCCER ► 38

Wide-open offense pays dividends for SPA girls

BY BILL WAGNER

St. Paul Academy has had solid girls' soccer teams in recent years, but they would invariably end up losing one-goal games deep in the playoffs. Before the start of this season, coach Ben Danielson decided that had to change.

"There's nothing more disheartening than knowing you can't score," Danielson said. "This year, we've changed our style to one that's more aggressive. We're playing with more numbers up front."

The move has paid off for SPA, which was rated fourth in the state in Class A. The Spartans entered the Section 3A

playoffs last week with an 11-3-2 record, including nine wins and a tie in their last 10 games. They won the Tri-Metro Conference title outright and were seeded No. 1 in the section, which earned them a first-round bye in the playoffs.

SPA scored 54 goals during the regular season as a result of the more wide-open offensive style of play. It also surrendered only 18 goals over the same span of 16 games.

Danielson said his well-balanced team could make its best run at state this year since 2004, when the Spartans finished as runners-up. "We have some speed and we have a lot of experience," he said.

"All of the players who start for us also started at some point last year."

SPA had a rugged regular-season schedule that included games against six teams rated in Class A's top 10. The Spartans walked away with a sterling 4-1-1 in those matchups, losing only to Blake. The team's only other defeats this year have been to Class AA schools Stillwater and Cretin-Derham Hall.

The Spartans capped off the regular season with 3-0 wins over DeLaSalle and Breck. However, few triumphs were as satisfying as their 4-1 win in

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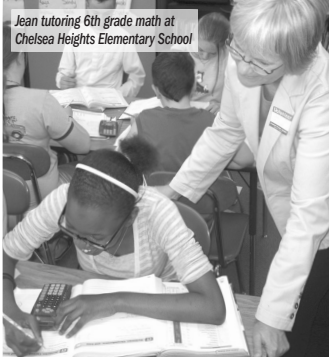
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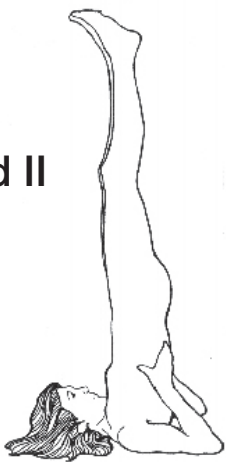
Jean O'Connell — Lifetime St. Paul resident, married, lives in Como Park. Graduate of Central High School. Teaching degree from U of MN-Duluth. Two daughters, graduates of Central and Cretin-Derham Hall.
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35◀ WRIGHT CALL

Three days earlier, the Twins had benefitted from Randy Marsh's missed call at home plate that cost Detroit a run in the 12th inning of a tie game. The Twins made the Tigers pay for it by ending their season in the bottom of the same inning. As we saw in this year's playoffs, bad umpiring is part of the game. You simply find a way to overcome it.

As often happens in the playoffs, unexpected eventualities also showed up. There's a tendency to read too much into some stats, but there should be some concern over the fact that Kubel, Orlando Cabrera and Delmon Young went a combined 4-for-39 (.103) with two walks and no RBIs against the Yanks. With Justin Morneau out with an injury, Cuddyer and Mauer had to carry the power load. That was asking a lot. Turns out it was too much.

At the same time, the Yankees only had three players—Derek Jeter, Alex Rodriguez and Jorge Posada—who hit with any consistency in the series. Their 13 hits were more than the rest of the team combined. But when other players, such as Teixeira and Hideki Matsui, chip in with home runs instead of singles, it makes a difference. Who would have guessed how much the Twins would miss having Joe Crede in the lineup?

The Twins can go home still feeling the glow from a great late-season run, especially the noisy win over Detroit that vaulted them into the playoff series. How to regroup and take the next step in 2010 is something Gardenhire will be thinking about all winter.

Spartans' first football win is a dandy

The St. Paul Academy football game against Brooklyn Center on October 9 had the makings for another long afternoon for the Spartans. The Centaurs sprinted out to a 22-0 first-quarter lead and stretched it to 34-7 by halftime. It looked like the same old story for SPA, which had allowed nearly 300 points in its first five games—all losses. Coach Mike Brown was out of ideas, so he asked his players for some. "There wasn't any adjusting to do," he recalled. "We simply played very poorly in all facets of the game."

