

Long-awaited opening set for new Jimmy Lee

Multi-purpose complex to be named at ceremony on May 31

By Jane McClure

The name of the newly renovated and expanded complex that houses the Jimmy Lee Recreation Center and Great River Water Park will be announced during grand opening ceremonies on Saturday, May 31. The new name, which was chosen by Mayor Chris Coleman and Ward 1 City Council member Melvin Carter III, reportedly reflects the history of the surrounding Summit-University neighborhood. But it isn't Rondo.

The grand opening will take place from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the center, 270 N. Lexington Pkwy. Special guests will include family members of the late Jimmy Lee, a legendary St. Paul coach and the first African-American to serve as an umpire and referee in Minnesota. Tours will follow the opening ceremony. Use of the pool, walking track and gym will be free.

The new name of the complex will not replace the existing facility names, according to St. Paul Parks and Recreation director Bob Bierscheid. Instead, it will serve as an umbrella identity for the complex. The city used a similar concept with the Wellstone Center, which houses the El Rio Vista Recreation Center and Neighborhood House.

JIMMY LEE CENTER ►2



Amelia Conley, 5, dances to guitar music amid the flowers being sold at the downtown St. Paul Farmers' Market. PHOTO BY ANNE BRANDRUD

Public Works budget comes back for repair

Street maintenance cuts will affect sealcoating, sweeping, equipment

By Jane McClure

Potholes will still be filled, snow will still be plowed and streets will still be swept, but other city services will be cut back this year in St. Paul's street maintenance budget. Overspending in the street right-of-way maintenance fund forced the St. Paul City Council to make \$1.33 million in immediate budget reductions on May 7.

This is the second year in a row that the city's right-of-way fund has been overspent. Last year it was to the tune of \$4.2 million. By next year it may be three times that amount.

City Council members say the overspending cannot continue and that Public Works must get better at handling its annual budget. "This is a budget that's really important to us, and it's all screwed up," said council president Kathy Lantry.

Public Works Department director Bruce Beese took responsibility for the over-

spending, but council members were not mollified. Ward 3 council member Pat Harris said it is unreasonable to ask the City Council to make systemic reductions and cut services to residents.

The right-of-way maintenance fund has been in existence for five years. It derives its money from a separate fee, assessed by frontage foot of benefiting property owners, that appears on property tax statements. The separate fee was established by former Mayor Randy Kelly as a way to assess benefiting property owners who do not pay property taxes. Over the years, more and more right-of-way maintenance costs have been added to the assessment.

The timing of the 2008 cuts comes just as all city departments are submitting their 2009 budgets. At this point, city officials estimate that the 2009 shortfall in the right-of-way maintenance fund could be \$13.1 million.

PUBLIC WORKS BUDGET ►3

Area schools to feel the pinch of district deficit for 2008-09

By Kevin Driscoll

The St. Paul Public Schools administration has proposed a \$625.8 million budget for 2008-09 that attempts to spare individual schools some of the pain of a projected \$10 million deficit. The budget plan, presented to the St. Paul School Board on May 6, draws on a \$2.5 million contingency fund and an unexpected \$500,000 increase in federal Title I funding that together lower the projected deficit to \$7 million. The cuts necessary to address that deficit have been divided evenly between individual schools and

centrally funded programs, according to Lois Rockney, the school district's chief financial officer.

The school district is facing increased transportation, utility and health care costs in the coming year. However, about 70 percent of the deficit is due to a drop in enrollment—from 39,700 to 38,600 students districtwide. All grade levels will be seeing a decline, Rockney said, but the biggest declines will be in the seven high schools where graduating seniors far outnumber the incoming freshman class. "It's a trend we expect to see for at least the next four years," she said, as school districts

across the state come to grips with the declining birth rates of the 1990s.

The St. Paul school district is projecting a loss of about 500 high school students in each of the next four years. "Our elementary and middle school enrollments should remain relatively steady," Rockney said. "But we're still facing shortfalls because of the loss of the total number of students and because high school students are weighted more heavily under the state's per-pupil funding formula."

A total of just over \$2.2 million would be cut from the 2008-09 budgets of individual district schools. Four Villager area schools are

among those facing the biggest cuts, including Longfellow and Webster Elementary and Highland Park and Ramsey Junior High (see chart on page 4).

Webster is facing a 10 percent or \$540,000 reduction in its budget. "We're expecting 60 fewer students next year," said principal Lori Simon. About 730 students currently attend Webster, down from 865 during the 2006-07 school year. The reduction in state per-pupil aid will mean the loss of four teachers, four teaching assistants and reduced hours for oth-

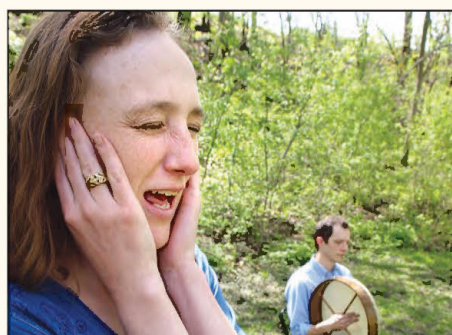
SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET ►4

CITY BEAT

St. Paul contemplates easing the requirements for bars that apply for a license to expand their service outdoors ►2

State, county set public hearings on the Central Corridor project while planners await a resolution of U of M route ►7

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GRAND OLD DAY GETS NOSTALGIC



Bell-bottom bash ►41-48

Council issues last call for pair of liquor-related issues in St. Paul

Changes would make it easier for bars to serve drinks on patio and for city to revoke 2:00 a.m. closing

By JANE MCCLURE

The St. Paul City Council will consider two ordinance amendments on May 21 regarding the way the city handles liquor licenses. The first would make it easier for bars and restaurants to obtain city approval to serve alcohol on their patios. The second would enable the city to more easily suspend a 2:00 a.m. closing if an establishment has an adverse action taken against its liquor license.

The Summit Hill Association's (SHA) Zoning and Land Use Committee voted on May 15 to oppose the ordinance change regarding drinking on patios after hearing from eight concerned neighbors. Most of the testimony centered on noise, vandalism, litter, public urination and other behavior of bar patrons. The neighbors said the city should not make it

easier for liquor to be served outside and create a situation that could be more disruptive.

Ward 3 City Council member Pat Harris presented the amendment after hearing from the owners of some bars and restaurants that it is too difficult to obtain an extension of liquor service under the city's current regulations. The number of requests for such licenses has skyrocketed since smoking was banned indoors.

Currently, 90 percent of the owners of property within 300 feet of a bar or restaurant must be in favor of the outdoor license before the city will grant the extension of service. Under Harris' proposal, if the number of signatures on a petition is between 60 and 89 percent of those property owners, the council could still grant the license, but with conditions. Below 59 percent, the council could deny the request or approve it with additional conditions. The change would only affect new applications, including those made when a business changes hands.

Harris said that one of the problems with the current ordinance is that business owners sometimes cannot obtain enough signatures simply because they are dealing with absentee landlords. He said that is not fair to businesses that operate responsibly, adding that the city will still be able to place limits on or reject license requests.

If the ordinance is adopted, the SHA wants the ability to recommend approval or denial of the extension of service. "We'd rather see the ordinance stay as it is," said SHA board member Dave Ramberg. "But if it has to be changed, we'd like to see more protection for neighbors."

Harris said the ordinance would not bypass the process of notifying district councils and asking for recommendations, and would not curtail the city's ability to put conditions on the licenses, such as limiting hours of operation and defining the space where liquor can be served.

As of last week, it was unclear if Harris had

the votes needed to pass the ordinance, which is expected to be voted up or down on May 28. Ward 4 City Council member Russ Stark was leaning toward support, while other council members were undecided or skeptical about the need for the change.

The ordinance change that would enable the council to more easily suspend a 2:00 a.m. bar closing license will also be heard on May 21. The time extension would be withdrawn if the city takes any adverse action against a bar's on-sale liquor licenses, and the bar would have to meet several conditions before the license would be reinstated.

That change was introduced by Ward 5 City Council member Lee Helgen, who has several problem bars in his ward. He said the ordinance is needed to more clearly spell out penalties and clarify what businesses have to do to obtain a 2:00 a.m. license or get one restored. Helgen is also asking that bars meet other conditions, such as having video surveillance cameras on the premises.

1◀ JIMMY LEE CENTER

The new name for the Jimmy Lee/Great River Water Park complex was chosen from more than 600 suggestions submitted by the public. An advisory group that helped plan the facilities weighed in on the name choices, but Coleman and Carter have the final say.

St. Paul Parks and Recreation commissioner Erick Goodlow, who was a leader of the task force that planned the facilities, said many of the name suggestions were frivolous, such as the Joe Mauer is Hot Center and the It's About Time Center.

The latter name may have been apt. The new facilities were the subject of years of debate over what should be built, which needs should be served and how much the project would cost. The final cost, including the land purchases, is about \$19 million.

The Jimmy Lee portion of the facility was built in 1969, replacing a Quonset hut that had stood on the property for many years. The nearby Oxford Pool, the only city-owned indoor pool in St. Paul, was built in 1973.

Discussion of replacing or renovating the facilities began in the late 1980s. The planning and construction process spanned the tenures of four mayors, four Ward 1 City Council members, three Parks and Recreation directors and dozens of Parks and Recreation commissioners.

Initially, separate pool and recreation center facilities were proposed, but the two were soon combined. It took a few tries, but the



Families took advantage of a preview day at the new Jimmy Lee Recreation Center and Great River Water Park on May 17. The grand opening will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. May 31. PHOTO BY ANNE BRANDRUD

project finally obtained its first city capital improvement bond funding in 1995. The city began purchasing homes around the center to accommodate the expansion project in 1998.

Thirty-one properties were eventually purchased in the area bounded by Lexington Parkway, Oxford Street, and Concordia and Marshall avenues. The total size of the site is now 10.65 acres.

Low-income housing advocates sued the city, an apartment build-

ing owner and federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) officials in 2000. The legal challenge centered on an apartment building purchased with HUD funds. It took several months for the lawsuit to be settled and for work to move forward. The property purchases then continued, with the last house moved off of the site in 2004.

The advisory group began working on plans for the facilities in 2004. That same year, a study suggested that the city should renovate the

recreation center and pool, rather than raze the recreation center. Cost issues repeatedly delayed the start of construction, which finally began in 2006.

The new complex was designed by SNG Architects and Bradley & Associates. It has a large parking lot and main entrance off of Marshall. Its most dominant feature is three new gyms, including one with a walking track. Two of the gyms were paid for by the St. Paul Public Schools, which will share

the gym space. The new gyms are large enough to be subdivided into smaller spaces.

The original Jimmy Lee gym also was renovated, for a total of four gyms.

North of the gyms is the renovated pool, which now includes water park features. Most prominent is a large water slide and plunge pool. The old lap pool has been extensively revamped, with easier access for swimmers with disabilities. A new sauna and spa, locker rooms and rest rooms, and offices for pool staff are also included.

The expanded and renovated Jimmy Lee and Loft Teen Center have a new connection between them and the pool. That area also features new or renovated offices, a multi-purpose area, an arts and crafts room, a learning center with computers, a kitchen, and a dance and martial arts studio.

At its May 14 meeting, the Parks and Recreation Commission recognized Goodlow and retiring commissioner Tom Byrne for their work on the advisory committee. They also recognized the work of countless other citizens who participated in the planning process over the years.

"I think this facility is one of the greatest things we've ever done," said Byrne, a former St. Paul mayor. "I so enjoy seeing an idea become a brick and stone reality."

Goodlow, a lifelong Summit-University resident who played at Jimmy Lee and grew up to coach there, said it is gratifying to see the project finally completed.

"Sometimes I think we never thought it would happen," he said.




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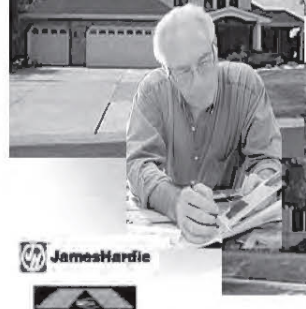
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1 PUBLIC WORKS BUDGET

Many factors are driving the shortfall, including rising fuel, energy and employee health care costs. The deficit, on top of dwindling reserves, is causing consternation among council members. Harris said he is especially concerned about "systemic issues" that have repeatedly sent street maintenance spending over budget. He also said Public Works needs to do a better job managing cash flow and forecasting shortfalls.

These are the major reductions to the street maintenance budget for 2008:

- Sealcoating (\$450,000). City streets are currently sealcoated once every eight years. That cycle will be extended to 10 years. Ward 6 council member Dan Bostrom, who cast the lone vote against the budget cuts, called the extension shortsighted. "The people sitting around this table and our citizens are going to see a difference in our roads," he said. Other council members said city engineers have advised them that the sealcoating cycle can be extended to as long as 13 years.

- Changes to street sweeping schedules outside of downtown (\$300,000). The busier streets will still be swept once in the spring

and again in the fall, but other streets will be swept less often.

- Elimination of the reverse 911 phone system (\$50,000). The system automatically dials St. Paul phone numbers when a snow emergency is declared. Beese said the city has not seen a significant reduction in the number of vehicles tagged and towed since the system began four years ago. The city will keep its e-mail notification of snow emergencies and its 651-266-PLOW hot line.

- A delay in the purchases of new street maintenance equipment (\$430,000) and hiring (\$100,000).

The council rejected other cost-cutting ideas, such as changing the threshold for declaring a snow emergency from 3 inches to 4 inches, and eliminating or reducing an alley paving program.

The right-of-way maintenance fund has been buffeted by factors beyond the city's control, including \$500,000 to clean up debris from a street-sweeping dump that spilled onto a neighboring property, and \$200,000 in higher-than-anticipated workers' compensation claims. Rising oil prices affect the cost of fuel for Public Works vehicles as well as the bitumen used to sealcoat city streets.

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Xcel smokestack is coming down, but how?

By JANE MCCLURE

The impending demolition of the 570-foot-tall smokestack at Xcel Energy's High Bridge Plant is expected to raise a great deal of dust and noise no matter how it is done. Xcel is leaning toward bringing it down by implosion, cutting the work time from two summers to a few days, but that has raised concerns among neighbors who recall the fallout from the demolition of the old High Bridge in 1986.

Paulette Myers-Rich, who lives in a historic brick building on Smith Avenue, said one of her neighbors lost a third of the bricks on the front of his house when the High Bridge was imploded. She and her neighbors in Uppertown and on the Upper Landing are worried that the force of the smokestack's brick and concrete hitting the ground all at once could similarly shake things up.

"A lot of the houses here are built on bedrock," Myers-Rich said. "I'm not sure how they'd withstand that kind of shock. And we're going to have all of that dust rolling into our homes."

As part of its Minnesota Metro Emissions Reduction Project, Xcel is replacing the old coal-fired plant under the High Bridge with an adjacent natural



Xcel's old smokestack towers over the High Bridge Plant. PHOTOS BY ANNE BRANDRUD

gas-powered plant that should be up and running by early June. The nearly \$1 billion project includes the conversion of two other Xcel plants in the Twin Cities from coal to natural gas.

Demolition of the coal-fired High Bridge Plant began in March and will continue through June 2009. Chicago-based Brandenburg, the nation's largest demolition firm, is the main contractor for the project. Much of the initial work involves the removal of hazardous material containing asbestos and lead, ac-

cording to High Bridge Plant director Jim Zyduck. Heavy equipment will be brought on site once spring road restrictions are lifted, he said.

Two options are being considered for demolishing the smokestack. One is to use a helicopter to place a ring scaffold around the smokestack. Crews would work from the top down, using jackhammers to knock the stack down piece by piece. Due to weather considerations,

XCEL SMOKESTACK ► 5

1◀ SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET

er teachers, Simon said.

"We're working hard to maintain and increase our enrollment," she said. "We offer learning enrichment throughout the year in two science courses as well as music, theater and art." This coming fall, Webster will introduce service learning, Simon said, working with the elderly, the environment and sick children.

Longfellow Elementary expects to have about 270 students next year, or 50 fewer than this year, according to principal Mark Vandersteen. The decline will bring about a 7 percent or \$153,000 reduction in its 2008-09 budget, which translates into the loss of three teachers, two of them by attrition, and a reduction in other staff hours, Vandersteen said.

"About 30 percent of our students are mobile each year," Vandersteen said, "meaning about 15 percent leave the school (for reasons other than graduation) and 15 percent come to the school. But it isn't always an even exchange." He said the school's site council and PTA have been working to strengthen relationships with the pre-kindergarten parents to encourage them to keep their children at Longfellow.

Ramsey Junior High is facing an 11 percent or \$389,000 budget cut for the coming year. "We'll have about 50 fewer students next year," said principal Bruce Maeda. The upshot is the loss of two teachers, reduced hours for three others, as well as cuts in staff development and school supplies and materials. "We'll also cut one computer technician and two teaching support positions through attrition," Maeda said.

In hopes of attracting more students to Ramsey, Maeda said, "we're looking to become an International Baccalaureate school. We have a few teachers in training for that now. And in lieu of central funding cuts for curriculum coaches, we've established ourselves as a professional learning community and opened the school to collaborate with other schools and teachers. We're learning from each other how to continually improve our methods and ultimately student achievement."

Highland Park Junior High will see a 5.3 percent or \$205,000 reduction in

St. Paul public school district's allocation to schools 2008-09

School	Allocation Change	Total 2008-09 allocation
Groveland Park Elementary	+15.1%	\$2,332,257
Horace Mann Elementary	+6.6%	\$1,895,950
Randolph Heights Elementary	+8.6%	\$2,038,337
Adams Elementary	+3.6%	\$3,596,507
Benjamin E. Mays Elementary	-0.2%	\$2,288,196
Expo Elementary	+2.2%	\$3,445,000
Four Seasons Elementary	+8.0%	\$1,950,239
Highland Park Elementary	-0.4%	\$2,097,155
J.J. Hill Elementary	-0.4%	\$2,315,698
Longfellow Elementary	-7.1%	\$1,998,940
Museum Elementary	+21.3%	\$2,141,752
Wellstone Elementary	+19.5%	\$3,572,958
Webster Elementary	-10.1%	\$4,812,028
Capitol Hill K-8	+8.8%	\$4,594,960
Linwood-Monroe K-8	+1.2%	\$4,115,086
Highland Park Junior High	-5.3%	\$3,625,750
Ramsey Junior High	-11.0%	\$3,133,020
Open School K-12	+3.3%	\$2,502,636
Central High School	+3.3%	\$8,480,744
Highland Park Senior High	+6.0%	\$5,680,345

its budget. Highland Junior is currently projecting a loss of 65 students for next year, according to principal Charlene Hoff. "We won't be sure until October when enrollment numbers are finalized, but we may see less of an effect because we may be getting as many as 40 new students after all," she said.

Highland Junior is also hoping to introduce the International Baccalaureate program to its curriculum. "Our school's staff is working closely with Highland Park Elementary's IB staff to be able to eventually provide a seamless transition from their school to ours," Hoff said.

Groveland Park and Horace Mann elementary schools will both see their budgets increase next year. The two neighborhood schools' enrollments are expected to swell with the closing of Homecroft Elementary School, which freed up \$1.7 million.

The school district's centrally funded programs will see their budgets cut

by \$3.25 million next year, including \$900,000 from the new Curriculum Content Coaching program, which coordinates the curricula in all schools to ease the transition for students as they progress from grade to grade.

An administrative reorganization will trim \$250,000 from the special education budget. Cuts in English Language Learning program staff will save \$100,000. Other cuts include \$312,000 for a custodian crew and \$198,000 for service, supplies and travel fees.

Shifting some payments for technical equipment from the general fund to bonding will save \$240,000. Food service, community service, building construction and debt service budgets were cut by between \$20,000 and \$70,000, respectively.

The School Board will discuss the proposed budget for 2008-09 on June 10. The board is scheduled to vote on the budget on June 17.

4◀ XCEL SMOKESTACK

that work would span two years. The second option, implosion, is believed to be safer for the demolition crew and, in the long run, less noisy and dusty.

Brandenberg has been working with CEI, a national firm that specializes in structural implosions, to determine if the High Bridge smokestack can be brought down safely. A preliminary seismic analysis showed that it should not be a problem. However, further analysis and a more detailed demolition plan are needed along with the approval of several government agencies, including the Minnesota Department of Transportation due to the potential impact on the High Bridge.

A public hearing would be held for West End and West Side residents and business people before any implosion. According to Brandenberg spokesperson Eric Ahlgren, existing conditions in the surrounding area would be videotaped so that any damage related to the implosion could be clearly identified.

The potential impact of a smokestack implosion is also being tracked by Xcel. "We can't afford to mess up the new plant," Zyduck said.

Some local residents and historic preservationists had earlier suggested saving the 1970s-era smokestack as a historic landmark, but the maintenance costs and potential liability argued against it.

At a meeting of the West 7th/Fort Road Federation on May 12, more concern was raised about the loss of the oldest brick building at the power plant, which dates to 1923. According to Zyduck, Xcel was under the impression that local residents and business people were not interested in seeing the old plant buildings redeveloped for commercial purposes, so recreational options were studied in cooperation with the St. Paul Riverfront Corporation, the St. Paul on the Mississippi Design Center and the St. Paul Division of Parks and Recreation.

The St. Paul Riverfront Corporation worked



Xcel's old coal-fired High Bridge Plant is reflected in a security mirror at the gate.

last year with local residents on redevelopment scenarios for the plant property. Recreational trails, a dog park and soccer fields were discussed, along with the possibility of using at least one of the brick buildings as a trailhead or cross-country ski rental shop.

"We raised the idea, but we didn't hear a lot of interest in saving the building," said Riverfront Corporation executive director Patrick Seeb.

Xcel officials argued against saving the buildings, saying that it would be costly to remediate the hazardous material in the old buildings and that it would be easier to clean up the site after the buildings are gone.

Remediation of the polluted soil on the site will follow the demolition of the buildings and smokestack and is tentatively slated for July and August 2009. Backfill and site stabilization would take place in the fall of 2009, with the restoration of the site completed in the summer of 2010.

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Hearings set on Central Corridor project

Light-rail planners await word on route through U

BY JANE MCCLURE

Despite an ongoing dispute over the Central Corridor light-rail transit line's route through the University of Minnesota's East Bank campus, the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) will hold a public hearing on Thursday, May 29, on a supplemental draft environmental impact statement for the \$909 million project.

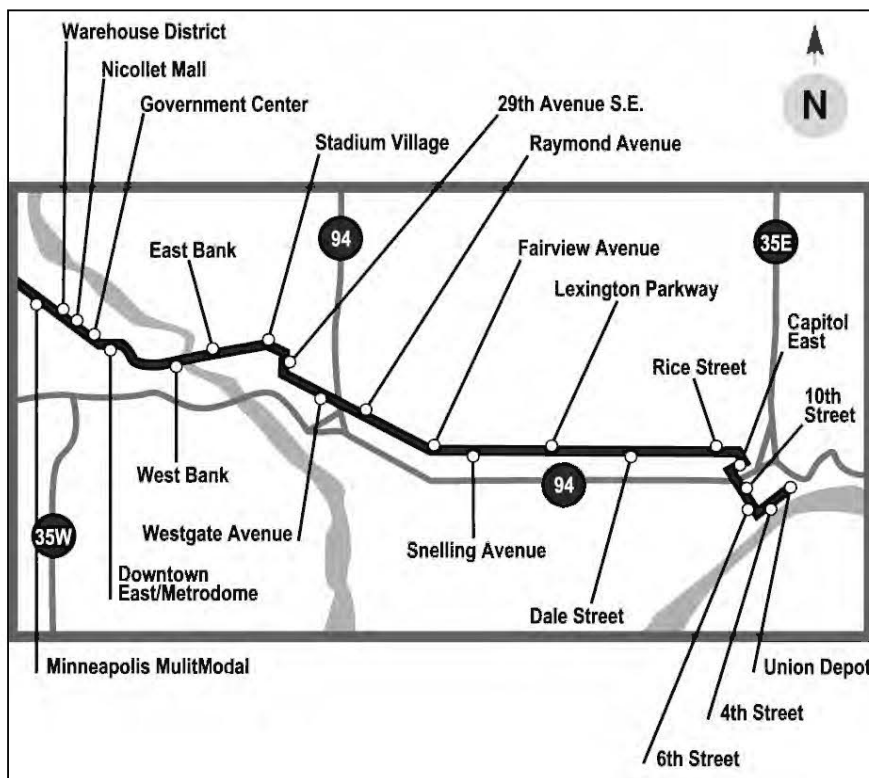
The public hearing will run from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. that day in the Goodwill/Easter Seals building on Fairview and Charles avenues. Public comment is being sought on the design of the light-rail line, including the route, potential parking impact and station sites. An open house to view the plans and the supplemental EIS will begin at 4:00 p.m. Staff from MnDOT, Hennepin and Ramsey counties and the Metropolitan Council will be on hand to offer information and answer questions.