SPA's offense came to life in the third quarter, but Brooklyn Center kept scoring, too. Early in the fourth quarter, the Centaurs led 46-28 and were driving again when a defensive play turned the game on its head. Senior Justin Frey, one of two Mounds Park Academy students who play for SPA, intercepted a lateral and ran 90 yards for a touchdown. Later, SPA senior quarterback Evan McMillan found junior wide receiver Chris Pichert for a touchdown to make it 46-41 with five minutes left. An onside kick attempt failed, but the Spartans eventually got the ball back on their own 7-yard line.

With a little over a minute left to play and no timeouts, the Spartans moved quickly up the field to the Brooklyn Center 14. McMillan faded back to pass and spotted an open receiver, but the pass failed. There was 0.5 seconds left.

"The play should have worked the first time," Brown reasoned, "so we tried it again."

McMillan checked off two receivers before seeing something he liked and threw the ball into the end zone. "All I saw was a set of hands rising above everybody else's. The ball landed there," Brown said. The hands belonged to 6-foot-5 junior wide receiver Gabe Mast, who had made his eighth

catch of the afternoon.

Bedlam ensued as the Spartans danced off with an improbable 47-46 win. "Evan is calm out there and the kids count on him a lot," Brown said of his quarterback, who threw for 488 yards on the game. For a club that had suffered a 77-14 defeat the week before at DeLaSalle and had lost close games to St. Bernard's and Minnehaha Academy, the win was a welcome light at the end of a dark tunnel.

"I know this sounds odd but, with one exception, we've played hard all season," Brown said. "It was nice to see the kids ecstatic."

CDH still a force to be reckoned with

Cretin-Derham Hall's football season may have changed directions slightly when starting quarterback Mark Alt suffered a shoulder injury while playing hockey. But, as the Raiders showed in a 20-0 decision over Mounds View last week at O'Shaughnessy Stadium, it would be a mistake not to still consider them among the state's elite teams.

The Raiders shook off a rare 12-7 loss at Stillwater on October 9 to smother the Mustangs five days later and improve their overall record to 6-1 heading into the October 20 season finale at Woodbury. "We look a little different now," admitted CDH head coach Mike Scanlan. "This might be the way we're going to be for a while."

On a chilly, damp evening, the Raiders spent most of the time running the ball down the Mustangs' throats. You can do that when you have players like seniors Seantrel Henderson and Shea Walker opening holes in the defensive line. Henderson, who is considered one of the top college prospects in the country, is listed at 6-foot-8, 337 pounds. Walker is 6-foot-2, 290 pounds.

"Shea doesn't get as much attention as Seantrel does, but he has been very good all year," Scanlan said.

CDH senior quarterback Joe Miller threw sparingly but well against Mounds View. His first pass went to senior Elliott Owusu for a 42-yard touchdown. In all, Miller threw just nine times against the Mustangs, completing seven of them, including a second TD pass. "You play to a quarterback's strengths," Scanlan said. "There are things that Joe does very well and we want to take advantage of that."

It helped considerably that the Raiders' ground game picked up steam against the Mustangs. Senior fullback Cameron Clarkson had a 25-yard TD run as part of a 199-yard team rushing effort.

Mounds View had the ball for a little over 16 minutes, running just 39 offensive plays. When they did get the ball, the Mustangs couldn't do much with it, finishing with just 25 yards of total offense. Junior linebacker Willie Roller seemed glued at the hip to Mounds View quarterback Stephen Jensen and forced a second-quarter fumble. Senior linebackers James McGuire and Kevin Hanson made life miserable for the Mustangs in the middle of the field. Senior Matt Biagini also snipped a Mounds View drive with an interception.

On the heels of the loss to Stillwater, it had been overlooked that the Raiders recorded half a dozen sacks in that game. "And we shut Stillwater out for the final three quarters," Scanlan noted. "Our defense doesn't get as much notice as the offense, but they've played very well all year."

With the sectional playoffs scheduled to begin next week, that, too, is something worth noticing.

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No. 1 singles player Jennie Hartjes and her CDH teammates will face Rosemount in the opening round of the state girls' tennis tournament on October 27. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Talent-laden Raiders return to state girls' tennis tourney

BY BILL WAGNER

The Cretin-Derham Hall girls' tennis team will return to the Class AA state tournament for the second straight year and coach Tim Spika believes there is reason to expect better results.

"We're considerably better this year," he said. "We have a lot of kids back and we've shown a lot of improvement."

Last year's trip to state wasn't bad for the Raiders, which followed up a first-round loss to Minnetonka with a win over Bemidji and then a loss to consolation champ Elk River.

This year, CDH will open the state quarter-final round on Tuesday, October 27, against Rosemount. The Raiders advanced to the big show with a 5-2 win over Mahtomedi in the Section 4AA finals on October 13 at Lifetime Fitness in Fridley. The victory came after CDH defeated Central 6-1 in the quarterfinals and Stillwater 7-0 in the semifinals the previous week.

The Mahtomedi win may have lacked suspense, as the Raiders were in control throughout most of the matches. "It was a good win for us," Spika said. "Mahtomedi is a team in the making. It only has one senior on the team, and it should be very much in the mix next year. We were probably a slight favorite, being the No. 1 seed (Mahtomedi was No. 3)."

The Raiders, who advance to state with a 21-3 record in dual competition, got the customary strong performance from junior Jennie Hartjes at first singles. Hartjes hardly broke a sweat in defeating the Zephyrs' Kara Lessrud 6-0, 6-1. The win kept Hartjes' singles record at a perfect 27-0 for the year. Spika noted that Hartjes has stepped up her game and should be ready for a good performance at state.

"She hasn't improved by accident," he said. "She plays all the time. She can hit the ball hard and she doesn't miss much. She volleys well and her serve is good."

The Zephyrs prevailed at second singles when CDH senior Clare Johnson lost to Spencer Comfort 6-1, 6-1. Johnson, who has played stoutly since moving from a doubles spot earlier in the season, was cut short in her effort to even her singles log at 13-13.

CDH had it all at third singles when junior Erin Hynes beat Bailey Kent 6-1, 6-0. Hynes showed good consistency throughout the match and upped her singles record to 20-5.

The fourth singles match was won by CDH senior Katie Cullen, who bested Hallie Com-

fort 6-3, 6-2. That gave Cullen a 19-6 record on the year. "Katie has been very steady," Spika said. "She doesn't hit the ball overly hard, but she plays great defense and is hard to beat."

Paving the way at first doubles was the outstanding Raider team of junior Maddy Eiden and senior Moira Caulfield. They defeated Taylor Burns and Clare Barberg 6-0, 6-2 and head to state with a perfect 25-0 record.

"Those two are playing absolutely phenomenal tennis together," Spika said, "and they've played a lot of very good teams. We've never had a doubles team as good as they are. They have pretty similar styles and they just don't do much wrong out there."

Caulfield moved right into the first doubles slot with Eiden after trading places at second singles with Johnson, in a move that has worked out for both players.

The second doubles team of sophomore Anna Stein and freshman Shay Eiden lost to Christine Briere and Anna Bechem 6-3, 6-4. Still, Stein and Eiden have formed a solid doubles team all year and head to state with a 14-2 record.

CDH's third doubles team of junior Nora Bengel and sophomore Delaney Dobbs defeated Erin Bennett and Laura Barberg 6-1, 6-4 to improve their record to 18-0.

The Raiders have maintained their high level of play for most of the year, included a win over Mounds View, a top-10 rated squad, in a 4-3 thriller. CDH's only losses were against outstanding teams from Wayzata, Centennial and Red Wing, and all three defeats were by 4-3 margins.

The Raiders have been rated as high as sixth in the state in Class AA this season and have remained in the top 10 almost all year. Spika predicted a close match against Rosemount in the opening round of the state AA tournament, which will be held at the Baseline Tennis Center at the University of Minnesota. Team play will run October 27-28, followed by singles and doubles championships on October 29-30.

Class A playoffs

The St. Paul Academy girls' tennis team advanced to the championship round in the Section 1A tournament before losing to top-ranked Rochester Lourdes 6-1 on October 12 at the Rochester Athletic Club. The third-seeded Spartans had defeated Cotter High School 7-0 and second-seeded Lake City 5-2 before falling to the Eagles in the title match.

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game was tied 0-0 at halftime, but with Pinto out, the Spartans handed STA a 2-0 loss, its first of the season.

The untimely injuries had a palpable effect on the Cadets' record. In the season's first 10 games, when the team was healthy, STA was 8-0-2. In the last eight games, the team was 3-4-1.

Despite the setbacks, Tangwe said his players have displayed a good balance of attacking, defending and making transitions in the midfield for most of the season, with strong performances from Neuberger (5 goals, 3 assists), senior defender Ryan Heide (7, 5), and sophomore forward Ben Lemay (12, 2).