Copies of the supplemental EIS will be available at public libraries as well as on the Web at <http://www.metrocouncil.org/transportation/ccorridor/PrelimDesignsMay08.htm>.

The Minnesota Legislature and Governor Tim Pawlenty had Central Corridor planners on the edge of their seats until May 18, when on the last day of the legislative session they reached agreement on a \$70 million state allocation for the project. Pawlenty had vetoed the allocation out of a larger bonding bill earlier this spring.

The Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority will hold a public hearing on the Central Corridor design plans on Thursday, June 5, at Lao Family Community, 320 University Ave. The program will open with an open house at 4:00 p.m. followed by the hearing from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Comments on the design plans may also be made through June 12 by calling 651-266-2760. The Ramsey County Board is scheduled to vote on the plans on June 24.

State law gives the counties and cities up to 45 days after the MnDOT hearing



The route of the Central Corridor light-rail transit line as initially proposed through the University of Minnesota's East Bank campus and over the Washington Avenue bridge.

to approve or reject the design plans. Any local governmental unit that rejects the plans must offer a suitable alternative.

The Central Corridor Management Committee is scheduled to vote on May 21 on a preferred route through the U of M's East Bank campus. University officials have been pushing for an alignment that runs north of the athletic facilities on University Avenue and through Dinkytown along an existing railroad right-of-way. The route approved by the Met Council in February called for running the trains at grade on Washington Avenue.

The Central Corridor Management Committee meeting, which is open to the public, will begin at noon in the Metropolitan Council offices at 390 N. Robert St. Information will be presented about the costs of each alignment and how they would affect the federal Cost Effectiveness Index (CEI) for the Central Corridor.

Transit projects that do not meet the CEI have more difficulty obtaining fed-

eral funding. Local officials have been banking on the federal government picking up half of the cost of constructing the Central Corridor line.

Met Council chair Peter Bell and U of M officials have waged a war of words in recent weeks over the university's desire to have the northern alignment studied. Meanwhile, Federal Transit Administration officials have raised concerns about the project's timeline being overly aggressive and potentially unrealistic. Current plans call for construction to begin in 2010, with the light-rail line up and running by 2014.

Project planners are concerned that any setback in planning could delay the project for a year, raising its costs by \$40 million or more in inflation. That in turn has worried neighborhood groups who lobbied hard earlier this year for including at least the infrastructure for light-rail stations at Hamline, Victoria and Western avenues. They fear that if costs increase, the additional stations would be among the first features cut from the project.

Mac-Grove sniffs out dog park options

BY JANE MCCLURE

The Macalester-Groveland Community Council, which was embroiled in a dispute over off-leash dog parks last year, adopted a set of criteria on May 8 for areas where owners could let their dogs run free. The recommendations from a district council task force will be forwarded to the St. Paul Division of Parks and Recreation, whose own task force studying off-leash dog parks is expected to have a recommendation ready for the city's Parks Commission in July.

The district council hopes to identify a few small locations for off-leash dog parks in Macalester-Groveland. St. Paul's only off-leash, city-owned dog park is at Arlington-Arkwright in the Payne-Phalen neighborhood. Ramsey County has an off-leash area at Battle Creek Regional Park.

The Macalester-Groveland task force was formed last year after the district council voted down a Parks and Recreation proposal to allow limited off-leash dog access at Groveland and Edgumbe

parks. Park users, especially young athletes and coaches, argued at the time that dog droppings were already a problem on the fields and playgrounds.

The task force was broken into two groups. One looked for a small off-leash dog park that Macalester-Groveland residents could walk to, and the other looked for a larger park in the area.

"We know there's no land available in this neighborhood for a large park, but we'd like the city to establish one for this part of the city," said task force chair Robb Westawker.

Criteria adopted by the task force include fencing off any off-leash park, whether it is part of a larger park or another open space, providing facilities for owners to dispose of what their dogs leave behind, and setting off the area for the sole purpose of letting dogs run free.

"One challenge we have is that although we can develop criteria to address the needs of dog-park users, those criteria have to be tailored for each location," said Macalester-Groveland board member Susan Crum.

St. Paul dog owners have been pushing for additional off-leash areas for more than a decade, but have been stymied by the lack of space and neighborhood opposition. Over the years, dog park advocates have become increasingly vocal. Several of them attended the State of the City forums conducted earlier this year by Mayor Chris Coleman, who said he agrees the city should establish more areas where dogs can run free.

Wendy Moylan of the St. Paul Parks and Recreation Commission said the city's task force is making progress. She said the intent is to divide St. Paul into quadrants and provide at least one dog park in each area.

Other area neighborhoods are also looking at off-leash dog parks. The West 7th/Fort Road Federation will hear a proposal in June for an off-leash park on city-owned land near the old Island Station power plant. The Union Park District Council has been asked to consider an off-leash area and has referred the request to a group that is looking into future uses at Merriam Park.



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Viewpoint

It's a small world after all

BY MICHAEL MISCHKE

How small is it? Well, a lot smaller than I would have ever imagined before an e-mail exchange last week between me and a gentleman in Chicago whom I have never had the privilege of meeting.

A friend of mine tipped me off a few months back to a blog written by a guy named Tom Roeser, 79, like me a graduate of St. John's University in Collegeville, albeit 25 years before me. Something of a Renaissance man, Roeser is the president of his own corporate relations firm in the Windy City, an op-ed contributor to the *Chicago Tribune*, a radio talk show host, an author, a lecturer and an adjunct university professor.

A native of Evanston, Illinois, Roeser was also a city editor for the *St. Cloud Daily Times* and a stringer for the Associated Press. He was the director of public information for the Minnesota Republican Party, an assistant to then U.S. Congressmen Al Quie and Walter Judd, and the press secretary for Minnesota Governor Elmer Andersen. He was the director of communications for the Minnesota Republican Party before returning to Illinois to become the director of public affairs for the Quaker Oats Company. He left Quaker Oats temporarily to serve as the assistant to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce and, later, the director of public affairs for the U.S. Peace Corps.

"When I enrolled at St. John's University in 1946, I was 17," Roeser wrote in his blog, "one of a handful of kids my age, the remainder of the freshman class being ex-GIs recently mustered out of the service, including many who had seen action in the South Pacific or European theaters.

"We 17-year-olds were intimidated by the ex-GIs. Some of them were well along in years (by our reckoning), in their mid- to late-20s, looking for babes and booze, of which there was none on our all-male, severely restricted campus, which was also a Benedictine monastery, 1½ miles from the nearest highway, surrounded by 1,400 acres of lakes and woodland, and after you walked out to the highway, 16 miles to the town of St. Cloud (population then: 22,000).

"The ex-GIs groaned and said, 'Dear God, what have we gotten into?' For us 17-year-olds, it was a lark just to be away from home, and a terrific Saturday night was taking the Johnnie bus into St. Cloud, going to a movie, having an ice cream soda, catching the Johnnie bus back at 10:00 p.m., and walking the 1½ miles in from the highway to our dormitories where lights-out on Saturday nights was at midnight (on other nights it was 10:30 p.m.) Some ex-GIs who made the trip to St. Cloud used to go to the bar at the Spaniol Hotel, get drunk, try to pick up girls, often miss the Johnnie bus, and have to chip in to get a cab to drive them back to campus where, arriving in the dark, they had to blindly grope their way down the halls to their dormitory beds."

"Mr. Roeser," I wrote, "your reminiscences of life at St. John's circa 1946—especially the cultural paroxysm on campus brought about by the older and more worldly returning veterans—reminded me of my late father's colorful stories of the same. After five years in the Army during World War II, he returned to St. John's and graduated in 1947."

"Michael," he wrote back, "of all the World War II vets at St. John's at that time, I knew your father Maury the best. In a sense, I worked for him, because I was a freshman reporter for *The Record* and he was the sports editor for the student newspaper. The following year, he became the editor and I wrote feature stories for him.

"Later on, we were quite close—when I moved to St. Paul to work for the governor and he was with Arnie Niemeyer's advertising agency downtown. Maury helped my wife and me get our first apartment on Randolph Avenue in St. Paul. We eventually moved to 1255 Juliet Ave., and your family was one street over on Palace."

I called my mom, who still lives in that same Palace Avenue house, to check the spelling of Niemeyer.

"Tom Roeser? I remember him," she said. "He was in our house. Strawberry blond. A talented guy. But that's got to be 50 years ago."

Fifty years between then and now—and 400 miles between here and Chicago—never seemed shorter.



Inbox

Neighborhood is no place to ease bar restrictions

To the editor:

Hey, Pat Harris, the words "neighborhood" and "bar" don't mix.

Pat Harris, the St. Paul City Council member from Ward 3 and a supporter of allowing local bars to stay open later so that nearby residents can enjoy even more public urination, vomiting and garbage, now wants to make it even easier for local bars to invade the lives of their neighbors (*Villager*, May 7). Mr. Harris feels that it's "too cumbersome" to have to ask 90 percent of property owners within 300 feet of a bar if it's OK to serve alcohol outdoors. In sponsoring this relaxation of the ordinance, Mr. Harris wants to make it easier for a bar to have loud, drunk and smoking patrons within just a few feet of residents' homes.

Mr. Harris, who by his proposals and votes always seems to be supporting bars, must not live anywhere near one. Every week I have to walk my property to pick up broken beer bottles (not supplied by the bar, but used as the bar patron sits in his or her car with the radio booming for 10 minutes before going in), cigarette butts, wrappers and plastic containers of all sorts filled with leftover booze and chew spit. Last month I had the pleasure of watching vomit slowly melt with the spring snow.

Almost every one of our trees has been peed on. Anything that is not nailed down in my front yard is usually stolen by a drunk as they leave the bar. There is broken glass in our alley at all times, which is so wonderful for my children to step on. I haven't even gotten to the noise at 2:00 a.m. as the patrons leave and drunkenly drive their cars away, radios booming. In seven years of living near these "neighborhood" bars, I'm convinced that the tax revenue they provide is not worth the substantial cost to the families affected every day by the negatives these bars bring into our neighborhood.

I complained about this problem years ago to Mr. Harris and the owners of the two bars near my home. Mr. Harris never contacted me, but sent some young staffer to the community meeting to put a positive spin on the local drunks using our homes as toilets. The young staffer made promises of future contact and action that never occurred. The St. Paul police, thankfully, were much more proactive and came out to personally meet with my family. Years later, I now understand why Mr. Harris' office essentially ignored us. He obviously will do anything to help bars to succeed even when it means a deteriorated neighborhood for any nearby

homeowner.

I urge all residents within a block of any "neighborhood" bar to oppose Mr. Harris' latest effort if it ever gets to the public hearing stage. Council members, please don't even let this ridiculous proposal get to that stage.

Kelly Sofio
Macalester-Groveland

Fit for a variance

To the editor:

There may be a lifetime of parking problems in Highland Village, but they have certainly not been caused by Life Time Fitness (*Villager*, May 7 and April 9). In fact, Life Time Fitness has more parking than most of the establishments in the area. What parking does the movie theater or Patina have?

Although there is a two-hour parking limit on Pinehurst Avenue, the residents say the restrictions are rarely enforced. There is an easy solution for this problem, and that is to simply get a parking officer to write some tickets and produce some needed revenue for the city of St. Paul. After a couple of tickets, the violators will find another place to park or will bike or walk.

Life Time Fitness' proposed improvements include a new child care center, spa and *healthy* cafe—no Pudge's. Life Time Fitness members who are also Highland Park residents and neighbors have waited long enough for these amenities, which already exist in all of Life Time Fitness' other east metro locations. The enhancements will keep the Life Time Fitness in Highland Park current and vibrant.

St. Paul Board of Zoning Appeals and City Council, please support our neighborhood and your constituents and approve the parking variance for Life Time Fitness. The Highland District Council supports the variance, and so do several hundred neighbors, residents and Life Time Fitness members in Ward 3.

For the record, I am 80 years old and walk to Life Time Fitness on most days and have never parked on Pinehurst to go to the gym.

Theresa McDonell
Highland Park

Oh, that spring were all we were missing this year

BY BILL STIEGER

I got a call from my editor the other day asking me if I'd like to write a story on the upcoming Grand Old Day. "You're kidding, right?" I said. "Whatever happened to spring?"

I'm sure I'm not the only person who feels cheated out of spring this year. It seems as if it has snowed or rained almost all the way through it. It's now the middle of May and I'm still so light-deprived that I'm blinking like a March bear.

Adding to the weather miseries are the money problems—the spike in gasoline, food and utility costs. And nobody in our government, Republican or Democrat, seems to be grabbing the wheel.

The escalating cost of living has put a vise grips on my summer hopes. I no longer fantasize about a July vacation to Lake Superior, much less to the Rocky Mountains. No, my hope is to be able to afford enough gas to take my girlfriend to a movie on weekends. Kemp's has replaced Ben and Jerry's as the drug of choice for my ritual Friday fat ingestion. And I hope the utility companies were properly stimulated by my \$600 federal government "stimulus" payment.

It's like Tom Waits said in the preface to

Folks are no longer filling their tanks to go to work and feed their families; they're working so that they can afford the gas to get back to work.

a song: "Yeah, I know. Things are tough all over..." And they are, especially for those of us in the plebscote.

Last week the daily newspaper reported that the town of Spring Valley, Wisconsin (population 1,100) sponsored a foodshelf giveaway. Some 1,200 souls showed up at the fire station for the canned goods and Froot Loops that were being handed out. According to the story, these folks were not your traditional underprivileged class, but working people who have been untethered by the march to \$4.00-a-gallon gasoline and a \$5.00-a-loaf bread. Reading about it brought to mind *The Grapes of Wrath*.

I've seen television news reports that many

American families are having to choose between buying gasoline and food. And the gas always takes precedence. These folks are no longer filling their tanks to go to work and feed their families; they're working so that they can afford the gas to get back to work.

But change is in the air. The trees are finally budding. This year's Minnesota Twins, despite the last two series, are terrific, especially for a team with all the newbies. "American Idol" just crowned its newest forgettable, and we're rid of that spectacle for the next eight months. And we have Grand Old Day, Taste of Minnesota and Highland Fest to look forward to.

This morning I took my lawn mower out of the garage for the first time this spring. I gassed it up, then nearly yanked my arm from its socket pulling the starter cord. Nothing. The guy at the hardware store told me I probably had some old gas in there left over from last season, so I drained the tank and refilled it. On the 10th pull, the engine finally fired up.

Just as the mower made its first pass across my yard, it began to rain. And for once, I was glad. I went inside and laid on the couch. That's when the phone rang with news about the coming of Grand Old Day.

That means it's almost summer. Can autumn be far behind?

the City Council. The business community has been sent the wrong message for too long.

*Marcelino Puente
West End*

Cut Thune some slack

To the editor:

Regarding all the criticism of St. Paul City Council member Dave Thune's remark (you know the remark I'm talking about), I'd like to confess that I have put my foot in my mouth a few times. Is no one else guilty of that? Dave has worked long and hard for the people of his district and the city. I think we can cut him a little slack.

*Dorothy Drake
Ramsey Hill*

The rush for light-rail money

Dear editor:

Will someone yell, "stop, think, reason!!!?" With a sense of seeing children rushing out to spend their birthday \$10 from grandma, I read your article, "Dual-track study or unwarranted delay," and Toni Carter's guest editorial, "Put light rail

INBOX ► 10

VILLAGER

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Maurice F. Mischke, 1920-1991

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8◀ INBOX

Fit for failure

To the editor:

Your story, "Fit to be tried? City debates no-frills health clubs" (*Villager*, May 7) shows us how St. Paul City Council member Dave Thune's vision is tired and fit for failure. As a member of Anytime Fitness, I have been pleased with all the precautions taken by the Highland Park health club and prefer to have an early-morning workout.

As a newly diagnosed diabetic, I have recently taken to the streets for daily walks. As I walk through the city, I see examples of Dave Thune's vision. Along the river I see the 70 acres of land that could have been the wonderful Bridges of St. Paul project, second only to the Mall of America. Sadly, Mr. Thune's vision prevailed and we have an eyesore along the river without generating new taxes or jobs for the city.

This primitive business climate is the reason downtown St. Paul can proudly claim one of the few unsuccessful McDonald's restaurants in the region. Downtown is also home to one of the few Walgreens that does not offer a 24-hour schedule. As for the heart-attack concern, more people have heart attacks removing the snow from their walks to avoid a fine from the city than they do working out at the gym. Where is the concern there?

I wish the mayor much luck in his effort to work this issue out with

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9◀ INBOX

back on track" (*Villager*, May 7), about how many chafe at not spending \$909 million on a project that at best is an unproven pipe dream. As your article noted, the mayors of St. Paul and Minneapolis can't wait to spend the pot of money right now.

When the current light-rail line is requiring additional operating revenue since it is meeting neither its ridership nor its revenue targets, should not fiscal discretion be in order and not a pell-mell run to the market with our children's credit cards? Since nothing has been fixed in concrete, should not the fiscal fathers of both cities reason that we might be able to resolve this perceived problem with fewer problems and less expense? Would not an elevated train resolve the projected traffic problems at the Capitol and U of M? Twenty years ago, the Twin Cities praised the concept of an elevated skyway system because the right-of-way was open and "free." Would not those arguments hold true today—to encourage people to travel above the snow and congestion? As a gallon of gasoline reaches \$4.00 or beyond, would not telecommuting save more money, energy and the environment with just a change in tax and insurance law to encourage workers not to travel to their cubicle environments each work day?

While the proponents of this, at best, early-20th-century mode of transport seek to make their weak case, ought not the parents of the children who will be stuck with the payment for this relic be allowed to ponder this pell-mell rush to spend their grandchildren's money?

*T. A. Gyorgak
Macalester-Groveland*

Where to reduce emissions

To the editor:

I was surprised to read the comments by former Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) engineer Peter Torkelson that emissions from burning refuse-derived fuel at Rock-Tenn's would not concern him nearly as much as what goes on around the paper recycling plant near I-94 and Vandalia Street (*Villager*, April 9). So I did a little investigation.

Courtesy of Greg Pratt at the MPCA, I got information from the state air toxins inventory for the five census tracts in and around Rock-Tenn. The annual emissions are indeed surprising: 10.5 tons of benzene, 4 tons of formaldehyde, 22 tons of sulfur dioxide and 17 tons of fine particulate matter—all from motor vehicles. Add to that 3 pounds of mercury and 12.5 pounds of other heavy metals. These figures echo a report to the Rock-Tenn Community Advisory panel that 90 percent of the criteria pollutants in a two-mile radius would be from mobile and other local sources, not Rock-Tenn.

If we are serious about air quality in our community, we have our work cut out for us. And it is not at all related to the fuel choice at Rock-Tenn. It is primarily about the cars and trucks we drive and how often we drive them.

The recent devastation in Myanmar is a potent reminder that the world's climate is changing and that cyclones and typhoons are becoming more frequent and more severe. Beyond offering relief, we should be expressing our humanitarianism by halting our adverse effects on our neighbors around the globe. We need to sharply limit our carbon emissions from fossil fuels, whether from cars or paper recycling facilities.

Minnesota ranks 26th in the U.S. in per capita carbon dioxide emissions by state. Perhaps we can work together to regain our cherished status as "above average."

*Douglas Allchin
Merriam Park*

For kids, regardless of income

To the editor:

Mamie Fabel (*Villager* Inbox, May 7) clearly misunderstood my guest editorial. My piece in the April 23 *Villager* was about all 3,500 children who are screened by the St. Paul Public Schools regardless of income, race or background and who are now receiving a book, library-card redeemer and information about the importance of reading with young children thanks to the Junior League of St. Paul. Is this the only answer to helping children get a strong academic start in life? Of course not. I did not suggest that. But it is a good step.

The statistics used in my guest editorial, which came from the Wilder Foundation, illustrate the fact that a significant number of children in St. Paul begin school with challenges. This makes it incumbent upon everyone in our community who cares about the future—parents, teachers, volunteers and others—to ensure that all of St. Paul's kids are ready to learn.

I volunteer in the St. Paul Public Schools. I have volunteered with women and children in shelters. I'm glad to know that Ms. Fabel has done the same; our community is stronger for it. How unfortunate, then, that she does not

acknowledge the value in an all-volunteer organization like the Junior League of St. Paul also helping all of St. Paul's children get off to the best academic start in life.

*Mary-Helen Mische
Macalester-Groveland*

Building a better St. Paul

To the editor:

Ms. Fabel's letter to the editor (*Villager*, May 7) sadly misunderstands the Junior League of St. Paul's program to give books to children who attend prekindergarten screening in St. Paul. It is not directed strictly at low-income families, as Ms. Fabel states. Rather, all children who are screened, attending both public and private schools in St. Paul, receive a book. The response from the children and families has been extremely positive. The children absolutely love receiving their very own book and many clamor to read it or have it read to them over and over again.

This simple action, giving a book to a child that he or she loves, encourages bonding between parents and children through reading, which emerging research shows can help reduce child abuse in our city. Child abuse knows no socioeconomic boundaries, and bonding between parents and children at every income level is important.

I absolutely agree with Ms. Fabel that smaller class sizes would be the most beneficial to all our children. Unfortunately, in these difficult economic times, this is not our reality. Whatever the Junior League, with its limited resources, can do to help our city's children be excited about reading makes us excited as well.

The women of the Junior League of St. Paul put thousands of hours of volunteer time into our community each year. I invite you to visit our website at www.jlsp.org to learn about the positive impact our work has had over the last 90 years and how we are currently working to build a better St. Paul.

*Debbie Lee, President
Junior League of St. Paul*

True democracy

To the editor:

I'm new to St. Paul and really have no idea where instant runoff voting (IRV) has been implemented, but I am familiar enough with it to know that Andy Cilek's letter to the editor is extremely misleading (*Villager*, May 7). I agree that electing a winner by plurality is perfectly acceptable, but it is certainly inferior to a majority winner elected through instant runoff voting, despite Cilek's attempt to lump IRV in with tyranny.

Quite obviously, the founders were referring to what happens after a person is elected, not to the election itself, when they referred to the rights of the minority. The minority has no right to elect anyone to democratic office. In fact, letting the minority choose the winner is the definition of tyranny.

So, by adding a second choice, one's vote does not fall by the wayside and actually matters in the final count. I have no idea why Cilek is concerned about whether your first or second choice counts. What matters is that your vote counts. And IRV makes sure your vote counts. If Cilek doesn't want his vote to count, he can stay home or leave his second choice blank.

I prefer a system where I can vote my conscience but still be assured that by voting my conscience I'm not enabling a candidate with whom I wholeheartedly disagree. That's real democracy, my friends.

*Kyle Dukart
Merriam Park*

Real condition, elusive diagnosis

To the editor:

I am always in pain and feel fatigued most of the time. Exercise can leave me feeling worse for days. I get chronic infections, too. The more I tried to cope with it on my own, the worse I felt. Several specialists were not sure what it was. Some of the many medications prescribed to me did not help or I had reactions to them. Finally, the right doctors diagnosed me with fibromyalgia and chronic fatigue immune deficiency syndrome. We are now working together to figure out the best treatment plan and specialists for me.

If you are a health professional, insurer, patient, family member or friend of a patient, please be aware and do not be afraid of what fibromyalgia and chronic fatigue immune deficiency syndrome are and are not. They are scientifically real—as real as the nose on your face.

If you think you have fibromyalgia or chronic fatigue immune deficiency syndrome, talk to your doctor. To learn more, visit www.fmaware.org and www.cfids.org.

*Kathleen Dlugosz
Merriam Park*

Ordinance would put more distance between sober houses

By JANE MCCLURE

The St. Paul Planning Commission has released the draft of an ordinance that would place distance requirements and other regulations on sober houses. The commission will hold a public hearing on the ordinance on June 13.

The Planning Commission needs to finalize its recommendations so the City Council can act before an interim ordinance banning new sober houses in St. Paul expires in September. The tight timeline means the council likely will hold its first reading on the ordinance in mid-June, even before the Planning Commission makes its recommendations on June 27.

A growing number of sober houses—buildings where people in recovery from chemical addiction live together—have opened throughout St. Paul in recent years, raising objections in some neighborhoods about an over-concentration of such facilities. However,

the residents are protected under the federal Fair Housing Act, so the city cannot regulate the houses in the same way it regulates group homes for mentally ill and mentally disabled people, battered women's shelters or correctional halfway houses.

Residents of several neighborhoods, including Merriam Park and the West End, have pushed hard for additional regulations. The operators of sober houses have argued that additional regulations would violate their residents' rights and would be challenged in court.

"No one disagrees with the basic mission of sober housing providing support and a safe place for residents," said West 7th/Fort Road Federation president Ken Peterson. However, he said, there are concerns about the condition, overcrowding and concentration of some of the houses.

The federation is one of several neighborhood groups asking that the city regulate

sober houses. Merriam Park residents have submitted a position paper on the issue following several months of research. The Union Park District Council is also weighing in with a recommendation. All of the recommendations are expected to be presented to the Planning Commission before the June 13 hearing.

Former Ward 4 City Council member Jay Benanav brought forward a resolution last year calling for the moratorium and study of sober houses. State law does not allow the moratorium to be in place for more than one year.

The Planning Commission's Neighborhood and Current Planning Committee passed a package of recommendations on sober houses on May 7. The regulations would not affect existing sober houses or those with four or fewer residents.

Of the regulations recommended by the Planning Commission, the most controversial may be the one that limits sober houses

with five or six residents from being located within 330 feet of another one. Sober houses with seven or more residents would have to be at least 660 feet apart.

Other key provisions of the proposed ordinance include the following:

- A total of 1.5 off-street parking spaces would be required for every four sober house residents. Sober house operators could enter into shared parking arrangements or submit an alternative parking plan to the city if they cannot meet the requirement.

- A conditional use permit would be required for a sober house with 17 or more residents.

- Sober house operators would have to answer questionnaires provided by the city's zoning administrator to specify the number of residents, bedrooms and other data. The maximum number of residents would be specified in the certificate of occupancy for each dwelling.



A visitor wheels through Fort Snelling National Cemetery. PHOTO BY ANNE BRANDRUD

Memorial Day events set for May 24-26

The following are a few of the local events being held during Memorial Day weekend:

The death of empire builder James J. Hill will be remembered with special tours from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, May 24, and 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, May 25, at the Hill House, 240 Summit Ave. Hill died on May 29, 1916, at the age of 77. Visitors will be able to hear about his career, patriotism, funeral and the history of Memorial Day. The cost is \$5.00-\$8.00. Call 651-297-2555.

Jewish War Veterans Posts 162 and 354 and their auxiliaries will sponsor four Memorial Day services on Monday, May 26: at 9:30 a.m. at the Chesed Shel Emes Cemetery on Christie Place and Kennard Street, at 10:15 a.m. at the Sons of Jacob Cemetery on Iowa Avenue south of Larpenteur Av-

enue, at 11:00 a.m. at Mount Zion Cemetery on Payne and Larpenteur avenues, and at 11:00 a.m. at the Temple of Aaron Cemetery on Dale Street and Larpenteur Avenue. Call Irv Rosenblum at 651-698-2919.

A Memorial Day tribute to Minnesota's soldiers past and present will be observed from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday, May 26, at Fort Snelling. Costumed staff will represent American military life over the last 225 years. There will be military drills, crafts, games and firing demonstrations. The cost is \$5.00-\$8.00. Veterans and their families will be admitted free. Call 612-726-1171.

A Memorial Day observance with a performance by the Seward Concert Band, an honor guard and a speaker will be held at 10:00 a.m. Monday, May 26, at the Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery, 2945 Cedar Ave. S. in Minneapolis. A "Cemetery Talk and Tour" will follow at 1:00 p.m. The cemetery was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2002 in large part due to the role that the people buried there played in Minnesota history. Call 612-624-1853.

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New Highgrove office to open June 2 with drive-through, extended hours

By Carolyn Will

Highgrove Community Federal Credit Union will open its new two-story building at the corner of West 7th Street and Montreal Avenue on Monday, June 2. The credit union's currently leased locations at 680 S. Cleveland Ave. and 742 Grand Ave. will close on May 30 and all of the employees will be moved to the new building.

"Our long-term members are very proud of this new building," said Pat Johnson, who has been a Highgrove employee for 31 years and its president since 2001. Highgrove has 8,500 members and Johnson anticipates the higher visibility of the new location and ample parking will attract even more business.

"For the first time, the new location also allows us to offer amenities of a typical bank," said Highgrove vice president Ann Machmeier. The new building has drive-up lanes and a drive-up ATM and will be open on Saturday mornings, all of them firsts for Highgrove.

The lobby of the 12,000-square-foot building features a gas fireplace surrounded by comfortable chairs and a large, plasma screen TV. There is a children's play area with DVD player, and floor-to-ceiling windows along the east side of the building. The second story includes a multi-purpose meeting room available for use by its members.

The credit union started in 1947 as the Ford Employees Federal Credit Union to serve workers of Ford Motor Company's Twin Cities Assembly Plant in Highland Park. With steady growth, the credit union expanded to include the employees of the Minneapo-

lis Parts Depot. In the 1960s, its name was changed to Twin Cities Auto Employees Federal Credit Union. Through its affiliation with United Auto Workers Local 879, select employee groups were added. In 1981 a Minneapolis branch was opened and in 1986 it moved to a larger location in Fridley.

Throughout its history, Ford Motor Company continued to be a large part of the credit union. However, after a downturn at Ford in 1992, it was changed to a neighborhood-based credit union for residents of Highland Park and Macalester-Groveland. The Highgrove Community Federal Credit Union name was selected to reflect the new charter and membership base.

In 1996 Highgrove amended its charter to include the Merriam Park, Lexington-Hamline, Snelling-Hamline and Summit Hill neighborhoods, and in 1997 it added Summit-University.

"We're still trying to change the perception that we're only for employees of a union," Johnson said. "We're a community credit union and once we knew Ford Motor Company was going away, our board decided to change the charter to open our membership to the entire city."

Last October, the national governing board approved an expanded charter that now includes anyone who lives, works, goes to school or worships in St. Paul.

A credit union operates much like a bank with one major difference: the members of the credit union own it and share in the profits. A credit union is a cooperative, not-for-profit financial institution controlled by a board of di-



Highgrove president Pat Johnson, left, and vice president Ann Machmeier show off the credit union's nearly completed new headquarters on West 7th Street and Montreal Avenue. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER



rectors. The board members are all volunteers and elected by the membership. The board hires the management team to run the credit union and sets the dividend and loan rates.

The new Highgrove is located on the former site of the Crosby Lake Inn and Las Margaritas restaurant. Those buildings were torn down in 2006.

Mississippi Market takes West 7th co-op down a notch

Second-story office space dropped from earlier plan

By Jane McClure

Mississippi Market's proposed new Victoria Park store will be smaller than originally announced. The St. Paul food co-op has decided to eliminate office space and to construct a one-story building instead of two stories on land at West 7th and Otto Avenue.

"We truly don't need a second floor," said general manager Gail Graham. "It's hard to justify the expense of a second floor for a project of this size."

The new building will replace the co-op's Highland Park store at Randolph and Fairview avenues. The co-op also operates a Summit-University store at Selby Avenue and Dale Street. Mississippi Market leases out some of the office space at its Selby-Dale store, but Graham said there does not seem to

be enough of a market for office space in the West End to justify the costs of building office space there.

The West 7th/Fort Road Federation reviewed plans for the Victoria Park store on May 12. The new 7,100-square-foot store will be located on a 1.2-acre site just south of the Sholom Community Alliance's new campus. Graham said the new design should match the adjacent Victoria Park buildings.

The building would be close to West 7th, with a door opening onto the sidewalk. There would also be an entrance to the rear parking lot. The store would be set back from the newly created Perlman Street to allow space for a small seating area. Graham said the store will be built to accommodate future expansion.

Sholom's adjacent senior citizen apartments were recently completed, and the rest of that campus is still under construction. Housing construction on the rest of the Victoria Park site has stalled due to a slow housing market.

Brighton Development Corporation and the West 7th federation began focusing on

retail development for the West 7th portion of the Victoria Park site several months ago. The site's master plan, which went through neighborhood, Planning Commission and City Council review, calls for mixed-use retail where Mississippi Market will be built, but with taller buildings. The co-op's decision to construct a one-story building will require amending the master plan. City officials began reviewing the changes last week.

Former federation president Diane Gerth noted that unless the new co-op is designed carefully, the one-story building could look out of place next to the Sholom campus. Sholom's tallest building is five stories, and the apartments near the co-op are three stories.

"That's a big drop-off and it changes the character of the area," Gerth said.

However, she acknowledged that today's soft real estate market may drive other changes in the master plan. "What we put together was almost in a different era, when a higher level of density was more attainable," she said.

According to Graham, the co-op will be

raising money in the months ahead to help finance the project, which has an estimated cost of \$5 million. Co-op officials plan to submit an application for the city of St. Paul's 2008 Neighborhood Sales Tax Revitalization funds. Other money will come from members' pledges and other private donations.

The final cost will depend in part on the extent of environmental cleanup needed on the former tank farm. Co-op officials hope to have more information about environmental conditions of the property as early as this week.

Mississippi Market has operated since 1979, including the last 17 years on Randolph Avenue. The building that houses the Highland Park store was sold by the co-op to St. Paul Academy five years ago to raise capital and to accommodate the school's plans for future expansion. Mississippi Market will continue to lease back the space until the new store is built. The co-op hopes to break ground this fall and have the new store finished by summer 2009.

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News Briefs

County grants new purchase agreement for downtown site

The Ramsey County Board has approved a new \$10 million purchase agreement with Opus Northwest for the former West Publishing complex and former Ramsey County jail on Kellogg Boulevard. As part of the agreement, Opus was given six more months to sign an anchor tenant for a \$200 million office, hotel and condominium project.

The county has housed several of its departments in the former West Publishing headquarters since the 1990s. Several departments have already moved out of the building, and the rest will move out over the next few months. County officials have said it was never their intent to keep the properties in public hands, and that they want the land redeveloped and returned to the property tax rolls.

Opus terminated its previous contract with the county earlier this spring after failing to land an anchor tenant. Opus senior vice president Tim Murnane said at the time that negotiations are ongoing with prospective tenants. A slow economy and soft real estate market have not helped the project.

Business groups and Mayor Chris Coleman had lobbied hard for the County Board to choose Opus as the developer. Last year Opus emerged from a field of eight potential developers.

CommonBond eyes Lexington site for housing, headquarters

A vacant Lexington-Hamline neighborhood nursing home could become supportive housing for single adults, and an adjacent house and clinic the new headquarters for nonprofit CommonBond Communities, if the site plan and a rezoning win city approval.

CommonBond's plan for the property on the northwest corner of Lexington Parkway and St. Anthony Avenue will be reviewed by the Union Park District Council's Land Use Committee at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 21, at 842 Raymond Ave.

CommonBond develops and operates low-income and supportive housing throughout the Twin Cities, including the Selby-Dayton Apartments in Summit-University and Skyline Towers at 1247 St. Anthony Ave. It recently acquired the former Lexington Health Care Center, a now-shuttered plastic surgery clinic and a house next to the clinic.

The Lexington nursing home closed more than three years ago. That building would be remodeled into apartments. The house and former clinic would be torn down to make way for a new 30,000-square-foot corporate headquarters for CommonBond, connected to the former nursing home by a walkway. The site would be rezoned from residential and commercial to traditional neighborhoods, which allows for a mix of uses and a more dense development.

New bike lanes may be in loop for Jefferson, Highland Pkwy.

Proposals to stripe bicycle lanes on Highland Parkway and Jefferson Avenue will be submitted for federal funding through the nonprofit Transit for Livable Communities, the St. Paul City Council decided on May 7.

The cost of the two projects has not been determined. If federal funds are received, more detailed planning will follow, including work with abutting property owners on how and where the bike lanes should be placed.

The Jefferson Avenue bike lanes would connect the existing bike lane on Mississippi River Boulevard with bike trails along the I-35E Parkway and Shepard Road. Bike lanes on Jefferson and better bike connections are goals in the district plans for both the West 7th/Fort Road Federation and the Macalester-Groveland Community Council.



Opus Northwest's vision for the riverfront.

The bike lanes on Highland Parkway would also connect to Mississippi River Boulevard and to the bike lanes on Fairview Avenue.

Union Park District Council supports split of Target land

Target Corporation's proposal to subdivide the property north of its new Midway SuperTarget won the support of the Union Park District Council on May 7. However, the district council is asking that any new structures along University Avenue follow transit-oriented development guidelines, as Target officials promised when its SuperTarget was approved two years ago. The council is also asking the city to extend Central Corridor zoning overlay restrictions to include the area around a proposed light-rail station at Hamline Avenue.

Hamline is not one of the light-rail station areas that are currently being studied by a St. Paul Planning Commission task force. However, the Hamline area as well as the proposed Victoria and Western Avenue station areas could be studied next year.

Target wants to split the 15.7 acres it owns between University, Syndicate, Hamline and St. Anthony avenues into three parcels—two fronting on University and another on St. Anthony that includes the SuperTarget and its parking lot. The two parcels on University would not include the building at Hamline that houses a video store and travel agency. All of the properties are zoned commercial. They would be developed for retail, although no specific businesses have been identified by Target. A proposal to open a hotel on one of the parcels fell through last year.

West 7th Market's business licenses approved by city

A once-problematic West 7th Street convenience store will be allowed to remain open under new ownership if certain conditions are met. On May 7 the St. Paul City Council unanimously approved business licenses for the West 7th Market, 675 W. 7th St. However, the business' management must pick up litter in the immediate vicinity at least once a day.

The business is licensed for a grocery store, restricted food service and cigarette and tobacco sales. Gasoline may also be sold once a gas station license is issued, the City Council ruled.

A legislative hearing was held on the West 7th Market's license request in April after city officials received letters from two neighbors expressing concern about problems under the previous owner and asking that the city ensure that those problems did not reoccur.

The City Council ordered the convenience store and its gas pumps shut down earlier this year following repeated license violations by the previous owner. He had been cited for eight license violations in two months, and was forced to close twice by the police on the same day.

Ahmed Albouali, who took over the convenience store in mid-February, agreed to the license conditions. The West 7th/Fort Road Federation recommended that the licenses be approved.

News Briefs were compiled by Jane McClure.



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6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

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School Notes

St. Kate's to become a university

The College of St. Catherine will become a university in June 2009 as the result of a unanimous vote by its board of trustees on May 5. What exactly the new name of the 103-year-old institution will be—St. Catherine University, the University of St. Catherine or some other variation—is expected to be presented to the board in August along with a plan for implementing the change.

The decision comes after months of research undertaken by a 17-member task team appointed by St. Catherine president Sister Andrea Lee last August. The task force and the board concluded that changing the name to a university would more accurately reflect the comprehensive nature of St. Catherine's and position the institu-

tion for national pre-eminence.

"The name change will enhance the college's standing as the largest, most comprehensive college for women in the United States," Lee said. "This is a historic and important step in laying groundwork for the future while strengthening our century-old tradition as a world leader in educating women to lead and influence."

St. Catherine has 5,238 students on its two campuses in St. Paul and Minneapolis. Founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet in 1905, it offers traditional, four-year liberal arts programs as well as weekend baccalaureate, associate, certificate and graduate degrees in the liberal arts, health care and other professional fields.

Eugene and Mary Frey, who have a long history of supporting the University of St. Thomas, have made a \$10 million gift to the university's Opening Doors capital campaign. The money will be used to create an endowment to provide scholarships to minority, first-generation immigrant and physically disabled students. It is the largest single gift for a scholarship fund in the school's history. Eugene Frey attended St. Thomas following his graduation from Cretin High School in 1948. He later transferred to the University of Minnesota, where he graduated in 1953. He joined Waldorf Paper Products the following year and stayed for more than four decades, leading a management buyout of the firm in 1985. He eventually bought out his partners and ran the company until selling it in 1997. The Frey name is on the university's library and its science and engineering center. The couple also were founders of St. Thomas' Minneapolis campus and contributed to the establishment of the law school, where the moot courtroom bears their name.

The St. Thomas Academy Fathers' Club presented the following awards at the annual Father-Son Banquet on May 6: the Archbishop John R. Roach Volunteer Award to Joe Jansen, class of '83; the Michael Rongitsch Faculty Award to marksmanship instructor and rifle team coach Paul Preblich; and the Nicholas Masciopinto Leadership Award to STA junior Ryan Robinson.

Groveland Park Elementary School, 2045 St. Clair Ave., will hold its year-end picnic and concert from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Thursday, May 29. The picnic will feature music and inflatable bounce houses on the school's front lawn. Current and prospective families are invited to bring a picnic dinner and blanket.

Kari Rise, a social studies teacher at Highland Park Senior High School, has received a World in Two Cities grant from the Education Minnesota Foundation for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. The grant will allow her students to study Tibetan culture and do geographical field work about the Tibetan population in the Twin Cities. She also received a Fund for Teachers grant supported by the St. Paul Foundation that will allow her to travel to Moscow and Volgograd this summer to study criminal justice.

Joseph Keeley, president and CEO of College Nannies & Tutors Development, has been honored with a 2008 BestPrep Service Award for his efforts to serve teachers and students in Minnesota. College Nannies & Tutors was started in 2000 by Keeley, a University of St. Thomas business student at the time. The company, which is now in 13 states, has seven offices in Minnesota, including a St. Paul center on Snelling and Randolph avenues.

St. Joseph's School of Music, 451 N. Syndicate St., has added four faculty members and several programs for students at all



Winners of the Kids Create Art campaign sponsored by Chocolat Céleste are, from left, Audrey Dombro from Highland Catholic, Sarah Krieger from Holy Spirit and Janie Munson from St. Mark's. Not pictured is Abby Reeder from Nativity. Their drawings will be featured on a new line of bonbons at the University Avenue chocolatier, with a portion of the sales going to the schools. PHOTOS BY ANNE BRANDRUD



levels. The new teachers are Sarah Dye, jazz and classical piano; Benjamin Skroch, low brass; Rebecca Thoennes, Suzuki piano; and Jennifer Kennard, flute, theory and music history. Among the new programs are weekday morning instruction in piano and violin, music appreciation for adults, jazz piano and new classes in tuba, trombone and euphonium. Call 651-690-4364.

School District 197 Community Education is offering the Grand Rapids Academic Summer Program (GRASP) for students in grades K-8. The nine-week correspondence program focuses on reading and math. Students receive a packet of materials containing all nine lessons. Once completed, the lessons are scored and returned to families. The cost is \$32 for one subject of \$52 for both reading and math. Call 651-681-2397.

Laura Jeffrey Academy, a girl-focused charter middle school that is set to open this fall at 1550 Summit Ave., has received a \$50,000 grant from the Medtronic Foundation. The money is earmarked for a science, engineering and math lab, according to education director Maggie Knutson. The year-round school aims to close the achievement gap for girls in those subjects. Visit www.laurajeffreyacademy.org.

Hiawatha Community School, 4201 42nd Ave. S., Minneapolis, will hold a spring fiesta from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 5. The evening will feature games and prizes, food, music, piñatas, pony rides, moonwalk, Tupperware sales, silent auction and raffle. Call 612-668-4610.

Farm in the City will hold the 13th summer youth program, Harvesting the Imagination, at Concordia University this year due to the closing of the Dunning Recreation Center. However, it will continue to use the Dunning garden and playground for outdoor activities. Harvesting the Imagination enables children ages 7-12 to explore horticulture, environmental science, nutrition and the arts. It will run from June 16 through July 25, with a pair of two-week specialty sessions running concurrently from July 28 through August 8. Visit www.farminthecity.org.

AFS, an international exchange program, needs local families to host high school students for an academic year or six months. Students arrive in August. Volunteer liaisons also are needed to work locally with families and their hosted students. Visit www.afs.org/usa/hostfamily or call 1-800-AFS-INFO.

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District 197 officials think Sibley High students may benefit from extra hour of sleep in morning

Board considers changing start times for all students

By Kevin Driscoll

Armed with an extensive body of research showing that high school students do better academically when school starts later in the morning and that elementary students have more energy early in the morning, School District 197 is considering a controversial plan to change school starting times.

Under the plan submitted by superintendent Jay Haugen, Henry Sibley High School's day would be moved from 8:35 a.m. to 3:20 p.m. rather than the current 7:35 a.m. to 2:25 p.m. All five of the district's elementary schools would begin at 7:45 a.m. and let out at 2:15 p.m., giving the children 15 more minutes of school each day. Friendly Hills and Heritage middle schools, which are currently in session from 7:45 a.m. to 2:20 p.m., would shift to 8:40 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

"Federal and state education departments, as well as the American and Minnesota Medical Associations, have been asking school districts to make this change for at least the past 15 years," Haugen said.

A 1998 College of Holy Cross/Brown University Medical School study of more than 3,000 students and a 2007 University of Minnesota study of more than 7,000 students showed that when high schools switched to later starting times, students "reported getting more sleep on school nights, being less sleepy during the day, getting slightly higher grades and experiencing fewer depressive feelings and behaviors," according to the American Psychological Association.

A final decision on the District 197 proposal could be made by the School Board as early as May 19, after this edition of the *Villager* went to press.

Around 100 parents turned out on May 5 for a public hearing on the proposed changes. Others submitted e-mails solicited through the District 197 website (www.isd197.org). The sentiment was running about 50 percent in favor and 50 percent with "strong concerns," Haugen said.

Christine LaBounty, the mother of a Henry Sibley student, a Friendly Hills student and a future Pilot Knob student, said, "I fully endorse the proposed changes. Bravo to the district for taking these studies seriously."

Shannon Bailey, the coordinator of adolescent health for the Dakota County Public Health Department, also applauded the school district "for recognizing the impact adjusting school starting times will have on adolescent health and learning. The evidence

is clear that this policy is in the best interest of students and their academic achievement."

However, others object to the change because of the effect it would have on family and extracurricular activities. "If you start school later, then the after-school activities start later, which gets kids home later, which forces them to stay up later completing homework," said David Chapman, a parent and psychologist. "The net gain in sleep just isn't there. All my kids participate in after-school activities, and even with the early start this year they don't get home some nights until 8:30 or 9:00—way too late to start thinking about homework."

"Do you really want elementary school kids standing in the winter at bus stops at 7:00 a.m. in the dark?" asked parent Jennifer Haas. "Will the (elementary schools) become a day care for four hours every afternoon? Who will pay for the after-school programming?"

"My kids often ride to school with their dad," Haas said. "It's 15 minutes they all look forward to. But my husband needs to be to work by 7:45 a.m., so that time would end. It would also impact kids who put in the extra effort to be involved in multiple activities and get good grades. Why do we always end up focusing on the kids who struggle?"