On defense, senior midfielder Jack Clancy, sophomore defender Alex Barth, senior defender Andre Bartol and senior midfielder Andrew Markett have also played key roles.

St. Thomas reeled off five straight wins to start the season, including impressive shut-outs against Hill-Murray (2-0), Mahtomedi (1-0), North St. Paul (4-0) and Henry Sibley (2-0).

"To be honest with you, these boys didn't think they'd lose a game this year," Tangwe said.

A 1-1 tie with St. Cloud Cathedral ended the winning streak, but the Cadets rebounded with wins against St. Cloud Apollo (4-0), Arlington (3-0) and Richfield (5-1) before a tie with St. Paul Academy.

Despite its No. 3 seed in the section playoffs and its convincing win over Highland in the opening round, the Cadets face an uphill

march in the postseason. Regular-season nemesis and top-seeded Simley awaits, as do second-seeded Blake and other tough teams.

Tangwe said there was a lot of pressure to improve on last season's record of 15-2-2. However, if the Cadets can hold up physically and do a better job of finishing scoring chances, he believes they can still kick up some dust in the postseason.

"We may go in as underdogs, but I think we'll do well," Tangwe said. "The way we're finishing our season, the practices and things that we're putting in place, I think we'll have a good experience in the playoffs. We're motivated, no doubt about that."

Other local teams also fared well in the Section 3A playoffs. Fifth-seeded St. Paul Academy defeated Bethany/Lion's Gate 5-0 in its opening round, fourth-seeded Central topped Washburn 5-0 and 11th-seeded Minnehaha Academy edged sixth-seeded Roosevelt 1-0 in a shootout.

On October 19, STA will host Minnehaha and Central will host SPA. The section semifinals are scheduled for October 22, with the championship game to be played two days later. The boys' state soccer tournament will run October 28-November 5.

Raiders advance in Class AA

Fourth-seeded Cretin-Derham Hall defeated Roseville 3-1 in the opening round of the Section 4AA playoffs on October 13. The Raiders were set to face top-ranked Woodbury in the semifinals on October 19. If they pull off that upset, they would advance to the title game on October 22.

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mid-September over league rival Minnehaha Academy, which is also rated among the top 10 Class A teams in the state.

"That was a great win for us," Danielson said. "We'd just come off a 4-1 loss to Stillwater, so our girls were really hungry to get after somebody. That was the kind of game in which, if you get one goal, it just really boosts your confidence."

Senior CeCe DiCaprio, now in her second year as a starter, has been steady in goal for the Spartans this year. And she is surrounded by a capable defensive corps, including seniors Bri Rick and Megan Leslie, and junior Becky Engeleiter.

The Spartans also have plenty of talent at midfield, including senior all-conference pick Jackie Norton, sophomore Jenna O'Brien, freshman Amanda Hotvedt and junior Tania Russell.

On offense, senior striker Maren Flom-Staab is SPA's leading scorer to date with 11 goals. Junior Tina Kramarczuk can win a lot of individual battles close in and senior Anne Walli is a skilled passer. Freshman Nina Perkio comes off the bench and is the club's second-leading scorer and its leader in assists.

Last year, SPA was 12-5-2, but lost to Holy Angels in the section semifinals. This year, Danielson hopes the team will be able to get over the hump and make it to state. It won't be easy, but the Spartans have more guns in their arsenal. "We have 18 girls who get together every day and work hard," Danielson said.

Other local teams also advanced in the Sec-





Visitation's Haley Housh goes airborne against Roosevelt's Jessica Patino in the Section 3A playoffs. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

tion 3A playoffs. Eighth-seeded Highland Park defeated Washburn 1-0 and fourth-seeded Visitation blanked Roosevelt 4-0. Minnehaha Academy earned a bye as the third seed and Central lost to Trinity 5-0.

On October 19, SPA will host Highland, Visitation will host Holy Angels and Minnehaha will host DeLaSalle. The section semifinals are scheduled for October 22, with the championship game to be played two days later. The girls' state soccer tournament will run October 28-November 5.

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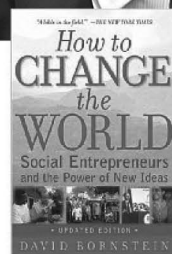
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- “Social Entrepreneurism: A Better Way to Change the World” at 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary.
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