"The need to change school hours is directly related to our district's first two goals, which deal with achievement for every student and individual excellence," Haugen said. "The change would be revenue-neutral. We basically just flipped the bus schedules of elementary and high school kids."

Planning to make the shift in school schedules successful will continue with the School Board's blessing, Haugen said. "All current after-school programs would continue," he said. "Current breakfast programs would continue. Our School Age Care program would continue to be offered before and after school at all of our elementary schools, and we're confident we can start a before-school program in our middle schools to accommodate the new hours."

Sports schedules are already changing in the high schools, Haugen added, with two other members of the Classic Suburban Conference, North and Tartan, already beginning school at a later time.

As to the resulting changes in family schedules, Haugen argued that if the situation were reversed and high schools were moving to earlier starting times and elementary schools to later starting times, "there would really be an uproar."

"The real problem with that scenario is that we'd have no educational basis to make the change," Haugen said. "We do, however, have strong educational reasons to change to earlier starting times for elementary schools and later starting times for secondary schools."

Corrections

• Henry Hastings Sibley and his family did not move to St. Paul's Lowertown neighborhood until late 1862 or early 1863, according to West End historian Rhoda R. Gilman's book *Henry Hastings Sibley: Divided Heart*. Although Sibley boarded at the Fuller House in St. Paul during his term as Minnesota's first governor following statehood in 1858, he kept his residence in Mendota, adding an office to the home so that political associates could enter without disturbing his family, according to Wes Stone, an interpreter at the Sibley House Historic Site, one of the oldest stone buildings in Minnesota still in its original location.

• Contrary to a story on charitable gambling in the April 23 *Villager*, the Highland Business Association's budget for its 2007 Highland Fest totaled \$125,000.



Minnesota's soon-to-be governor Henry Hastings Sibley (right) in 1857 with cronies Joe Rolette (center) and possibly Franklin Steele. PHOTO FROM MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Crime Report

The following police calls were gathered from recent Community Watch reports provided by the Ramsey County Sheriff's Department. For more information, visit www.co.ramsey.mn.us/sheriff/communitywatch.htm.

Highland Park

Robbery—A woman was robbed outside her home on the 1300 block of Eleanor Avenue at about 1:00 a.m. Tuesday, April 22. The suspect stopped her as she was entering her home and took cash from her purse.

—TCF Bank, 2163 Ford Pkwy., was robbed at about 7:00 p.m. Thursday, April 24.

—A man was robbed at knifepoint at West 7th Street and Maynard Drive at about 12:30 a.m. Saturday, May 3. Another man was robbed and cut with a knife on the 1300 block of West Maynard Drive between 3:30 and 4:30 that same morning.

Burglary—Cecil's Deli, 651 S. Cleveland Ave., was burglarized between 9:00 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday, May 1-2. Entry had been gained by force through the back door, and the phone lines leading into the building had been cut.

Theft—A veteran stole an American flag from Highland Park Senior High School at about 10:30 a.m. Friday, April 18, because he was upset by the flag's condition.

A total of \$1,770 in cash was recovered in a vehicle at Hertz Rental on Davern Street and Shepard Road at about 5:30 p.m. Monday, April 21.

Assault—An assault occurred outside the Dukem Ethiopian restaurant on West 7th and Davern streets at about 2:00 a.m. Saturday, May 3. The victim suffered a broken jaw and a broken arm.

Lexington-Hamline

Robbery—A man and a juvenile were robbed at Marshall Avenue and Syndicate Street at about 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 7.

Theft—Copper pipes were stolen from the basement of a building on the 1200 block of Dayton Avenue at about 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, May 6. The suspects were driving an Isuzu Rodeo with Illinois license plates.

Macalester-Groveland

Robbery—A male juvenile was robbed at Hamline and Jefferson avenues at about 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 23. The robber hit the victim in the face and stole his iPod.

Theft—A car was stolen at Macalester College between noon Sunday and 10:00 a.m. Monday, April 20-21.

—A 35-year-old West End man was stopped for a loud muffler at Jefferson Avenue and Warwick Street after he pulled out of the parking lot of Precision Tune at about 2:00 a.m. Tuesday, April 29. Officers saw a catalytic converter in the back seat and arrested the man for felony theft and possession of burglary tools and cocaine. His 44-year-old female passenger was also arrested for theft and drug possession.

Burglary—Games, DVDs and an Xbox 360 video game console were stolen from a home on the 1400 block of Summit Avenue between 6:00 p.m. Saturday and 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 26-29.

—A home on the 1900 block of Princeton Avenue was broken into between 8:00 p.m. Friday and 2:00 p.m. Saturday, May 2-3.

—Caribou Coffee on Randolph and Fairview avenues was broken into between 9:30 p.m. Thursday and 4:30 a.m. Friday, May 1-2. More than \$1,500 was taken from the safe.

Assault—Police responded to a report of two men fighting in the street at Jefferson and Cretin avenues at about 5:30 a.m. Sunday, May 4. One man was transported to Regions Hospital. The other was arrested for aggravated assault with a dangerous weapon.

Sex crime—A window peeper was reported on the 1700 block of Grand Avenue at about 11:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 7. The suspect was described as 40 years old with brown hair and a stubby beard.

Merriam Park

Burglary—An attempted burglary was reported on the 400 block of Fry Street between 2:00 and 11:30 p.m. Thursday, April 24. The glass on the rear door and in a rear window had been shattered, but no entry was gained.

—A wallet, driver's license and Social Security card were taken from an apartment that had been broken into on the 400 block of North Fairview Avenue between 7:00 a.m. and noon Monday, April 28.

—An apartment building on the 1600 block of Selby Avenue was broken into between noon Monday and 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, April 21-22. A storage unit was also entered.

Theft—A theft from auto occurred at the Day's Inn, 1964 University Ave., at about 11:30 p.m. Monday, April 28. Two suspects

were seen fleeing in a vehicle.

—Checks were stolen from a house on the 400 block of Lynnhurst Avenue between April 5-29.

—Brass pipes were stolen from rest rooms at the University of St. Thomas between noon Wednesday and noon Saturday, April 23-26.

—A Jamis road bicycle was stolen at the University of St. Thomas between 10:00 p.m. Saturday and 8:00 a.m. Sunday, April 26-27.

Weapons—A woman on the 1600 block of Dayton Avenue reported that someone had fired a shot through her bedroom window between 12:30 and 7:00 a.m. Monday, May 5.

Miscellaneous—Police cited 76 people for underage drinking on the 2100 block of Temple Court just after midnight on Saturday, April 26. The house was being rented by University of St. Thomas students.

Snelling-Hamline

Burglary—A man was arrested for burglary on the 1400 block of Carroll Avenue at about 5:00 a.m. Wednesday, April 30. Entry was forced through the front door. The homeowner shot at the burglar and held him at gunpoint until police arrived.

Summit Hill

Burglary—A laptop computer was taken from a home on the 700 block of Osceola Avenue between noon and midnight Saturday, April 19.

—A witness interrupted a burglary in process at Abbeycare, 1148 Grand Ave., at about 8:30 p.m. Friday, April 18. Ten Target gift cards and \$35 in cash were taken, and several computers and other equipment were stacked up at the door. The suspects fled down the alley.

—Two apartments were broken into on Summit Court between 2:30 and 4:00 p.m. Thursday, May 1. An attempt was also made to break into three other units. A possible suspect was reported as a 25-year-old man wearing a dark hooded sweatshirt and carrying a yellow backpack.

—Two condos on the 500 block of Summit Avenue were broken into between midnight and 6:00 p.m. Thursday, May 1. An attempted burglary of another condo in the same building occurred between midnight and 5:30 p.m. Monday, May 5.

Theft—An ATM machine was stolen from Highgrove Community Federal Credit Union, 742 Grand Ave., at about 5:00 a.m.

Friday, April 18.

—A man was arrested at Avon Street and Summit Avenue for possession of burglary tools at about 2:30 a.m. Saturday, April 19. He admitted to using the tools to steal bicycles, two of which were recovered.

Summit-University

Burglary—A computer, TV and other electronic equipment were stolen from a home on the 1000 block of Marshall Avenue between 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Friday, April 18.

Theft—Groceries that had been delivered were stolen from a house on the 900 block of Dayton Avenue at about 3:30 p.m. Thursday, May 1.

Assault—Police responded to a domestic assault on the 1100 block of Central Avenue at about 12:30 a.m. Thursday, April 17. The man tried to strangle his girlfriend and hit her with a garbage can when she tried to leave. The woman was taken to United Hospital. The man fled before police arrived.

Weapons—Shots were fired through an apartment wall on the 100 block of North Milton Street at about 4:00 a.m. Saturday, April 19.

West End

Robbery—A purse snatching took place at West 7th Street and Western Avenue at about 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 2. A woman was walking to the bus stop when the suspect rode up behind her on a bicycle, and grabbed her purse.

Burglary—Twin City Flowers, 210 Grand Ave., was broken into between 5:00 p.m. Saturday and 5:30 a.m. Sunday, April 19-20.

—A home on the 1100 block of West 7th Street was broken into between 11:00 a.m. Sunday and 4:00 p.m. Monday, April 27-28. Entry was gained through a rear window.

—A home on the 300 block of Daly Street was burglarized between 8:00 p.m. Thursday and 8:00 a.m. Friday, May 1-2.

Assault—Police arrested two 27-year-old Woodbury men for assault and cited another 27-year-old Woodbury man for obstruction following a fight outside Tom Reid's Hockey City Pub, 258 W. 7th St., at about 2:00 a.m. Saturday, April 12. A 26-year-old Minneapolis man was arrested for terroristic threats and a 32-year-old St. Paul man was arrested for aggravated assault following another fight at the bar around 10:30 p.m. Friday, April 18.



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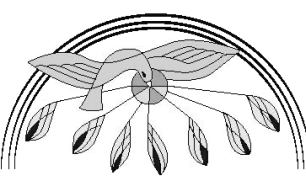
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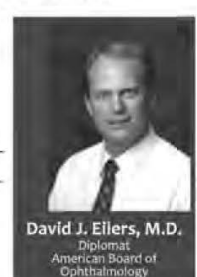
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The first phase of construction at the Mendota Plaza Shopping Center would include a new Walgreens near Dodd Road and new restaurant and retail space near Highway 110.

Mendota Plaza plans delayed as council generates list of concerns

By Kevin Driscoll

After meeting with the Mendota Heights City Council on May 6, representatives of Paster Enterprises have been left with still more questions to answer about the company's two-phase, \$40 million plan to upgrade the Mendota Plaza Shopping Center at Highway 110 and Dodd Road.

"They gave us a long list of questions and issues about the project that they didn't feel had been addressed," said Howard Paster, president of the St. Paul-based company, which owns and manages 11 Twin Cities shopping centers.

The company is not asking for any public financing, but is seeking zoning changes and parking variances for the makeover. Last August, the company presented the City Council with a conceptual plan for the redevelopment, but was told it needed to go back to the drawing board. Council members Ultan Duggan and Jack Vitelli agreed to work with Paster on the redesign.

"We sat down with them at two meetings last October," Vitelli said, "and now, after the May 6 meeting, I kind of feel like those were wasted afternoons because they didn't address a lot of the things we brought up."

Still, Vitelli said he feels confident that they can come to an agreement. Toward that end, city administrator Jim Danielson has sent Paster a list of 25 issues of concern generated by council members at the meeting.

"One essential item missing from (Paster's) presentation is a developer's agreement with the city of Mendota Heights," Vitelli said. "That's what we have with Village at Mendota Heights developer Ross Fefercorn and RMF Entities. A developer's agreement ties the builder down to what's promised for future development."

Vitelli said a second major issue is the lack of formal endorsements from the McDonald's restaurant and BP gas station on the site, as well as the Dodge Nature Center whose land abuts the property to the east.

Council members also want more information about plans to build a 14,000-square-foot building for a new Walgreens as part of the first phase of the development. About a quarter of the mall where Snyder's is located will be demolished to make way for the building. Snyder's is planning to move across Highway 110 to the Village at Mendota Heights.

Council members want to be sure that Walgreens approves of the materials Paster plans to use in construction. They also want to know Walgreens' intended hours of operation

and plans for signage facing Dodd Road.

Four other businesses on the west end of the 55,278-square-foot strip mall, which dates from 1971, will need to relocate during the first phase of construction. Phase 1 is expected to cost \$12 million and would also include two new buildings on the northeast corner of the 21.7-acre lot. One building would house a restaurant and the other several small retailers. The mall's exterior would get a face-lift, new parking spaces and a pond would be added, and a new entrance would be built off Highway 110.

Paster said Walgreens is the only business committed to move into any of the new structures as part of phase 1, which he hopes to have completed by spring 2009. Phase 2 could be up to three years down the road. As currently designed, it calls for a possible four-story senior housing building, a child-care building, a two- or three-story office building and two more office/retail buildings.

Another major issue for council members is the overall appearance of the new complex. "The new design still has three different appearances instead of one consistent look," Vitelli said. "The buildings on the eastern and southern parts of the site would still be concrete block and even painted they would look like that."

Council members also want more details regarding landscaping, the relocation of sanitary sewers and water features. Vitelli said Dakota County's Environmental Management Department will have to weigh in on the creek that runs through the property. "Both county staff and the City Council want to see it made into an amenity of some sort as part of the pond they propose for the new restaurant," he said.

Vitelli said Dakota County's Community Development Agency also wants a say, since the proposal would have to fit into its comprehensive plan as it relates to senior housing.

Yet another concern centers on traffic issues. Vitelli said Paster will have to obtain approval from the state on new access, setback and visibility issues from Highway 110, as well as general traffic flow along Dodd Road. Council members want an independent traffic study conducted and a say in who is chosen to do it.

"There's no doubt we have some work to do," Paster said. "They asked us to take our answers back to the Planning Commission (in June) and then to the City Council (in July). We may need to move that back a month. We're still working with the city on this, but I know we can get something done."

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Senior News

Stuart Management Corporation has opened the Alton Memory Care & Care Suites, a new residence for those who have Alzheimer's disease or similar forms of memory loss, at 1306 Alton St. in the Shepard Park area of Highland Park. An open house will be held there from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 11. The first phase of the Alton provides rooms for 32 older adults with memory loss and eight older adults who have need of physical care and require either a short-or long-term home. For more information, call 651-699-2480 or visit www.TheAlton.com.

A **senior driver safety class** will be offered by AARP from 8:00 a.m. to noon Thursday June 5, at Ford Motor Company's Twin Cities Assembly Plant. The class is for those who have taken the full eight-hour course and qualify for a refresher every three years. The cost is \$10. Call 651-695-3502.

The **AARP will sponsor** a discussion on how political candidates stand on health and fi-

nancial security issues that affect retired people from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, May 22, at the Thompson Park Activity Center, 1200 Stassen Lane, West St. Paul. Refreshments will be served. To register, call 651-450-8291.

The **West 7th Community Center**, 265 Oneida St., will offer the following activities for seniors in the coming weeks: a car clinic with Drew Tilsen from Magic's Auto at 1:00 p.m. Thursday, June 5 (\$5.00 donation, register by May 27); and an introduction to gentle yoga at 5:00 p.m. on eight Thursdays, June 19-August 14 (\$30, register by June 12 and bring a mat). Call 651-298-5493, ext. 204.

The **Wellington Assisted Living**, 2235 Rockwood Ave., is offering the following activities: a program on depression in older adults at 8:00 a.m. Thursday, May 29 (a continental breakfast will be served); and a Memorial Center blood drive and complimentary hot breakfast buffet from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Sunday, June 8. Call 651-699-2664.

Names in the News

Dr. Bernie Bomberg of Snelling Avenue Dental was recently presented with a lifetime achievement award by the Mid-America Music Hall of Fame. Bomberg, who plays guitar and keyboards for the Surf Dawgs, was born and raised in Highland Park. He began playing surf music when he was a teenager, but stopped when he enrolled at the University of Minnesota, got his degree and began practicing dentistry. He got back into music in the late '90s and now describes his lifestyle as a dentist by day and a rock 'n' roller by night.

Paul Godfrey, a Macalester-Groveland resi-

dent and lawyer with Votel, McEachron & Godfrey, has been elected vice president of the Ramsey County Bar Association. He will lead the organization as president in 2010-2011. Godfrey is an in-house attorney for Illinois Farmers Insurance Company. His practice involves the defense of personal injury lawsuits.

Hannah Huberty of Mendota Heights has been named the Minnesota Licensed Family Child Care Association Provider of the Year. Huberty has been a licensed early childhood professional for 21 years and is the owner of Hug-a-Bear Child Care.



Betty Tuttle Wiedemeier models the gown that she and her daughter Jeanette (shown adjusting the train) both wore for their weddings. Wiedemeier was one of 37 women who showed off 100 years of bridal fashions on May 10 as part of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church's year-long centennial celebration. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Low Vision Doctors Help Legally Blind to See

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

By **Elena Lombardi**
Freelance Writer

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

and gives us sharp images.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

~ Advertisement



RICHARD DOUGHERTY WITH TELESCOPE GLASSES

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

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

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

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

District Council News

Highland Park

www.highlanddistrictcouncil.org • 651-695-4005

Board officers named—The Highland District Council's board of directors has elected the following officers for 2008: president Bill Klein, vice president Joe McCabe, treasurer Tim Puffer, secretary Steve Lentsch, and alternates Layne Carver and Ted Davis.

Chicken policy—Because of the growing interest from some St. Paul residents for raising chickens in their backyards, the city is currently revisiting its policy on keeping the animals. A meeting to discuss the chicken policy will be held at 6:00 p.m. Thursday, May 22, in the office of the Hamline-Midway Coalition, 1564 Lafond Ave.

Highland Parkway bike path—A bike path is being proposed for Highland Parkway that would extend down Edgumbe Road and to other parts of the city. The St. Paul City Council recently adopted a resolution authorizing the St. Paul Department of Public Works to determine whether money is available for the project.

National Night Out kickoff—St. Paul will hold a citywide celebration on Thursday, May 29, to help people begin planning for this summer's 25th annual National Night Out. The celebration will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Como Park picnic pavilion across from the pool. Residents will be able to register their blocks' National Night Out event, pick up permit requests for closing streets and learn how to request visits by police and fire department personnel. Free hot dogs, potato chips and beverages will be provided while supplies last, or people may bring their own picnic suppers. For information, call Pam McCreary at 651-266-5455.

Crime report/electronic news—Highland residents may sign up to receive weekly crime report information or a weekly update on district council news by e-mailing Kathy Carruth at hdc@visi.com.

Meeting dates—Executive Committee, 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 3, Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy.; and board of directors, 7:00 p.m. Thursday, June 5, Hillcrest.

Macalester-Groveland

www.macgrove.org • 651-695-4000

Grand Old Day—The following changes are in store for the 35th annual Grand Old Day that will affect streets in the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood on Sunday, June 1:

- The Grand Old Day parade will start at Fairview Avenue and travel east to Dale Street. Parade units will line up on Grand between Cleveland and Fairview avenues, as well as on Prior Avenue and Howell Street near Grand. Those streets will be closed to traffic from 8:00 a.m. to noon and there will be no parking between 6:00 a.m. and noon.

- The On the Go 8K run will start and end at St. Albans Street, with a loop at Fairview Avenue. There will be no parking on the north side of Lincoln Avenue between Fairview and Wheeler Street and both sides of Wheeler between Grand and Lincoln from 6:00 to 9:00 a.m. No-parking signs will be posted two days prior to Grand Old Day.

For information, call the Grand Avenue Business Association at 651-699-0029 or visit www.grandave.com. On June 1, call 612-250-9699.

MacGrove Moves—The third annual Mac-Grove Moves has begun. Participants who walk or bike around the neighborhood will be eligible to enter a drawing for prizes from local businesses. To pick up a registration form, stop by the Edgumbe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St., or download one from the district council's website. As part of Mac-Grove Moves, every Saturday in May a golden shoe will be hidden in spots where walkers, bikers and runners can see it in Macalester-Groveland. Those who find one of the shoes can bring it to the council's office and win a pair of shoes donated by Run N Fun, 868 Randolph Ave.

National Night Out kickoff picnic—The city of St. Paul

will hold a celebration from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 29, at the Como Park Pavilion to assist people in planning for this summer's National Night Out. The celebration will include appearances by Mayor Chris Coleman, Police Chief John Harrington, the St. Paul Police Canine Unit, and St. Paul Fire Department personnel. The Macalester-Groveland band the Fair Young Maidens will perform. All the forms needed for National Night Out will be available and there will be free food, balloons and face-painting. For more information, contact Marie Nelson at marie@macgrove.org.

Happy surfing—The community council has launched a new and improved website at www.macgrove.org. To comment on what to include on the website in the future, e-mail mgcc@macgrove.org.

Farm in the City—"Harvesting the Imagination," Farm in the City's summer program for children ages 7-12, will run from June 16 to July 25, with specialty sessions for children ages 10-12 from July 28 to August 8. The program integrates horticulture, environmental science, nutrition and the arts. Visit www.farminthecity.org.

Teen Battle of the Bands—Gerald, Post Mercury, The Fair Young Maidens, The Switch, Tonight: Robots and Finding Cadence made the final cut for the Teen Battle of the Bands that will take place during Grand Old Day on June 1. The bands will begin their musical battle at noon in the parking lot at Grand Avenue and Macalester Street. To lend a hand with running the event, contact Marie Nelson at 651-695-4000 or marie@macgrove.org.

Mark your calendar—Alley Garden Award flag assembly, 6:00 p.m. Thursday, May 22, Edgumbe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St.

Summit Hill

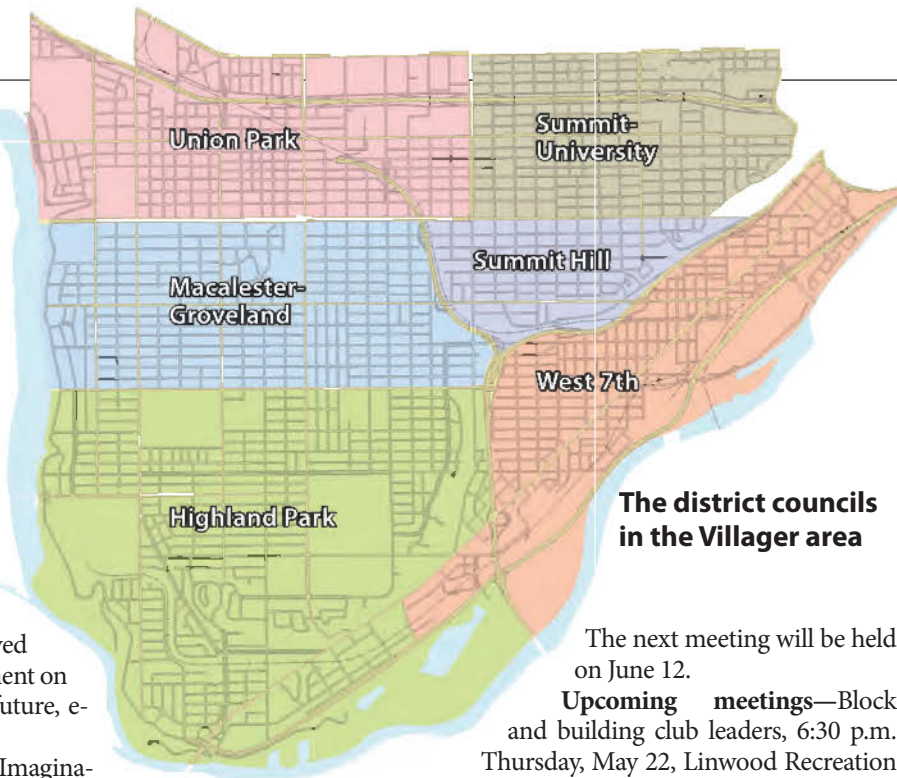
www.summithillassociation.org • 651-222-1222

Grand Old Day parade—The Summit Hill Association will once again have a unit in the Grand Old Day parade on Sunday, June 1. The theme for this year's event is "Flashback to the '70s." Summit Hill residents are invited to dig out their old leisure suits and platform shoes, decorate their kids' bikes, wagons and pets, and join in the fun by parading behind the SHA's banner. Contact the SHA office for more information.

History of Summit Hill—Volunteer writers, researchers and editors are currently working on a Summit Hill history booklet, which is expected to be published in time for the Summit Hill House Tour in September. Financing for the project has been provided in part by a generous donor, but additional donations are being sought to help cover the printing cost. The book will be organized by era, from 1850 to the present. All those with a story to tell or a historic photograph to share, and writers who would like to donate their time to the project, may call the SHA office or e-mail summithill@visi.com by June 15.

SHA block and building clubs—St. Paul City Council member Dave Thune will join Summit Hill's block and building club leaders at their spring meeting at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 22, at the Linwood Recreation Center, 860 St. Clair Ave. The topic for the evening is "Supporting Each Other: Sharing Resources and Ideas for Summit Hill Block and Building Clubs." There will be lots of ideas for National Night Out on August 5 and other summer celebrations in Summit Hill, and a door prize will be awarded. The public is invited to attend.

SHA board notes—Summit Hill residents, business people and property owners are invited to attend the monthly SHA board meetings at 7:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at the Linwood Recreation Center, 860 St. Clair Ave.



The district councils in the Villager area

The next meeting will be held on June 12.

Upcoming meetings—Block and building club leaders, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 22, Linwood Recreation Center, 860 St. Clair Ave.; Pedestrian Safety and Traffic Calming Committee, 7:00 p.m. Monday, June 9, Linwood; SHA board of directors, 7:00 p.m. Thursday, June 12, Linwood.

Union Park

www.unionparkdc.org • 651-645-6887

Union Park benches—The Union Park District Council's Neighborhood Issues Committee has teamed up with the city of St. Paul and Active Living Ramsey County to place 14 benches along a walking path in the neighborhood. The project is part of an effort to place 1,000 benches in the county by the end of 2010 to promote walking. The St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission will hold a public hearing on the Union Park proposal at 5:00 p.m. Thursday, May 22, in City Hall. For information, visit www.co.ramsey.mn.us/ALRC/projects.htm. To find out more about Union Park's participation, call the council office.

Rock-Tenn meeting—The Rock-Tenn Community Advisory Panel (RCAP) will hold its next meeting at 7:00 p.m. Monday, June 2, at Wilder Center, 451 N. Lexington Pkwy. The tentative agenda will include a discussion of an advanced heat recovery pilot project, economic scenarios and the cost of emission controls. Call 612-788-4151 for information.

Guide to Central Corridor—The Metropolitan Council has published a citizens' guide to the preliminary design plans for the Central Corridor light-rail line. The guide is available by visiting www.metrocouncil.org/transportation/ccorridor/CitizensGuideToDesignPlans.pdf. It includes locations where the plans are available for public inspection, as well as a guide to reading the plans and filling out comment forms. Public comments on the plans will be accepted until June 12. The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners is expected to vote on the plans at its June 24 meeting. The plans must also be approved by St. Paul, Minneapolis and Hennepin County.

Recycling bins—The district council is now distributing recycling bins from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. on the first and third Wednesdays of each month from the Merriam Park Recreation Center, 2000 St. Anthony Ave. The next pickup day is May 21. For details, call Julie Oney at the Union Park office.

Stay connected—Union Park residents may sign up to receive monthly electronic newsletters and local crime statistics by visiting www.unionparkdc.org and entering their e-mail address.

Upcoming meetings—Neighborhood Issues Committee, 7:00 p.m. Monday, June 2, Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave.; Parks and Recreation Committee, 7:00 p.m. Monday, June 2, Merriam Park Community Center, 2000 St. Anthony Ave.; board of directors meeting, 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 4, Merriam Park Community Center.

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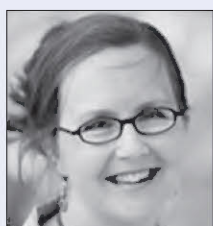
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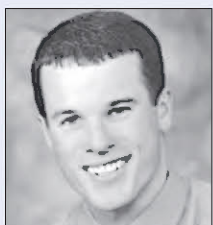
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651-695-4300



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651-690-8572



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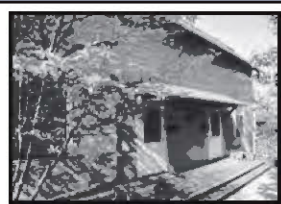
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from this immaculate 1+ BR, 2-bath condo in all-brick bldg. featuring indoor pool, party room, workshop, billiards, library & more. Large eat-in kitchen, fireplace, lots of upgrades. Walkout from 4-season porch.

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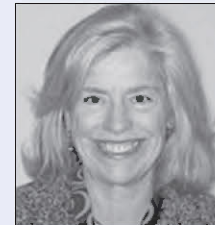
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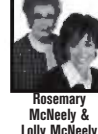
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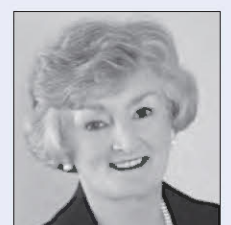
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Wednesday/May 21

A GARLIC MUSTARD PULL will take place in the oak savanna and river flats of Minneapolis' Longfellow neighborhood from 6:00 to 8:00 this evening. Meet on East 35th Street and West River Parkway. To register, call 651-222-2193, ext. 14.

LEARN HOW TO RAISE CHICKENS in your backyard during a program from 6:30 to 8:30 this evening at the Dodge Nature Center in West St. Paul. The program will cover equipment, space and shelter, feed and other resources and information. This is a how-to program designed for adults. The cost is \$7.00-\$10. Call 651-455-4531.

Thursday/May 22

A KICKOFF PARTY for the 2008 Mississippi River Challenge will be held from 6:00 to 8:30 this evening in the rathskeller at Summit Brewing Company. Call the Friends of the Mississippi River at 651-222-2193, ext. 14.

A FUNDRAISER for the Jamaican Special Scholarship Fund will be held from 6:00 to 9:00 this evening in the Klas Center at Hamline University. The evening will feature jerk chicken, wine, rice and beans, music and a silent auction. Proceeds will be used to help Jamaican students attend college. Tax-deductible donations also may be sent to Dan Loritz at Hamline University, 1536 Hewitt Ave., St. Paul, MN 55101. For details, call Dr. Bob Ellison at 651-335-8077.

Saturday/May 24

GPS FOR BEGINNERS will be taught at 10:00 this morning at Fort Snelling State Park. The program is free, but a state parking permit is required. Call 612-725-2724 for reservations.

THE TWIN CITIES COSTUMERS' Guild will hold a 19th-century picnic at 10:30 this morning at Como Park. Dress up, bring a picnic lunch and meet in front of the Streetcar Station, 1224 N. Lexington Pkwy. At 11:00 a.m., the group will walk a short way to the picnic area for croquet, games and conversation. Admission is free. Visit community.livejournal.com/tccostumers/14280.html.

"THE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM" will be presented at 1:00 this afternoon at Fort Snelling. William Green, superintendent of Minneapolis Public Schools and author of *A Peculiar Imbalance: The Fall and Rise of Racial Equality in Early Minnesota*, will speak on the African-American experience in 19th-century Minnesota. The program falls on the 151st anniversary of the freedom of Dred and Harriet Scott and their two daughters, Eliza and Lizzie. Admission is \$5.00-\$10. Call 612-726-1171.

FREE GUIDED TOURS will be offered from 10:00 a.m. to noon today at the Eco-Yard Midtown demonstration site, 2801 21st Ave. S., Minneapolis. Visitors will learn about low-maintenance lawns and prairie, bird, butterfly and rainwater gardens. To register, call 612-348-9266 or visit www.hennepin.us.

Sunday/May 25

THE ST. PAUL HIKING CLUB will meet at 2:30 this afternoon at the VFW in Mendota for a hike along the river. Call 651-



Paul Westland takes a photo of one of the antique aircraft that flew over the state Capitol on May 17 during the celebration of Minnesota's 150th anniversary. He attended the events with his wife, Susan, and daughters, Marta and Natalie. PHOTO BY ANNE BRANDRUD

646-6421 or visit www.stpaulhike.org.

Tuesday, May 27

THE MAD HATTER'S TEA HOUSE, 943 W. 7th St., will hold an open discussion during its regular conversational salon from 6:30 to 8:30 this evening. The salon is free, but donations are encouraged for the program and treats. Call 651-227-3228.

Wednesday/May 28

MAIFEST WILL BE HELD from 5:00 to 9:00 this evening in the St. Francis de Sales Church parking lot on Osceola Avenue and James Street. There will be music by the Minnesota State Band at 7:00 p.m., along with food and drink. (If inclement weather, the festival will move to the St. James social hall at 496 View St.) Proceeds will benefit St. Francis-St. James United School. Call 651-228-1169.

A GARAGE SALE to benefit Camp Odayin, a summer camp for children with heart disease, will begin with a preview sale from 5:00 to 7:00 this evening at the West St. Paul Armory, 1346 S. Robert St. A \$3.00 donation is requested. The sale will continue with free admission from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. tomorrow and from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Friday. More than 60 households will contribute items for the sale. Call Sara Meslow at 651-351-9185.

Thursday/May 29

A JOINT PUBLIC HEARING on preliminary design plans for the Central Corridor light-rail line on University Avenue will be held from 5:00 to 7:00 this evening at Goodwill/Easter Seals, 553 N.

Fairview Ave. An open house will begin at 4:00 p.m. The hearing is being held by the Minnesota Department of Transportation and the Ramsey and Hennepin county regional rail authorities. Visit www.centralcorridor.org.

A NATIONAL NIGHT OUT KICKOFF picnic will be held by the city of St. Paul from 5:30 to 7:30 this evening at the Como Park Pavilion. The celebration will include appearances by Mayor Chris Coleman, Police Chief John Harrington, the St. Paul Police Canine Unit, and St. Paul Fire Department personnel. All the forms needed for National Night Out will be available and there will be free food, balloons and face-painting.

Saturday/May 31

A NATIVE PRAIRIE will be planted from 9:00 a.m. to noon today at Crosby Farm Regional Park. Volunteers will put in 1,000 native prairie plants and install species markers to educate and inform visitors. Guidance, tools and gloves will be provided. To sign up, call Friends of the Mississippi River at 651-222-2193, ext. 14.

A MULTI-FAMILY GARAGE SALE will be held by the Girl Scout Troop from Expo Elementary School between 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. today at 536 Montrose Lane. Lunch will be available for purchase.

Sunday/June 1

FORT SNELLING STATE PARK will hold an open house today to commemorate Minnesota's 150th anniversary. Photo contest winners will be announced at 10:00 a.m., the Zumbrota Community Band

will perform from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. and poles will be provided for those wanting to try their hand at fishing. Families are encouraged to pack a picnic lunch. Admission is free. Call 612-725-2724.

THE ST. PAUL HIKING CLUB will meet at 2:30 this afternoon at the Harriet Island parking lot on Harriet Island Road. Call 651-646-6421.

ALL OF MINNESOTA'S HISTORIC sites, parks and museums will be open free to the public today in honor of Minnesota's 150th birthday. Each site will offer family-friendly activities, including tours and special programs. Visit www.mnhs.org/places.

SUMMIT AVENUE WALKING TOURS will be offered at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. today and 2:00 p.m. tomorrow from the James J. Hill House, 240 Summit Ave. The tours will continue every weekend through September. The cost is \$6.00-\$10. Call 651-297-2555.

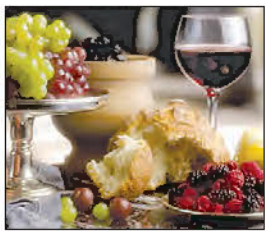
Monday/June 2

ST. PAUL E-DEMOCRACY will offer a free workshop on blogging from 7:00 to 8:30 this evening at the Rondo Library, 461 N. Dale St. Additional workshops on the use of various Internet tools will include podcasting on June 9, building a website on June 16, staying safe on-line on June 23 and using electronic tools in real-world politics on June 30. Call 651-808-7363.

Tuesday/June 3

THE ST. PAUL HIKING CLUB will meet at 7:30 this evening at Selby and Western avenues. Call 651-646-6421.

Food



Hot Dish By Morgan Smith

Supatra's: A savory lesson in Thai cuisine

BY MORGAN SMITH

Randy Johnson, the husband of Supatra Johnson and the manager of her restaurant, Supatra's Thai Cuisine, is pleased with their new location on St. Paul's West End. Late last year, they were forced to move from their previous Lowertown building because of a change in ownership and a planned renovation. However, their reception at 967 West 7th St. "has been fantastic," Johnson said. "We've had lots of neighborhood people come in to eat."

The historic building in which Supatra's is now located was constructed as a bank in 1915 and later became a doctor's office. Since then, it has been home to a series of bars and restaurants, including Moe's, Jerry's Wine & Dine and Rudy's. Still, the interior needed a complete makeover, Randy said, and "the kitchen was worthless. We had to redo the whole thing except for the cooler."

The redecorated dining room is warm and inviting, without pandering to any notions of how a Thai restaurant should look. Instead of an Asian theme, Supatra's pastel walls are adorned with modern art. The tables are far enough apart that diners can talk without being overheard. However, it isn't Supatra's talent for interior design that has earned her such a large and loyal following in the Twin Cities. It's her cooking.

Supatra has been in the food business since her childhood in Thailand, where she worked in her family's grocery store and cooked in a Bangkok restaurant. When she moved to Minnesota 20 years ago, she discovered that many of the fresh ingredients essential to Thai cooking were not available here. To fill that niche, she started Jasmine Market.

The customers of her Burnsville market often asked her for hints about what to do with the exotic vegetables and other ingredients she sold, so seven years ago Supatra began offering Thai cooking classes. She eventually sold the store, but continued teaching Thai cooking through a variety of community education programs. Supatra cemented her reputation as one of the Twin Cities' top authorities in Thai cuisine when she and Randy opened their Lowertown restaurant in September 2004.

My two dining companions and I visited Supatra's new West End restaurant early on a Sunday afternoon. For appetizers we ordered spring rolls (\$4.95), which came with plenty of fresh lettuce—maybe too much—and a cute grated-carrot hairdo, and the chicken satay (\$6.95), which was hot and tasty. However, those are the kind of safe appetizers that can break but never make a meal. What I hungered for was curry.

I had a friend long ago who made the best yellow curry I've ever eaten, and for 25 years I've been trying to find something that even comes close. I found it at Supatra's.

I ordered the yellow curry with chicken (\$11.95) medium



Supatra's Crying Tiger with strips of marinated beef, vegetables, a dipping sauce and sticky rice. PHOTO BY JANET HOSTETTER

hot. The spices were just right for my taste, and the flavors were perfectly balanced—meaning that the coconut milk did not drown out everything else. I wished it had been made with all regular potatoes instead of some sweet potatoes, but that's a minor complaint. Though my quest for a yellow curry that measures up to my friend's will continue, it won't be with the same earnestness, since I now know where I can get something almost as good.

My dining companions ordered the shrimp in garlic sauce (\$12.95) and the chicken and lemon grass (\$11.95). Both of them asked for "Minnesota mild," which made me cringe, thinking they would be served bland dishes. That was not the case. Both the chicken and the shrimp with their accompanying vegetables were delicious.

None of us was thrilled with the dessert—fried banana with coconut ice cream (\$7.50). It was more or less a banana egg roll, something I wouldn't recommend saving room for. If you have a big appetite, order another appetizer, like the chicken in pandan leaves, a traditional blade-like leaf often used in Thai cooking. It costs the same and sounds a lot more fun.

Supatra's wasn't very crowded when we were there, so it was a bit hard to judge the quality of service. But everything came out of the kitchen quickly and hot, our server was friendly and, most important with curry, filled my water glass regularly.

If you want a more affordable taste of Supatra's cooking, come in for lunch between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. You can order such dishes as green curry, Thai stir-fry or Thai fried rice, all with chicken, pork or tofu, for \$6.95.

When I return, I plan to order the Crying Tiger (\$13.95), a dish of marinated and grilled strips of beef that shares a name

with Supatra's own cookbook, *Crying Tiger: Thai Recipes from the Heart*. The cookbook, which features more than 100 Thai recipes, can be purchased at the restaurant or on-line.

And if you want some help in your own kitchen, Supatra offers cooking classes from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. on one Sunday each month. The classes cost \$50 each and include beer, wine and a sampling of what the students prepare that day. For a class schedule, visit www.supatra.com.

Tidbits

Yarusso Bros. Italian Restaurant, 635 Payne Ave., is celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2008 with free wine and a 1930s costume contest from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. on the first Thursday of every month. Diners can win a weekend in Chicago. Owned and operated by Frederick and Michael Yarusso, the third-generation family restaurant first opened its doors at that location on April 7, 1933, the day Prohibition ended. It still occupies the original building and is still using its original recipe for spaghetti and meatballs.

A Bremer Community Cookoff will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Thursday, June 5, on 7th Place and Wabasha Avenue in downtown St. Paul. Professional chefs and their side-kicks will go head-to-head in a cookoff competition to benefit Second Harvest Heartland. Those who make a donation will be entered in a drawing to win prizes from local businesses. Admission is free to the event, which kicks off a month-long Make Change campaign to help end hunger. Donations may be made at any Bremer Bank or online at Bremer.com.

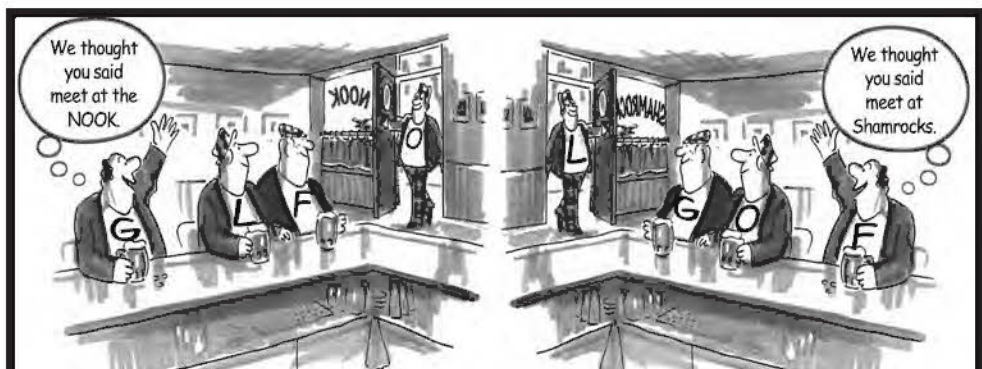

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On the Town

Spiritual cleansing 'Witness' dramatizes the healing that followed in wake of homicide

By BOB GILBERT

In her play *Witnessing to a Murder*, Elizabeth O'Sullivan relates how she responded to events that sucked her into the vortex of a violent domestic dispute which ended with the couple shot dead and O'Sullivan left to sort out its meaning.

The homicide occurred on a Sunday in August 1996 in a hallway of an apartment building at 1572 Portland Ave. in St. Paul. O'Sullivan, 22 at the time, had just returned to her friend's apartment in the basement of the building after eating brunch at the nearby Old City Cafe. When she heard what sounded like screaming, it took her a minute to figure out that the screams were real. Then she bolted upstairs to help.

O'Sullivan met up with a terrified middle-aged woman in the hallway. Together they started running back down the hall toward her friend's apartment. The woman's angry boyfriend was close behind. He pushed O'Sullivan aside and tackled the woman. While O'Sullivan ran for her life, he shot the woman five times, killing her.

The man was later shot and killed by police outside the apartment building on Snelling Avenue after a standoff that lasted several hours.

Though O'Sullivan's part in the drama lasted no more than a minute, the violence left an indelible mark. She compared what followed to posttraumatic stress disorder. For years, the sound of a car backfiring or a Dumpster lid slamming shut made her panic. She still hates the 4th of July because of the firecrackers. "But the incident opened me up to a deeper spiritual experience," O'Sullivan said. "I was determined that I was going to be OK again."

O'Sullivan, now 34 and a resident of Minneapolis' Longfellow neighborhood, will perform *Witnessing to a Murder* five times as part of the Spirit in the House Festival, scheduled from May 23 through June 1 at Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church in Minneapolis. The festival features 30 plays

and four films, all focusing on spiritual or ethical themes.

O'Sullivan, now married and the mother of two children, said she wrote the 45-minute play a year ago after praying to the spirits of the dead couple, asking for their permission to tell the story. "People think that performing the drama must be therapeutic for me because at last I get to tell my story, but I'm not so sure," she said. "I don't experience it that way. It feels like very, very hard work and takes a lot of energy."

Over the past decade, O'Sullivan was drawn to the Quaker religion for "structure and support in dealing with this intense spiritual experience," she said. In the play, she has three fellow Quakers sitting on the stage praying silently. "They're there to keep me grounded and hold me in the light," she said.

The play is built around a bodhrán drum played by O'Sullivan's husband, Ian Rhoades. The drumming represents the gunshots, and her first reaction to its sound is to pretend it doesn't exist. In the second part of the play, she yells at the drummer and tries to make him stop. In the

third part of the play, she sings and prays to the drum.

O'Sullivan, who grew up in Excelsior, gets her acting genes from her parents, who met while performing at the Old Log Theater. Her mother, Anita O'Sullivan, still performs there. Her late father, Terry O'Sullivan, was a star on the television soap opera "Search For Tomorrow."

O'Sullivan has acted at the Guthrie, Theater in the Round and the Minnesota Renaissance Festival. She has written two children's books, and as a freelance writer has contributed articles to the *Star Tribune*, *Midwest Home and Garden* and the *Villager*.

"Elizabeth is a great actor," said Dean Seal, artistic director for the Spirit in the House Festival. "*Witnessing to a Murder* has really been put together well theatrically. A large part of the story is about how she did not deal with the incident very well for a

"People think that performing the drama must be therapeutic for me because at last I get to tell my story, but I'm not so sure. I don't experience it that way. It feels like very, very hard work and takes a lot of energy."



Elizabeth O'Sullivan rehearses her play *Witnessing to a Murder* with husband and bodhrán player Ian Rhoades. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

long time. Anybody who has been through trauma is going to get what she's doing. And as a bonus, you get to see what this beautiful Quaker spirituality is all about."

"It's hard to talk about religious and spiritual issues because they're so tender," O'Sullivan said. "I'm not trying to be an evangelist or convince people about spiritual realities. What I want to talk about is depth and the spiritual chasms that open up as a result of violence."

"I'm kind of a nurturing person and I don't want to freak people out," she said. "But I do want to give people a little practice at looking at scary stuff in a safe place."

The Spirit in the House Festival is being presented by the same people who produced last August's Manna Fest. Its intent, according

to Seal, is to promote a dialogue between people of various faiths. An Old Testament musical, a drama about a meeting between Mother Theresa and Princess Diana, and the spirituality of Hindu, Polynesian and American Indian dance are among the offerings. Kevin Kling will perform *Back of Beyond*, a brief tour of the Bible through story and song, and Jim Stowell will present *The World's Most Frequently Bombed Hotel*, the true story of a Catholic family in Belfast.

Tickets for individual shows are \$12 for adults, \$10 for students and seniors and \$8.00 for children under age 12. A punch card that is good for five shows may be purchased for the price of four. A pass to all shows is \$99. For more information and tickets, visit spiritinthehouse.org or call 651-209-6799.

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Husband-and-wife French horn players and flutists, Matt and Jenny Wilson and Bernhard and Sarah Scully will headline a musical fundraiser for a Lutheran mission to Kenya on Sunday, June 1, at Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church (above). PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Music with a mission

Couples join in benefit concert for Lutheran seminary in Kenya

BY JANET LUNDER HANAFIN

Bernard and Sarah Scully of Highland Park have been making sweet music together ever since their marriage five years ago at Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church. On Sunday, June 1, they will have a few of their musical friends over to the Macalester-Groveland church and are inviting everyone else to enjoy the harmony.

The Calvary Goes Classical concert is being held as a benefit for Project Timothy, which is sending the Reverend Tom Aadland, the minister who married the Scullys, to Matongo Lutheran Theological Seminary in Kenya to help train pastors.

The Scullys are members of Calvary, where Sarah's father, the Reverend Jay Eberth, is pastor. Bernhard Scully is the principal French horn for the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, and Sarah is a flutist and music therapist. Joining them in a program of solo and ensemble works will be Macalester-Groveland singers and fellow Calvary members Jim and Beth Glynn; another husband and wife French horn and flute duo, Matt and Jenny Wilson of Minneapolis' Longfellow neighborhood; clarinetist Dan Friberg; and Bernhard's pianist mother Joanne Minnetti.

Bernhard began studying the French horn as a 6th-grader in Georgia. He moved to Minneapolis as a teenager and graduated from South High School in 1995. An alumnus of both the Minnesota Youth Symphonies and the Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies, he knew by the age of 13 that he wanted to be a professional musician. He earned a bachelor's degree in horn performance at Northwestern University and a master's degree from the University of Wisconsin.

Sarah and Jenny Wilson became best friends at Northwestern College in Roseville. Jenny took Sarah to an SPCO concert where Bernhard and Matt were substituting for the regulars in the horn section. After the show, she introduced Sarah to Bernhard, and the Scullys were married two years later.

Though Bernhard had come of age listening to the SPCO and knew its horn players, he never thought that someday he would be working with the ensemble full time. A year and a half after their marriage, Bernhard accepted a position with the Canadian

Brass, a quintet known around the world for its dazzling musicianship. He spent the following three years touring with the group. During that time, he and Sarah lived in Rochester, New York, where she was employed. A year ago he accepted a position with the SPCO and moved Sarah and their new baby to St. Paul.

While living in Rochester, Sarah and Bernhard brought several of their musician friends together for a concert to raise money for a mission to Estonia. They are looking forward to doing it again for Project Timothy.

Convincing Calvary to host the benefit was a snap. In the past three years, Eberth's congregation has played host to six benefit concerts, raising nearly \$19,000 in support of such causes as St. Paul's Union Gospel Mission, the Salvation Army's disaster relief efforts and Healing House, a residential treatment center for women and children.

"Everything is coming full circle in our lives," Bernhard said. "I hope we can do this regularly."

Project Timothy takes its name from Paul's second letter to Timothy in the New Testament, in which the apostle writes, "Entrust this message to faithful individuals who will be competent to teach others." The mission to Kenya is the first endeavor of the recently incorporated St. Timothy Society, which hopes to launch pastoral training projects in other countries as well.

Among the works the audience can expect to hear on June 1 are compositions by Mozart and Telemann, at least one horn duet, as well as a duet for horn and flute by the Scullys. Sarah will perform "Cantabile et Presto" by Romanian composer George Enescu, and Jenny Wilson plans to play a jazz piece by Claude Bolling.

The concert begins at 7:00 p.m. at Calvary, 341 S. Hamline Ave. A reception with refreshments will follow. There is no charge to attend, but any donations will be matched 50 cents on the dollar by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

Those who are unable to attend the concert may donate to Project Timothy by sending a check, made out to Calvary Lutheran Church, to Project Timothy Donations, Calvary Lutheran, 341 S. Hamline Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105. To qualify for the Thrivent Financial matching funds, mailed donations should be sent by June 1.

 **Fitzgerald Theater**
UPCOMING PERFORMANCES



Dan Chouinard
Café Europa II
SATURDAY, MAY 31, 8 PM

In the second installment of his trilogy, Chouinard returns with his musical travelogue for bicycle and accordion. With guests the Rose Ensemble, Maria Jette, the Brass Messengers, Peter Ostroushko and John Munson.



Talking Volumes
Judy Blume
THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 7 PM

One of America's most beloved but controversial authors due to the difficult themes she pursues, Judy Blume (*Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret*, *Blubber*, *Summer Sisters*), joins host Kerri Miller.

Talking Volumes is a partnership of Minnesota Public Radio, the *Star Tribune*, and the Loft Literary Center.



St. Paul's Cathedral Choir
TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 7:45 PM
at the Cathedral of St. Paul

Spanning nine centuries of history, the St. Paul Cathedral Choir of London is led by music director Andy Carwood and represents one of the major forces in British church music today, basing its work on the ancient monastic tradition of sung prayer services.



Jelani Eddington
Hosted by Michael Barone
SUNDAY, JUNE 29, 8:00 P.M. — FREE

One of the world's most prominent young theater organists explores many pages of the 'American songbook' as he celebrates the centenary of composer Leroy Anderson on the mighty Wurlitzer.

Call the box office at 651-290-1221 or
WWW.FITZGERALDTHEATER.ORG for details.

On the Town *Briefly*

Theater

The Triangle Factory Fire Project, a searing drama about the 1911 blaze that killed 146 people and the trial and political upheaval that followed, is being performed through May 25 by the Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, 8:00 p.m. Saturday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday in the auditorium of the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. Tickets are \$17 to \$24. Call 651-647-4315.

Real Women Have Curves, a play by Josefina Lopez about the Latina immigrant experience that celebrates the power of women working together, is playing through May 29 on Teatro del Pueblo's stage at the Wellstone Center, 179 E. Robie St. The curtain rises at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday and 2:00 and 7:00 p.m. Sunday. An interactive fashion show that explores the female image from Latina and non-Latina perspectives will augment the experience. Tickets are \$14, \$16 and \$18, or whatever you can pay on Sunday evening. Call 651-225-8106.

These Shining Lives, about the Radium Girls, employees of the Radium Dial Watch Company in Chicago who unwittingly exposed themselves to radioactivity, is playing through June 1 at the History Theatre, 30 E. 10th St. The curtain rises at 8:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 2:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, and 10:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Thursday. Call 651-292-4323.

Mom's the Word, a wildly funny, sometimes touching collection of monologues, skits, songs and dances about motherhood, is being performed through June 8 by Actors Theater of Minnesota. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Sundays at the Lowry Theater, 16 W. 5th St. Tickets are \$25-\$33. Call 612-673-0404.

Q&A, a new play by Juliana Hu Pegues that takes a funny, fanciful, and frightening journey into the hearts of Asian-Americans, will be performed May 22 through June 8 by Mu Performing Arts. David Mura directs this story of a wanna-be rapper, a pothead and an intellectual who are thrown into a world of speed dating and jailhouse interrogations. The curtain rises at 8:00 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and at 2:00 p.m. Sunday at Mixed Blood Theatre, 1501 S. 4th St. in Minneapolis. Tickets are \$18, \$16 for



students and seniors, \$10 for previews May 20 and 21 and whatever you can pay at 8:00 p.m. Monday, June 8. Call 612-338-6131.

Steve Hendrickson (right) is Sherlock Holmes and Bob Davis his trusted sidekick Doctor Watson in *The Final Adventure*. The chilling mystery by Steven Dietz is playing May 30 through June 22 at Park Square Theatre, 50 W. 7th Place. Scandalous letters, a kidnapped diva and London's seamy underside all figure in this battle of wits between the super sleuth and the evil Professor Moriarty. For tickets, call 651-291-7005. PHOTO BY PETRONELLA YTSMA

students and seniors, \$10 for previews May 20 and 21 and whatever you can pay at 8:00 p.m. Monday, June 8. Call 612-338-6131.

The Gin Game, the Pulitzer Prize-winning play by D.L. Coburn's about the prickly friendship between a cantankerous codger and his prim lady friend that devolves over a game of cards, will be performed May 30 through June 29 at the Jungle Theater, 2951 Lyndale Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Wendy Lehr and Bain Boehlke star in the roles made famous by Jessica Tandy and Hume Cronyn. For ticket information, call 612-822-7063.

Music

Rush, aka Geddy Lee, Alex Lifeson and Neil Peart, will bring their Snakes & Arrows tour to the Xcel Energy Center at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 22. Tickets at \$47.75, \$69.75 and \$89.75 are available at the Xcel box office or by calling 651-989-5151.

Music in the Parks, a free series sponsored by the city of St. Paul, will continue with shows at 7:00 p.m. at the Como Lakeside Pavilion unless otherwise noted. The schedule includes the Capital City Wind Ensemble, May 21; Wild Honey and the

Locusts, May 25; Roseville Community Band at 3:00 p.m. May 26; Roseville Big Band, May 27; Earthtones, May 28; Northeast Community Band, May 29; Star of the North Concert Band at 3:00 p.m. June 1; City of Lakes Chorus and Sweet Adelines, June 1; Q.M.C. Pride Concert, June 2; Capital City Wind Ensemble at noon June 3 in Mears Park; and the Sumunar Gamelan and Dance Ensemble, June 4.

Minnesota sur Seine, a festival of jazz, world, hip hop, folk and rock 'n' roll music bringing together international and Minnesota musicians, continues through May 25 across the Twin Cities. The schedule includes An Evening in Paris with pianist Tony Hymas playing Debussy's Etudes and Satie's Gymnopedies at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 20, at Creation Audio, 2543 Nicollet Ave. S. in Minneapolis (\$9.00); Taut Hides and Tuned Strings with Pablo Cueco on zarb, Tony Hymas on keyboards, bassist Bruno Chevillon and drummer J.T. Bate, 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 21, at the Artists' Quarter (\$12); Hip Hop Night with Post Nomadic Syndrome, La Rumeur and Ursus Minor, 8:00 p.m. Thursday, May 22, at the Triple Rock Social Club, 629 Cedar Ave. S. in Minneapolis (\$12 and \$15); a CD

release party with violinist Dominique Pifarely, saxophonists Francois Corneloup and Tim Berne, organist Julien Padovani, guitarist Dean Magraw, bassist Chico Huff and drummers Eric Groleau and J.T. Bates, 8:00 p.m. Friday, May 23, at the Minnesota Museum of American Art, 50 W. Kellogg Blvd. (\$22); four gigs between 1:00 and 6:00 p.m. Saturday, May 24, in St. Paul's Lowertown with cellist Didier Petit, violinist Gary Schulte, saxophonist Tim Berne, bassist Bruno Chevillon, Carnage, saxophonist Nathan Hanson, bassist Brian Roessler and drummer Alden Ikeda (\$10 for all four shows); A Night in Ethiopia with bassist Yohannes Tona, drummer Michael Bland, guitarist Jef Lee Johnson and Mahmoud Ahmed and ensemble, 8:00 p.m. Saturday, May 24, at the Fine Line Music Cafe, 318 1st Ave. N. in Minneapolis (\$25 and \$30); and four gigs between 1:00 and 6:00 p.m. Sunday, May 25, in St. Paul's Lowertown with cellist Didier Petit, percussionist Milo Fine, Zeitgeist performing Pablo Cueco, saxophonist Douglas Ewart, and trumpeter Kelly Rossum and clarinetist Denis Colin (\$10 for all four shows). Call 651-292-9746.

Pianist Pierre-Laurent Aimard will lead the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra on May 23-25 in performances of Haydn's Symphony No. 101 in D and Beethoven's Concerto in C for Piano, Violin, Cello and Orchestra. The concerts will begin at 10:30 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Friday and 8:00 p.m. Saturday at the Ordway and at 2:00 p.m. Sunday in the Great Hall at Bethel University in Arden Hills. Ligeti's Chamber Concerto for 13 Instrumentalists will also be played in all but Friday evening's program, when the audience will have a choice after intermission between Beethoven's Trio in B-flat for Violin, Cello, and Piano in the concert hall or a live jazz set by the Laura Caviani Trio in the foyer. Tickets are \$10-\$48. Call 651-291-1144.

Alex Goldfarb, a finger-style guitarist and singer who has performed at colleges across the Midwest and East Coast, will perform at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 28, at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. Goldfarb's is the opening act of J-Cabaret, the JCC's new series of coffeehouse concerts. Admission is \$5.00. Call 651-698-0751.

Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 4 in G and works by Penderecki, Bottesini and Lee Hyla will be performed by the St. Paul



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Chamber Orchestra on May 29, 30 and June 1. Mark Russell Smith will conduct the concerts at 8:00 p.m. Thursday at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Apple Valley, 10:30 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Friday at Wooddale Church in Eden Prairie and 2:00 p.m. Sunday in Ted Mann Concert Hall on the University of Minnesota's West Bank. Tickets are \$10 to \$49, \$5.00 for children. Call 651-291-1144.

Pianist Dan Chouinard and friends will offer another installment of Café Europa, mixing narrative, humor and music from the continent without leaving St. Paul on Friday, May 31. The show begins at 8:00 p.m. at the Fitzgerald Theater, 10 E. Exchange St. Tickets are \$29. Call 651-290-1221.

Books

Great Reads Recycled, a four-day used book exchange, continues through May 23 at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. The exchange opens with a fundraiser from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 20, featuring a talk by Chuck Frederick, author of *Leatherheads of the North: The True Story of Ernie Nevers and the Duluth Eskimos* (\$5.00, or \$10 per family, includes the first selection of books and refreshments). Hardcover will be available for \$3.00 and paperbacks for \$2.00 from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday and 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Friday. Kate Havelin, author of *Minnesota Running Trails: Dirt, Gravel, Rocks and Roots*, will speak at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday. Poet Norita Dittberner-Jax will read from her new collection at 7:00 p.m. Thursday. Call 651-698-0751.

Historian Denis P. Gardner, author of *Wood, Concrete, Stone, and Steel: Minnesota's Historic Bridges*, will give an illustrated lecture on the rich history and uncertain future of the state's bridges at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, May 22, at the Mill City Museum, 704 S. 2nd St. in Minneapolis. Call 612-341-7555.

ABC News commentator Cokie Roberts will discuss her new book, *Ladies of Liberty: The Women Who Shaped Our Nation*, with Minnesota Public Radio's Kerri Miller at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 22, at the Fitzgerald Theater, 10 E. Exchange St. Tickets are \$20. Call 651-290-1221.

Common Good Books, 165 N. Western Ave., will present free readings by Cathy Sultan from her book on the 2006 Israeli-Hezbollah war, *Tragedy in South Lebanon*, at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, May 22, upstairs at Nina's Coffee Cafe; Marya Hornbacher from her book, *Madness: A Bipolar Life*, at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 29, at Nina's; Louise Erdrich from her new novel, *The Plague of Doves*, at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 4. Call 651-225-8989.

Michael Ondaatje, the Sri Lankan Canadian novelist most famous for *The English Patient*, will discuss his latest novel, *Divisadero*, with Minnesota Public Radio's Kerri Miller at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 27, at the Fitzgerald Theater, 10 E. Exchange St. Tickets are \$15. Call 651-290-1221.

The Loft Literary Center, 1011 Washington Ave. S. in Minneapolis, will hold an open house from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Thursday, May 29. Loft teachers will be on hand to discuss the writing classes and workshops that will be offered this summer and lead prospective students in creative writing exercises. Refreshments will be available along with \$5.00 discounts on class registration. For more information, call 612-379-8999.

The publication of Carol Bly's novel *Shelter Half* will be celebrated on Friday, May 30, with a reading by family and friends of the late author. The free program will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Loft, 1011 Washington Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Call 612-215-2575.

"American Poetry Slam Idol," a spoken-

word parody of the popular Fox television program, will be held at 8:00 p.m. Monday, June 2, at the Artists' Quarter, 408 St. Peter St. Open to all comers, the competition will include three rounds of head-to-head versifying judged by a celebrity panel. Slammers will deliver their worst poem in the worst possible way, their best poem in the best possible way and their favorite poem by another poet or songwriter. Admission is \$5.00 for the audience, free if you compete. Call 612-207-7991.

Macalester-Groveland mystery writer William Kent Krueger will discuss shaping a manuscript from start to finish at a meeting of the Twin Cities chapter of the National Writers Union on Tuesday, June 3. The meeting, which is free and open to all, will begin at 1:00 p.m. in the lower level of the Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave.

Family

Red Balloon Bookshop, 891 Grand Ave., plays host to storytimes for babies at 10:15 a.m. Tuesdays, toddlers at 11:00 a.m. Tuesdays and preschoolers at 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays. Featured in other free programs will be Chris Monroe and her picture book *Monkey with a Tool Belt*, 10:30 a.m. Saturday, May 24; a centennial celebration for *Anne of Green Gables*, 10:30 a.m. Saturday, May 31.

Anansi the Trickster Spider, a musical fantasy about an intrepid arachnid who sets out on an Oz-like quest to save the Puerto Rican rain forest, is playing through June 1 at SteppingStone Theatre, 55 N. Victoria St. Highland Park Junior High School 8th-grader Annacita Gomez stars in this remake of the hit from 2002. The curtain rises at 7:00 p.m. Friday, 2:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and 10:00 a.m. and noon Tuesday through Thursday. Tickets are \$11 for adults and \$9.00 for seniors and children ages 2-17. Call 651-225-9265.

Exhibits

"The Figure and the Landscape," sculpture and black-and-white landscape photography by Will Agar, Doug Beasley, Chris Faust, Roger Junk, Brant Kingman, Jeff Korte, and Nick Legeros, is being displayed through June 14 at the Vine Arts Center, 2637 27th Ave. S. in Minneapolis. A related panel discussion will be held at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, May 22. Call 612-728-5745.

"Black/White (and Read)," books by 26 artists that explore text, shadow, space, structure and imagery, are on view through June 21 at the Minnesota Center for Book Arts, 1011 Washington Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Participating artist Béatrice Coron will examine the role that paper cutting plays in cultures around the world at 7:00 p.m. Friday, May 30. Families may drop in between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Saturday, June 14, to explore the creative and mysterious art of silhouettes. For information, call 612-215-2520.

"Architecture and Ceramics" is being exhibited through June 29 in Galleries M and A at the Northern Clay Center, 2424 E. Franklin Ave., Minneapolis. Featured are functional and nonfunctional pieces by Dan Anderson, Lidya Buzio, Nora Naranjo-Morse, Robert Winokur and William Daley as well as architectural drawings by Daley's son Thomas. Call 612-339-8007.

"Necessary Ornamentation," a variety of mosaics by 26 Minnesota artists, is on view through July 25 in the Third Floor Gallery of Metropolitan State University, 645 E. 7th St. Call 651-793-1631.

"The Lion's Mane," surprising facts about the true purpose of a lion's mane and its role in attracting a mate, are presented by University of Minnesota researchers

Craig Packer and Peyton West in an exhibit running through July 27 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, and free to children under age 3 and to everyone else on Sundays. Call 612-624-7083.

"Before the Teardown," rarely seen photos from the *Star Tribune* archives documenting Minneapolis on the eve of 1960s urban renewal, are on view through August 31 at the Mill City Museum, 704 S. 2nd St. in Minneapolis. Call 612-341-7555.

"We Couldn't Live at Home," stories of the children who resided in the North Minneapolis building that was the Jewish Sheltering Home for Children and now houses Avenues for Homeless Youth, are being told through October 5 at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. A free family day with live klezmer, jazz, hip hop and world music, drumming, spoken-word artists, hands-on activities, a screening of the documentary *We Knew Who We Were: Memories of the Minneapolis Jewish North Side* and guided tours will be offered from noon to 4:00 p.m. Sunday, June 1. Admission is regularly \$10, \$8.00 for seniors and students and \$5.00 for children ages 6-17. For information, call 651-259-3000.

The many faces of Flint Hills fest light up St. Paul

The Ordway and its environs will become the domain of the Flint Hills International Children's Festival on Saturday and Sunday, May 31 and June 1. Professional performing groups from Sante Fe, Ecuador, Nova Scotia, Scotland, Mexico and Guinea and a host of local adult and student artists will help transform the downtown venue and nearby Rice Park and Landmark Plaza into a hotbed of creativity by and for children.

From 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on both days, families can take part in hands-on craft and costume activities, dine on kid-friendly ethnic food and thrill to the sights and sounds of performers strolling through the crowd or on one of three free outdoor stages.

The Sonic Playground will beckon with original art and music by the students of Burroughs Community School in Minneapolis and Webster Elementary School in St. Paul. As the Odds and Ends Orchestra, the students will perform a new symphony on balloon flutes, a stamping tub and other imaginative instruments. They have also composed "The Rumble Strip," a 4-foot-wide textured path that kids can navigate with a skateboard, bicycle, wheelchair or walking stick, creating sounds in sequence and reading the accompanying poetry that echo its rhythms.

Sculpture created from 1,500 cereal boxes and more than 12,000 cans of food will be displayed by student artists from Patrick Henry High School in Minneapolis, Twin Cities Academy in St. Paul and Austin High School in Austin. Other art by students from across the state will be exhibited in store windows throughout downtown.

Children are invited to decorate themselves



The Flint Hills International Children's Festival returns to downtown St. Paul on May 31 and June 1 with a full weekend of entertainment and activities by and for children.

and any non-motorized vehicle and join local and international performers in the ARTmoves parade that will circle Rice Park beginning at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday.

Wise Fool, an all-female theater company from Sante Fe with a penchant for graceful acrobatics, surreal trickery and subtle drama, will perform free of charge in Landmark Plaza at noon and 3:30 p.m. Saturday and noon, 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. Sunday.

The five international troupes will present hour-long shows inside the Ordway. This year, thanks to the financial support of Target Corporation, tickets to the shows are only \$5.00 each. The schedule includes:

- **DRUM!**, a heart-pumping fusion of music, dance, poetry, video and song by 20 performers from Nova Scotia, at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Saturday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday in the Main Hall.

- Traditional song and dance by the Tokounou West African All Ability Dance Company founded by Sidiki Conde, who lost his legs when he was 14, at 10:00 a.m. and noon Saturday and 2:30 and 4:30 p.m. Sunday in the McKnight Theatre.

- Marionetas de la Esquina, a puppet circus from Mexico, at 2:30 and 4:30 p.m. Saturday and 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Sunday in the McKnight Theatre.

- Andes Manta of Ecuador performing Spanish and Quechua folk songs on more than 35 traditional instruments at 2:30 and 4:30 p.m. Saturday and 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Sunday in the Drake Room.

- Visible Fictions of Scotland performing *Jason and the Argonauts* at 10:00 a.m. and noon Saturday and 2:30 and 4:30 p.m. Sunday in the Drake Room.

For reservations, call 651-224-4222.

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Sports



The Wright Call

By Dave Wright

Thunder go home, but may be back

It was like turning down a date with Eva Longoria to go steady with Ugly Betty. Four years ago, the Minnesota Thunder surprised many people by leaving Blaine's spacious National Sports Center (NSC) Stadium, which was built for soccer in 1990 and has the capacity for 12,000 fans, and moved their home games to St. Paul's Griffin Stadium, which was built for high school football in the '40s and might have the capacity for 7,000.

At the time, Thunder officials said they were hoping to stir their inner-city soul in St. Paul. After all, the team had played occasional games at Macalester College that seemed to draw people unwilling to fight their way up I-694 to attend games in the northern suburb.

Ah, the best laid plans of mice and men. What sounded like a good theory has given way to reality. The Thunder's attendance actually went down slightly over the past four years. Griffin Stadium, while perfectly fine for Central High School football games, was an uncomfortable, awkward place to play or watch a soccer match. The St. Paul Public Schools did the best it could to make the place palatable, including working out a deal with Concordia University to install artificial turf and new lights a few years ago. However, unless you're are a certain local independent league baseball franchise, there are only so many earrings you can stick on a pig.

The United Soccer Leagues (USL) wasn't happy with playing games on a football field. Behind the scenes, the Thunder started to reconsider their options. When just 745 spectators showed for the second home game of the 2008 season, the decision became easy. Suddenly, Blaine didn't seem such a bad place after all. The NSC gave a little. The Thunder gave a little. And voilà! Goodbye, Griffin. Hello, Blaine.

All of which leads a fellow to ask a few questions that need to be answered.

Question: Why now? What does it mean for the future of soccer in Minnesota?

Answer: Here's a quote from Thunder president Manny Lagos from the press release announcing the move: "This decision is one more example of the Minnesota Thunder's commitment to bring world-class professional soccer to Minnesota. The league is raising the bar on what it expects from each team. We're investing money and energy into the quality of our team on the field. The other key element of our plan is to offer more to our fans than was possible at Griffin. The NSC Stadium has more room for fans, more amenities and concessions, and will bring us to the next level."

Translation: Look, the USL didn't want us at our current facility and told us to figure out a way to get back to the NSC. Do you seriously think we could play an exhibition game against, say, David Beckham at Griffin Stadium? Where would his wife do her nails?

WRIGHT CALL ► 32

Their just desserts

Talented Redhawks soar into softball playoffs

BY BILL WAGNER

Ice cream has been part of the key to success for the Minnehaha Academy softball team this spring. At the outset of this season, coach Mike DiNardo served up a special incentive for his players to improve their defense.

"I told them that for every game in which we don't make any errors, I'll buy them each a Dairy Queen," he said. "I think I owe them about six games' worth."

However, according to DiNardo, strong team defense is just one of the reasons why the Redhawks (11-1, 15-3 overall) had clinched first-place in the tough Tri-Metro Conference as of May 13 and had locked up the top seed in the Section 4AA playoffs. "We're a very cohesive team," he said. "We hit the ball pretty well and we're pretty fast. We have smart base runners and our pitchers have done a good job."

The Redhawks knew that there wouldn't be much margin for error this season. That's why winning the league with a 12-0 pasting of Mounds Park Academy on May 12 was such an achievement. Finishing first in the conference didn't seem as certain a week earlier when the Hawks dropped a 6-3 verdict to league rival St. Paul Academy.

"We didn't feel that we played well at all in that one," DiNardo said. "We made some errors on the bases and in the field. We had a team meeting after the SPA game and we got a few things ironed out."

The Hawks roared back to beat St. Croix Lutheran, a very good St. Bernard's team and Mounds Park Academy. Their only other defeats were to Concordia Academy in the Brooklyn Center tournament and to New Life Academy of Woodbury, last year's Class A state runnerup.

"It was good to get that No. 1 seed (in the sections)," DiNardo said, "but St. Anthony is No. 2, Como Park is No. 3 and SPA is No. 4. It's tough competition, but we're playing good ball right now and we want it to continue."

The Hawks feature a lineup of mostly juniors and seniors, but they also got an infusion of young talent to bolster a team that went 18-5 last year before losing to Visitation in the subsection finals.

Minnehaha's pitching is stingy, with a combination of power and finesse. The



Minnehaha's AnnaMarie Martino collides with Washburn's Rebeka Polland at second base during the first round of playoffs on May 15. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

team's top hurler is senior Holly Larson, who was sporting a 10-1 record and a 1.10 ERA as of early last week. "She mixes it up," DiNardo said. "She has good movement on her pitches and she makes the other team hit the ball."

Larson plays third base when she's not pitching and has provided some nice pop with her bat with 13 RBI.

Junior pitcher/shortstop Emily Engdahl, a five-year veteran, had a 5-1 record and 1.10 ERA. Engdahl does not have the movement of Larson, but has more velocity.

Junior catcher AnnaMarie Martino was hitting .420 and leads the team in stolen bases. She is an ideal leadoff hitter and can shut down an opposing team's running game with her cannon

for an arm.

At first is freshman Sarah Winter, a powerful hitter with a good swing. She mostly pitched as a junior varsity player a year ago, but has made a smooth transition to the infield.

Junior Sarah Lucht has great defensive range at second base and can also swing the bat.

DiNardo called junior third baseman Liz Mrozek the team's best all-around player. She pitched last season, but a bad wrist prevented her from taking the mound this spring. Mrozek was hitting .400 and had 13 doubles and the second most stolen bases on the team. Mrozek also had 22 RBI out of her third spot in

MINNEHAHA SOFTBALL ► 33

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John Wight, left, and Pierce Norton lead a talented SPA tennis team. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

SPA boys must survive 'doozy' of section playoff for chance at state tennis repeat

BY BRIAN JOHNSON

The St. Paul Academy boys' tennis team is marching toward what it hopes will be a second consecutive Class A state championship, but a familiar rival stands in the way.

Before the Spartans can even think about a repeat, they have to get past the same Blake team that they narrowly defeated in the state finals last year. Realignment put the two tennis powerhouses in Section 4A this season.

"It's going to be a doozy this year, because we were considered the one and two teams (in Class A)," said SPA coach Viet Pham. "It's too bad two of the better teams have to square off in the sections and only one will make it to state."

Through May 13, the road to state for the Spartans has been paved with eight resounding victories, a handful of rainouts and two disappointing defeats. SPA opened its 2008 campaign with a 7-0 victory over DeLaSalle and a 4-3 victory over Minneapolis South. After losing 5-2 to Blake, the Spartans reeled off consecutive wins over Minneapolis Southwest, St. Anthony Village, Mahtomedi, Mounds Park Academy and Brooklyn Center. During that hot streak, the Spartans outscored their rivals by a combined total of 27-1.

On May 8, SPA stumbled in a 5-2 loss to Breck, but the Spartans came back to blank Marshall School of Duluth two days later.

"At this point we're trying to make improvements every day," Pham said. "We'll see how everything pans out."

Last year's team showed steady improvement en route to winning the school's third state tennis title. SPA advanced to the 2007 state finals by whitewashing Pine City in the quarterfinals and Thief River Falls in the semis. In the finals, the young No. 2 doubles team of 8th-grader John Hill and sophomore Dillon Titcomb clinched SPA's narrow 4-3 victory over Blake.

Hill and Titcomb are back in 2008, as is senior Pierce Norton, who teamed up with Hill to take third in last year's state doubles tournament.

The team's only other senior, John Wight, took third in the 2007 singles tournament. Pham described him as a "crafty player" who "won't give you the same look twice."

Norton is a lefty and "that tends to be an advantage in tennis," said Pham, who played tennis at the University of Minnesota-Morris. "Both he and Hill are aggressive baseliners. They look to dictate. All three of those guys (Norton, Wight and Hill) can on any given day play the number one spot (in singles)."

Rounding out the SPA roster are juniors Andrew Magne and Joe Merrill; sophomores



Norton continues to serve the Spartans well.

Robert Lilly, Evan McMillan and Harry Whitaker; freshman Zac Mohring; and 8th-graders Birk Mitau and Dylan Perese.

"We have some big guns, but it's a team effort," Pham said. "Everybody has to hold his own position."

The team has "very good chemistry," said Norton, who plans to play Division I tennis at Loyola College in Maryland next year. "We're all good friends, on and off the court, and we make sure we're all doing the right stuff. You win as a team and you lose as a team."

SPA has been on a bit of a roll in boys' tennis. Since Pham took over as coach in 2004, the team has won two state championships. And the Spartans' success is starting to draw triple-figure crowds to watch its matches.

"Anytime you're competitive, you spur on excitement," Pham said. "The parents are wonderful supporters of what we're trying to do. The players know there are high expectations and they're going to have to work for it."

The Spartans were eager to prove themselves again as they wound up the regular season last week, prepared for the start of the section tournament on May 15 and set their sights on a possible encore appearance in the June 3-6 state tournament.

But first they'll had to get past Blake, most likely in the section final on May 20.

Last week Norton was looking forward to playing the Bears again—even if it wasn't for the big prize. "You have to beat them at some point to win the state championship," he said.

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30◀ WRIGHT CALL

Question: Was the move dictated by a lack of fan interest in St. Paul?

Answer: Dean Johnson, the Thunder's new owner, takes his turn here: "The people of St. Paul have been tremendously supportive of our team and our goal to bring premier level soccer to the community. We considered every possible option to stay at Griffin Stadium as we continue to improve the quality of the team and enhance the fan experience. Unfortunately, we could not find a solution that worked."

Translation: St. Paul is a nice town, but it just didn't work out. You came out for this year's opener, but where were you for the next game? We all can agree there was no way to make Griffin more interesting. The concession stands are too small, and under our agreement we couldn't sell beer there.

Question: When did Griffin Stadium suddenly become a bad place to be?

Answer: This time, you need to read between the lines. When the NSC told the Thunder they could get a bigger piece of the action (i.e., concessions, parking revenue) and agreed to remove a track that wasn't being used so fans can sit closer to the action, the deal was done. It's about the economy, stupid.

Question: If Blaine is such a good place to play, why just a three-year deal?

Answer: Good question. Manny Lagos is a St. Paul native. He was addressing his new neighbors in Blaine when he extolled the virtues of playing in the suburbs, but he knows in his heart of hearts that though the team may make more

money out there in the short term, the revenue streams are limited. That's because this expansion is all you're going to get. It didn't get a lot of media play, but the NSC is getting \$1.4 million in state appropriations this year, thus making the field renovation feasible.

At this point, an enterprising reporter couldn't help but remember a state Senate committee hearing that he attended last January on bonding requests for athletic facilities. The city of St. Paul was there to ask for money for a study of an amateur sports facility. Bob Bierscheid, soon to be retired director of St. Paul Parks and Recreation, talked up the idea, as did state Senator Ellen Anderson of St. Paul.

The third speaker that day was Paul Erickson, the head of the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission. Erickson, whose group runs the NSC and would probably run such a facility in St. Paul, deemed it a terrific idea. They discussed Midway Stadium or an area near there as a possible site. This site could also include a—drumroll please—soccer facility.

The Legislature seemed a bit skeptical, but threw in \$100,000 for the study. Should the study conclude that a regional sports facility would be just peachy in St. Paul and that a soccer stadium that seats, say, 10,000, would be an excellent lynchpin for the whole thing, well, we'd have a marvelous coincidence to report.

It may just end up that the Thunder are rolling up north as part of a giant chess game that will eventually send the team to St. Paul. We'll see.

In the end, St. Paul got four years of free money out of the soccer team and the Thunder have been apparently allowed to leave on good terms. The whole thing seemed weird to start with and it still does.

Maybe that's what so many Americans mean when they say

they just don't understand soccer.

Baseball success stories in the hood

As noted elsewhere in this issue, Highland Park earned a tie with Central for its first St. Paul City Conference baseball title in nearly three decades last week. The Scots, who won both their head-to-head meetings with the Minutemen this year, are expected to make their first Twin Cities Game appearance since 1973 at 6:00 p.m. Thursday, May 22, against Southwest.

Cretin-Derham Hall, the defending Class AAA state champions, struggled early in the season in splitting their first four games. However, since then the Raiders have won 11 of 12 games and at press time had clinched at least a tie for the Suburban East Conference title.

The neighboring prep schools are keeping pace with two collegiate neighbors whose seasons have also been extended. One of them is an old hand at this. The University of St. Thomas swept the regular and post-season MIAC crowns for the second year in a row, thus taking the top seed and a 32-7 record into the regionals last weekend in Oshkosh.

This is familiar territory for UST coach Dennis Denning, but it's something new altogether for Concordia University coach Mark McKenzie. The Golden Bears qualified for their first post-season appearance ever in their eight-year history as a Division II school when they swept the Northern Sun Conference Tournament. They finished it off in style by whacking the host school—and the 15th ranked team in the country—Wayne State in the title game 10-6. Their reward: an opening game against the No. 5 team in the country and host school Emporia, Kansas.

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

Sports Shorts

Swimming lessons will be offered through District 197 Community Education this summer at Heritage Middle School, 121 Butler Ave., West St. Paul. The district utilizes the American Red Cross Learn to Swim program. Visit www.celearn4ever.org or call 651-681-2389.

Group golf lessons for beginning and intermediate teen and adult players will be offered by the West St. Paul-Menota Heights-Eagan, South St. Paul and Inver Grove Heights school districts beginning May 27 and 29 at Emerald Greens Golf Course in Hastings. For details, call 651-681-2389 or visit www.celearn4ever.org.

Free T'ai Chi Chih practice sessions will be led by accredited teachers in Hidden Falls Park at 9:00 a.m. on Mondays throughout June, July and August. Now in its fourth year, the

practice sessions offer people an opportunity to meet other T'ai Chi Chih students and practice the routines in a bucolic setting beside the Mississippi River. The location for the practice sessions can be reached via the north entrance to the park on South Mississippi River Boulevard and Magoffin Avenue. For information, call teachers Carol Mockovak at 612-729-9040 or Vanjie Bratt at 612-724-1871.

Tour de Cure, a bicycling event to benefit the American Diabetes Association, will be held on Saturday, May 31, at the Lake Harriet Bandshell in Minneapolis. Six-mile family rides will travel around Lake Harriet and Lake Calhoun. A 25-mile loop will collar the Chain of Lakes. A 45-mile route will continue through Minnehaha Falls, across the Ford Bridge and through downtown St. Paul to Harriet Island. Check-in is at 7:00 a.m. Call 763-593-5333.

The 29th annual Larkin Hoffman MS 150 will be held from June 6-8 to raise money for the Multiple Sclerosis Society. The 150-mile ride will take cyclists from Proctor near Duluth to the National Sports Center in Blaine, with an overnight at Grand Casino Hinckley. A registration fee and \$300 minimum pledge are required to participate. Visit www.bikeMS.org or call 1-800-582-5296.

A dog walk to benefit the Wildcat Sanctuary in Sandstone, Minnesota, will be held beginning at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, June 7, at Hidden Falls Regional Park in St. Paul (enter the north gate on Mississippi River Boulevard near Magoffin Avenue). The morning will include face painting and prizes for the best singing dog and best dog costume. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m., rain or shine. Visit www.wildcatsanctuary.org/DogWalk/DogWalk.htm.

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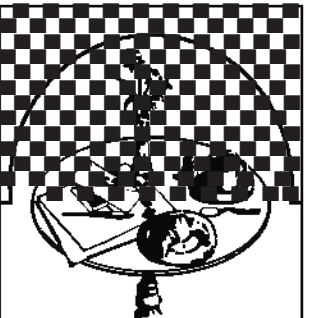
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Highland senior Chad Washenberger waits for his pitch during a 6-2 win over conference rival Central on May 12. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Slugger helps lead Scots to share of City Conference baseball title

BY BILL WAGNER

It's a two-sport spring for senior Chad Washenberger, and the Highland Park Senior High School baseball team is benefiting from it.

Washenberger, a 5-foot-10, 180-pound third baseman for the Scots, was leading the St. Paul City Conference with a .517 batting average in early May. The reason he is hitting the ball so well this spring, he said, is because he also plays fast-pitch softball on a Class C men's team with his father Jim. Chad usually plays softball twice a week, or whenever his baseball schedule allows.

The shorter distance between the mound and home plate in softball has forced Washenberger to develop a quicker swing to catch up with the 80 mph pitches. "It has helped me see the ball better," he said. "Because of the closer distance in softball, you have to react quicker."

Washenberger has never been a slouch with the stick for the Scots. In fact, he batted .380 last year. However, this spring he is off to a tremendous start batting out of the No. 2 spot in the order for Highland, which was tied for first place with Central with a 10-2 conference record as of May 14.

Washenberger was also leading his team with 11 RBIs and has shown some extra-base power with four doubles and a home run. "He's a late-bloomer," said coach Peter Brown. "He's had to work hard for it, but he's been hot."

Brown said that Washenberger's improvement at the plate may also be attributed to a

changed mental approach to the game. "He's been more aggressive early in the count," Brown said. "He used to always take a strike, but now he hits the first good fastball he sees."

Washenberger likes hitting second in the order, where he seems to get better pitches. "I don't see many curveballs," he said. "I see a lot of fastballs."

Washenberger is not blessed with great speed on the base paths, but he can steal once in a while and is an intelligent base runner. He also has adjusted to third base after being moved from first after his sophomore year.

"I'm starting to like third base more now," he said, "but I'm pretty sure my offense is still better than my defense."

Washenberger has also been called on to pitch on occasion. He has a strong arm and throws hard, but he's still a work in progress on the mound. "Control is where I have the biggest problem," he said.

Highland earned a tie with Central at the end of the regular season for its first conference title in nearly three decades. The Scots defeated Central both times they met this year, including a 6-2 victory on May 12 and a 10-2 win in late April. Highland will play in the Twin Cities Game against Minneapolis Southwest at 6:00 p.m. Thursday, May 22.

The Scots were set to finish their regular season with a nonconference game at Henry Sibley on May 20. The Section 4AAA playoffs begin on May 23 and include such formidable teams as Cretin-Derham Hall and Tartan.

30◀ MINNEHAHA SOFTBALL

the batting order. She plays shortstop when Engdahl pitches.

Left field is the domain of senior Ellen Viner, a transfer student from Iowa who has anchored the No. 6 spot in the batting order.

In center, sophomore Analisa Ballinger hits the ball hard, and can "run like crazy," DiNardo said. Ballinger stepped up her game in Minnehaha's 4-0 victory over St. Bernard's on May 9. She made a great catch in the outfield to save a run and scored the Redhawks' first run after singling.

In right field is senior Katie Matheson, who made great strides over the course of her junior season to win the job this year. Senior Kristina Loewen is Matheson's backup.

Freshman Margo Lund provides strength as a pinch hitter and is a backup catcher.

Playing in the Tri-Metro, which features 13 teams who all face each other once, has gotten the Redhawks ready for the section playoffs, which run through May 27 (Minnehaha won its first three playoff games and will face St. Anthony Village on May 22).

"We're playing with great confidence right now," DiNardo said.

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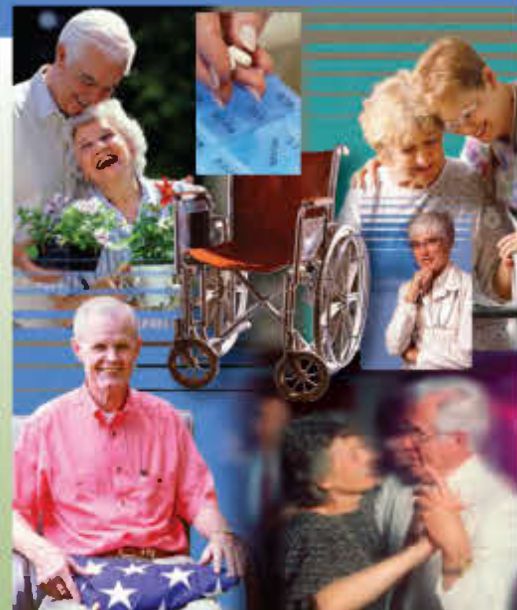
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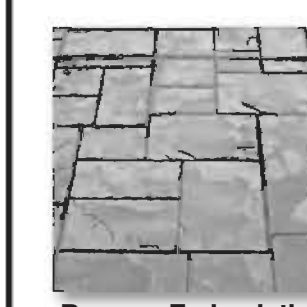
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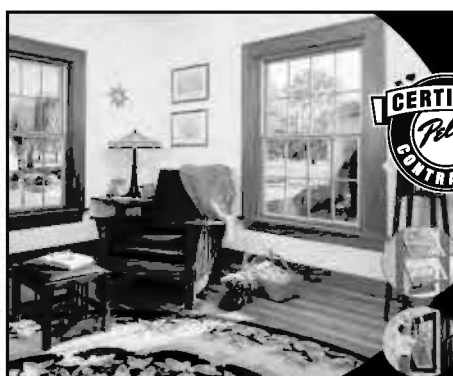
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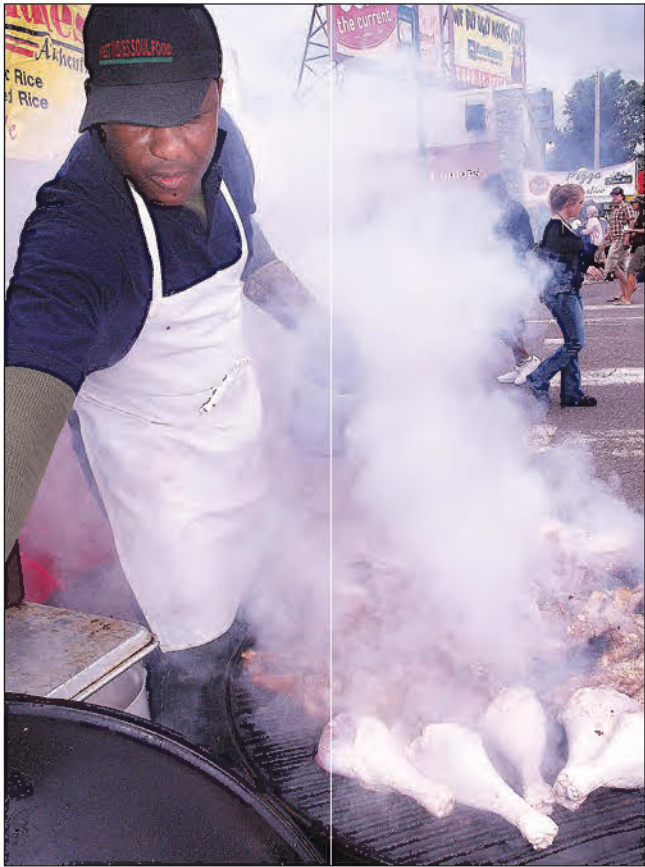
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Grand Old Day breaks out the bellbottoms to mark 35th year

BY LARRY ENGLUND

Grand Old Day will mark its 35th year on Sunday, June 1, with expanded and enhanced attractions and a parade that promises to induce a "Flashback to the '70s." Several new entertainment districts will be incorporated into this year's event, including an International District, an Art District and a Sporting District, covering the entire 2.5-mile stretch of Grand Avenue from Dale Street to Fairview Avenue.

Also new this year is a 35th Grand Old Day button, the Grandee, which will be available in five designs at \$5.00 each. Their bearers will be entitled to special deals at participating businesses throughout June and July.

"One of our goals this year was to get GABA members more involved," said David Regan, executive director of the Grand Avenue Busi-

ness Association, the overall sponsor of the event. "Some businesses are going into the street with booths, and others are looking for ways to get people to return to the stores at other times, using the button and other incentives," Regan said.

Planning for the annual event, which has become something of a first rite of summer in the Twin Cities, began last November, according to Jamie Lucke Hendrikson, program director for GABA. "However, there are some components that we work on all year long," she said. "Much of the plan comes from members' suggestions."

This year's plan includes more attractions designed to draw more people and give them more opportunities to participate. "We wanted to diversify our draw and showcase more

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Grand Old Day's dawn forecast a rosy future for avenue

BY JANE MCCLURE

Grand Old Day 2008's salute to the 1970s is bringing back memories for longtime festival volunteers and attendees. Muska Lighting's Linda Jacobson, who will be working in the hospitality tent at this year's Grand Old Day, was there that Sunday in June 1974 when the first Grand Old Day was celebrated with sidewalk sales, demonstrations and displays. There were no concerts, no parade and no shoulder-to-shoulder crowds.

"We really had a lot of fun in the early years," Jacobson said. "Grand Old Day is a fun event now, but it was different then."

Muska Lighting is one of Grand Avenue's oldest businesses, dating from 1919. Jacobson has worked there since 1971 and her employer has a long history of Grand Old Day involvement. Owner Bill Muska was the grand marshal of the Grand Old Day parade in 1991.

In the early years, Muska employees would don costumes and decorate the exterior of their store. One year the building was transformed into a castle, with employees dressed

as jesters. Another year the female employees donned peasant dresses in keeping with the festival's old-fashioned theme.

At 35, Grand Old Day is older than many of those who will be attending this year's festival on June 1. In the summer of 1974, Richard Nixon was nearing the end of his embattled presidency of the U.S., motorists were raising their eyebrows at having to pay more than \$5.00 to fill their gas tanks. "The Way We Were" was the number-one song on the pop charts. Streaking was sweeping the nation as a fad among the young. The first frozen pizzas were appearing in grocery stores, and bell-bottom pants and bright yellow smiley faces were everywhere.

Grand Old Day began as a way to promote local businesses at a time when Grand and the surrounding residential neighborhoods were undergoing huge changes. For the previous decade, Twin Cities residents had been fleeing the two urban cores for the greener pastures of suburbia, and the avenue's many auto dealerships followed in their wake. A diverse crop



There were three Grand Old Day parades back in the mid-1970s in the years before the street was closed to traffic. The one with the marching band above that kept to the parking lane and the processions of onlookers in cars in the two traffic lanes.

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Grand Old Day has only gotten stronger over the past 35 years. PHOTO BY GEOFF GEORGE

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of what St. Paul has to offer,” Regan said. “For instance, all of the entertainment and all of the artists in the International District come from St. Paul, and more than 25 businesses on Grand Avenue carry ethnic products or serve ethnic foods.”

In the Art District, local and regional artists will be displaying and selling their work. “Lots of Grand Avenue businesses carry art by local artists,” Regan said.

The Sporting District will include a batting clinic with players from the St. Paul Saints, as well as basketball activities with the Minnesota Timberwolves and Minnesota Gophers. The Strongest Man and Strongest Woman contest will return to Grand Old Day once again, only this time in the parking lot of Whole Foods.

The ’70s-themed parade is seen as another way to involve businesses. “We really wanted to have businesses engaged in the parade—and to have fun,” Regan said. “It will be very visual, very crowd-pleasing.

With 72 entries, spectators will see much to remind them of the ’70s. “Almost every parade entry is going to be marching in theme,” Hendrikson said.

The parade will start at 10:00 a.m., a half hour earlier than usual, and will take about two hours to pass. In a departure from past years, marchers will start at Fairview and go east to Dale, as was done in the early days of the festival.

This year’s Grand Old Day will also see such returning favorites as the Teen Battle of the Bands, the 5K and 8K walk/run/rollerblade event, the Family Fun Zone and seven festival gardens with live music.

Five teenage bands have been chosen to perform in the Battle of the Bands, which is

now in its 13th year, according to Marie Nelson, community outreach coordinator for the Macalester-Groveland Community Council. “Oftentimes these bands come to us having had some local success at other venues or in other battle of the bands,” Nelson said. “They’re already headed somewhere.”

Bands performing in the Entertainment District will range from local veterans G.B. Leighton to up-and-comers Vampire Hands. Each of the seven stage areas will be enclosed, requiring those who enter to buy a wristband with a photo ID showing that they are 21 or older. Six nonprofit organizations will be selling the wristbands and receiving a portion of the proceeds.

As in the past, the University of St. Thomas has agreed to allow its parking lots to be used by those attending Grand Old Day. A shuttle bus will take people back and forth along Summit Avenue.

Though there is expected to once again be an influx of up to 250,000 people on the avenue during Grand Old Day, GABA has worked hard to minimize potential problems. “We worked very closely with the district councils in planning the event,” Hendrikson said.

Nelson of the Macalester-Groveland council commended the planning. “They’re doing a fantastic job,” she said. “This year’s event will have a bit different flavor. It’s what people want.”

Police and police reserves will be deployed in force for the event, and “we’ll have emergency medical technicians and the American Red Cross to handle any medical problems,” Hendrikson said.

For more information, call GABA at 651-699-0029 or visit www.grandave.com.

Festival districts run the gamut

BY LARRY ENGLUND

The length of Grand Avenue from Dale Street to Fairview Avenue will be filled with five different activity districts when Grand Old Day marks its 35th year on Sunday, June 1. The lineup from east to west is as follows:

Entertainment District

Dale to Lexington

There will be seven stages with entertainment in enclosed festival gardens from noon to 5:00 p.m. Headliners will include Heiruspeccs, G.B. Leighton, Doomtree, Black Blondie and Roster McCabe (see the complete list on page 47) Those who enter the festival gardens must be 21 or older and can only enter with a wristband. The finalists in the Grand Idol competition will perform on the Dixie’s Stage.

International District

Lexington to Syndicate

International stages will be set up at Kowalski’s Grand Market and at Charlemagne Fine Jewelry. Entertainment will include the following:

Language Sprout Stage
at Kowalski’s

Noon Native Pride Dancers
12:30 Hayer Bibimma African dance and drumming
1:00 Steve Sklar playing the digeridoo and performing Tibetan throat singing
1:30 German dance
2:00 Salsa dance classes
3:00 Tropical Zone Latin band

Charlemagne Fine Jewelry Stage

Noon Scoil Na dTri Irish Dance Academy
12:30 German dance
1:30 Native Pride Dancers
2:00 Hayer Bibimma African dance and drumming
2:30 Digeridoo and Tibetan throat singing
3:00 Scoil Na dTri Irish Dance Academy
3:30 Accordion music

According to GABA director David Regan, there’ll be ethnic foods as well as products from Ten Thousand Villages, and a booth where you can make your own flag and learn



Hayer Bibimma will perform African dance in the International District.

about the flags of other nations.

The district will also include Burt’s Bees Bee-utify Your World Mobile Hive, located at Willwerscheid & Peters Mortuary at Grand and Dunlap. The hive is a gigantic tent where festival-goers will be able to get free massages and product samples.

Art District

Syndicate to Snelling

An art fair will run from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. near Hamline and Grand avenues with regional and local artists displaying fine arts and crafts. There will also be art car displays and street performers. ArtStart will coordinate an interactive art project in which participants will be invited to weave fabric scraps into a 20 feet long by 10 feet wide framework.

Family Fun District

Snelling to Cambridge

This district will have a petting zoo, pony rides and an inflatable bounce house on the grounds of Ramsey Junior High at Grand and Cambridge. A Teen Battle of the Bands begins at noon in the parking lot on Grand and Macalester Street. The following groups will compete: Gerald, Post Mercury, The Fair Young Maidens, The Switch, Tonight: Robots and Finding Cadence. Apple for a Stranger was chosen as an alternate. According to Marie Nelson of the sponsoring Macalester-Groveland Community Council, most of the bands fall into the alternative rock category.

Sporting District

Cambridge to Fairview

There will be a batting clinic with the St. Paul Saints, and other activities with members of the Minnesota Timberwolves and University of Minnesota Gophers. The Strongest Man and Woman on Grand contests will be held in the parking lot of Whole Foods at Grand and Fairview.



An unidentified employee rang up watermelon sales with an antique register on a Grand Old Day in the mid-1970s.

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of new businesses was springing up on Grand, taking advantage of the glut of vacant commercial space and the resulting low rents. After years of neglect, numerous homes and commercial buildings were being rehabilitated. Young, energetic entrepreneurs were joining long-established businesses in seeking new ways to attract customers.

Mary Rice, then co-owner of the former Thrice cooking store (it is now Cooks of Crocus Hill), is credited by many as the driving force behind the first Grand Old Day. The previous December, she and Roger Swardson, founder and publisher of the fledgling *Grand Gazette* newspaper, had spearheaded the successful first Grand Meander.

Businesses that typically were not open on Sundays agreed to stay open on the first Sunday in June 1974 and to dedicate a portion of their profits that day to the Children’s Hospital Association’s Free Bed Fund. The charity, which helped cover the hospital costs of needy children, raised \$2,500 at the event.

“We needed a street fair, but small business owners didn’t have time to run

it themselves,” Rice recalled in the book *Grand Avenue: The Renaissance of an Urban Street* by former Grand Avenue business owner Billie Young and Macalester College professor David Lanegran. “By doing it with Children’s Hospital, we gained both a noble purpose and volunteers.”

That year, a doubledecker bus provided free transportation all day on Grand between Dale Street and Cleveland Avenue. In the early years of the festival, the street remained open to all motorized traffic. The street did not need to be closed, with the smaller crowds Grand Old Day attracted then.

Much of the focus that first year was on history. Old student nursing uniforms were displayed at DuBay’s Dress Shop. Blacksmith LeRoy Bell demonstrated his craft in the former livery stable behind Grand Avenue Ace Hardware. Chimney House Antiques hosted a weaving demonstration. And according to one newspaper account, the art of chandelier making was demonstrated at Muska Lighting, although Jacobson does not remember that.

By 1977 the Children’s Hospital Association had withdrawn as a partner in

Grand Old Day due to the long hours of planning and the meager returns. The Grand Avenue Business Association, which had formed in 1966, took over as the sponsor. The year 1977 was also the first for the Grand Old Day parade, described as a “promenade” by GABA. It began in a parking lot at the then College of St. Thomas and made its way east to Dale Street. Gareth Hiebert, “Oliver Towne” columnist for the *St. Paul Dispatch*, was the parade’s grand marshal.

The biggest concern for GABA’s Grand Old Day committee in 1978 was convincing city officials to close the avenue to motorized traffic. The number of festival-goers had grown by leaps in those first years, and by 1977 pedestrians were having to dodge cars loaded with sight-seers.

An arts and crafts fair was added to the festival in 1979. Other attractions that year included ice sculpting in the front yard of the Restoration restaurant and a loom weaving demonstration at Coat of Many Colors. Thrice drew an especially big crowd that day, demonstrating the new-fangled microwave ovens and serving free samples of “micro-cooked” foods.

Traditions' Mike Schumann will lead Grand Old Day parade

BY FRANK JOSSI

Mike and Suzanne Schumann started Traditions Home Furnishings in 1987 at the corner of Dale Street and Selby Avenue, notorious at the time for the occasional burst of gunshots. Mike Schumann still recalls the ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by then Mayor George Latimer and a subsequent KSTP-TV story on the corner's transformation that began with an earlier clip of a crime scene at the same location.

Despite the spotty reputation, the corner had enough traffic that the Schumanns found plenty of customers interested in their eclectic mix of high-quality furniture.

A year later Traditions moved down Selby to a building across from W.A. Frost that was to become an urban mall. Though the concept never took, the Schumanns hung on for three years before landing at Grand Avenue and Oxford Street where the store has flourished since 1991.

This year the Grand Avenue Business Association (GABA) selected Mike Schumann, 56, for its highest honor, the Doc Chopp Award, given annually for meritorious service to the Grand Avenue business district. The award is named for the late Dr. William Chopp, a dentist who practiced on Grand from 1946 to 1976 and led the effort to revitalize the avenue in the '60s and early '70s.

As the 2008 award winner, Schumann will serve as the grand marshal for the Grand Old Day pa-

rade on Sunday, June 1. This year's parade will carry a '70s theme to mark the festival's 35th year and will switch directions, stepping off at 10:00 a.m. (a half-hour earlier than usual) from Fairview Avenue and ending at Dale Street.

GABA executive director David Regan said the Doc Chopp Award was given to Schumann "as a testimony to his thoughtfulness for his business and the needs of his community." Over the past few years, Schumann has immersed himself in the endless debate over parking on Grand Avenue. "He's been passionate about that," Regan said.

Once a St. Paul-only institution, Traditions now also has stores in Minneapolis and Naples, Florida. The Schumanns spend at least part of their winters in Naples, where thousands of Minnesotans have second homes and where a breakfast club of state snowbirds attracts as many as 400 people.

It has been a long road from Selby and Dale to downtown Naples. Traditions took off "because the traffic counts on Dale Street were great, and there were a lot of people who drove by it and lived in Summit Hill and Ramsey Hill. Those same people became his first base of customers."

Yet just a year after opening the store, the Schumanns were convinced to move Traditions to Selby and Western avenues. "They wanted an anchor tenant so we moved in," said Schumann, who lives nearby on Dayton Avenue. "It was the biggest mistake we ever made."



Traditions owner Mike Schumann sits among furnishings at his Grand Avenue store. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

The mall concept failed and the St. Paul Port Authority eventually took over the block. Although the store survived, sales suffered because the corner did not have the same level of traffic.

In 1991, the Schumanns found commercial space available at 1039 Grand Ave. and quickly leased it. As the store grew in popularity, the Schumanns discovered many customers were coming in from St. Paul's eastern suburbs. They decided to open a store in downtown Stillwater, figuring its Main Street would emerge as a second Grand Avenue. Stillwater also had a niche as an antique haven.

The Stillwater store stayed open for a few years. However, after several antique stores closed, Schumann became fed up with tour buses full of people who looked, but didn't

buy and decided to give up on the tourist town.

"For commissioned sales people there were few prospects," he said. "We couldn't get anyone to work there. They all wanted to work the Twin Cities."

The Minneapolis store on Excelsior Boulevard, meanwhile, has seen strong sales since opening in 2000. The store is located on a street with several furniture dealers and within easy reach of the western suburbs.

The Florida store came about almost as a fluke. Former Minnesota Twins pitcher Brad Radke and his wife, Heather, suggested opening the store in Naples. The Schumanns traveled there in 2002, looked at some homes in the area, and offered \$150,000 less than the asking price for one.

The couple figured they would

never get it, but their asking price was accepted just days later. When a space formerly occupied by an art gallery became available, they leased it and opened another Traditions. With a son attending Central High School, the Schumanns took turns spending two to three weeks at a time overseeing the fledgling Naples store.

Schumann said the key to Traditions' success has been providing customers with the opportunity to create custom furniture by mixing and matching hundreds of fabrics and wood finishes. "Half of our business is special orders from people who don't want to go to a friend's house and see the same things they have," he said. "Other stores have two or three finishes on wood; we have 10. For sofas, we have dozens of fabrics to choose from."

The store's uniqueness has been a boon in the face of the growing number of national home furnishing stores on Grand Avenue. Schumann said he was concerned at first when Restoration Hardware opened and then Pottery Barn. However, he said he discovered that those stores have neither as much inventory nor selection as his store. In fact, he said, their salespeople often tell customers looking for something unique to head down the street to Traditions.

"I think their presence on the avenue has actually helped us," he said. "If you're a small, independent business and you're competing against national chains, you have to figure out how to do things differently."

GRAND OLD DAY
AT
BILLY'S
featuring

The Walleyes
Arc Flash Hazard
Orange Whip

Sunday June 1 Noon to 5:00
The festivities continue after 5:00pm
at the avenue's most popular gathering spot

The Outdoor Patio at
BILLY'S
ON GRAND

VICTORIA CROSSING EAST
857 Grand Ave. • St. Paul
651-292-9140

GRAND OLD DAY 08
HEIRUSPECS
GRAND IDOL FINALE
VAMPIRE HANDS
THE NEW CONGRESS
A VERSE UNSUNG
STRANGELOVE

Jägermeister **BACARDI**

Post Grand Old Day Party
at both locations. D.J. S, dance & fun

The Original DIXIE'S
SOUTHERN STYLE
Live Music
Sat. May 24th
Swamp Kings 10pm-1am
Fri. May 30th
Tropical Zone 10pm-1am

Lunch Happy Hour
Outdoor Deck
An Experience

12 PM JUNE 1st 2008 5 PM

GRAND OLD DAY 2008

Sunday June 1
celebrating 35 years!

Schedule

7:45am

ON THE GO SPORTING EVENTS

starting line is at St. Albans

Entertainment District

7:45am In-Line Skate

7:50am 8K Run

9:05am 1/2 Mile Youth Run

9:15am 5K Walk/Jog

8:00am-5:00pm

GRAND OLD DAY ART FAIR

presented by THE GRAND HAND GALLERY

Art District

OVER 150 FOOD & MERCHANDISE VENDORS

9:30am

SILLY PET TRICKS at Grand Avenue Veterinary Center **International District**

9:45am

KIDDIE PARADE

registration at 9:15am in front of A. Johnson & Sons (Grand & Wheeler). Parade ends in Family Fun Zone. **Family Fun District**

10:00am

GRAND OLD DAY PARADE

presented by TWIN CITIES SATURN RETAILERS - From Fairview to Dale - 70's Flashback Theme!

NEW START TIME & LOCATION

FAMILY FUN ZONE

at Ramsey Jr. High **Family Fun District**

11:00am-5:00pm

STRONGEST MAN & WOMAN ON GRAND

presented by WHOLE FOODS MARKET **Sporting District**

Noon-5:00pm

7 FESTIVAL GARDENS & MUSIC STAGES

Entertainment District

INTERNATIONAL PERFORMANCE

presented by LANGUAGE SPROUT and CHARLEMAGNE FINE JEWELRY **International District**

TEEN BATTLE OF THE BANDS

presented by MACALESTER GROVELAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL **Family Fun District**

BURT'S BEES BEE-UTIFY YOUR WORLD

TOUR International District

TWIN CITIES SATURN RETAILERS

PRESENTS ITS NEW LINE OF VEHICLES

Entertainment District

GRAND OLD DAY PARADE STARTS HERE
presented by TWIN CITIES SATURN RETAILERS



SPORTING DISTRICT

Strongest Man & Woman on Grand, St. Paul Saints, MN Timberwolves, University of Minnesota and more!



FAMILY FUN DISTRICT

Run, jump and play in our family fun zone! Listen to up and coming performers during the Teen Battle of the Bands.

KEY

- Festival Garden 21+ / wristband required
- Wristband Booths \$6 / ID required
- ATMs
- Red Cross First Aid
- Information Booths
- Coca-Cola/Water
- Restrooms

NORTH



INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT

Enjoy Irish dance, Native American dance, African dance & drumming, didgeridoo & Tibetan Throat Singing, Accordion, German dance, Salsa lessons & Latin Band.



ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT

7 festival gardens with live music from over 20 bands! Festival garden guests must be 21+ and purchase a wristband.



SATURN AREA

LYLLOD'S AUTOMOTIVE LOT Twin Cities Saturn Retailers invite you to Rethink Saturn. Check out the new Astra, Outlook and Vue.



WILD ONION STAGE

Uncle Chunk Noon
G.B. Leighton 2pm



THE ONION STAGE

WALGREENS LOT
McNally Smith College of Music Band Noon
E.L.n.O. 1:15pm
Doomtree Featuring Emcees P.O.S, Sims, Dessa, Mictlan, Cecil Otter 3:15pm



ON THE GO

Sporting Events starting line

GRAND OLD DAY PARADE ENDS HERE

presented by TWIN CITIES SATURN RETAILERS



STRONGEST MAN AND WOMAN ON GRAND

presented by WHOLE FOODS MARKET
11am - 5pm
Local and national competitors test their strength through truck pull, tire flip, atlas ball and more.

ST. PAUL SAINTS BATTING TEE

FAMILY FUN ZONE

RAMSEY JR HIGH
10:00am-4:00pm FREE activities! Pony rides, petting zoo, inflatables, mini golf and games.

FM107.1 LACTATION STATION

TEEN BATTLE OF THE BANDS
presented by MACALESTER GROVELAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL
PATAGONIA PARKING LOT
Noon-4:30pm

ART DISTRICT

Art Fair, Street Performers, and Art Car display!



ART CARS ON DISPLAY

HANDS IN HISTORY

Share your story of why you love Saint Paul and leave us your hand print!

GRAND OLD DAY ART FAIR

presented by THE GRAND HAND GALLERY
HAMLINE TO ALBERT
8:00am-5:00pm
Fine art and craft by local and regional artists.

ARTSTART COMMUNITY INSTALLATION

Be a part of this art installation built around the theme of diversity & community.

LANGUAGE SPROUT STAGE

KOWALSKI'S PARKING LOT
Native American Dance Noon
African Drumming 12:30pm
Didgeridoo/Tibetan Throat Singing 1pm
German Dance 1:30pm
Salsa classes 2pm
Tropical Zone 3pm

BURT'S BEES BEE-UTIFY YOUR WORLD TOUR

WILLWERSCHIED PARKING LOT
8:00am-5:00pm
Hand massages with the product of your choice, product demonstrations of over 150 natural personal care products, free samples.

US BANK STAGE

The Nightingales Noon
The Debut 1pm
Jistoray 2:15pm
Roster McCabe 3:45pm

VOLUNTEER CHECK-IN

BANKCHEROKEE LOT

D'AMICO & SONS STAGE

Noon-5pm
Landing Gear
Corpse Show Creeps
Black Blondie
Chooglin'

BILLY'S STAGE

Noon-5pm
The Walleyes
Arc Flash Hazard
Orange Whip

LAVENDER STAGE

PIER 1 IMPORTS LOT
The Roxxy Hall Band Noon
Heroinschiek vs DJ Naughty Booy 1pm
DJ Red Richard 3pm

DIXIE'S STAGE

Noon-5pm
Strangelove
A Verse Unsung
The New Congress
Vampire Hands
Heiruspecs



Grand O

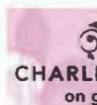
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the O



GRAND OLD Day 2008

SUNDAY, JUNE 1, 2008
7:45am-5pm

visit www.grandave.com
for a full listing of activities

Grand Old Day celebrates 35 years with

WASHBACK TO THE '20s

Grand Old Day parade
starting at Fairview & Grand at 10am

GROOVY Parade

our sponsors:



UNION

LAVENDER



NEW at Grand Old Day:

- * International District with cultural arts and performance.
- * Sporting District
- * Art District featuring local and regional artists in the Grand Old Day Art Fair.



your very own grandee!

The 2008 Grandee commemorates Grand Old Day's 35th Anniversary. Use it to redeem hot summer deals at Grand Avenue businesses from June 1 - July 31, 2008.

\$5 each



Collect all 5!

Show your Grandee at these Grand Avenue businesses to start saving:
At Home Apartments • **Baby Grand** • **BankCherokee** • **Bibelot Shops** • **Charlemagne Fine Jewelry** • **Cooks of Crocus Hill** • **Creative Kidstuff** • **D'Amico & Sons** • **Grand Ole Creamery** • **Grand Tan Club & Skin Spa** • **My Sisters' Closet** • **Saint Paul City Ballet** • **Skally Management** • **Tavern On Grand** • **Ten Thousand Villages** • **Wuollet Bakery**

Discounts are listed on the back of this card and at www.grandave.com.



www.grandave.com

Special offers are valid June 1 - July 31, 2008. Button must be presented to redeem discount. Some exclusions may apply, see businesses for details.

GRANDEE DISCOUNTS Special offers are valid June 1 - July 31, 2008. Button must be presented to redeem discount.

At Home Apartments 616 Lincoln • Sign a 12 month lease, and get a spin of our prize wheel. You can win great prizes or even money off your 1st month's rent.

Baby Grand 1137 Grand • 10% off regular priced clothing and shoes.

BankCherokee 985 Grand • Open a BankCherokee checking account with direct deposit and we will get you started with \$25. Visit a banker at 985 Grand or call 651-292-9200 for more details. BankCherokee Member FDIC.

Bibelot Shop 1082 Grand • 20% off any single item (not to be combined with other offers).

Charlemagne Fine Jewelry 1262 Grand • 15% off all sterling silver jewelry.

Cooks of Crocus Hill 877 Grand • Spend \$50, get 20% off one item of your choice. Some exclusions apply, see store for details.

Creative Kidstuff 1074 Grand • Free wrapping.

D'Amico & Sons 975 Grand • 10% off of your in-house or takeout, lunch or brunch purchase from 10:30am-4pm. Not valid with other offers/coupons. Not redeemable for cash, tax or gratuity.

Grand Ole Creamery 750 Grand • Buy 2 qts, get 1 pt free. Free sample scoop with waffle cone or dish purchase.

Grand Tan Club & Skin Spa 752 Grand • Free Tropical Tan. \$10 off massage. 20% off all tan packages, spa services and lotions.

My Sisters' Closet 1136 Grand • 20% off on all regularly priced merchandise. Not to be combined with other offers or sale days.

Saint Paul City Ballet 1680 Grand • 20% off registration for a summer course.

Skally Management 622 Grand #101 • New residents who sign a 1 year lease will receive \$100 off their first month's rent.

Tavern On Grand 656 Grand • One complimentary beverage with pur-

High priests of hip hop

Central alums Heiruspecs will rap out their celebrated rhythm for hometown crowd

Hey Mr. DJ, drop the beat,
We want to show everybody we got
the heat.

Boys and girls, go and get ready,
Get on your feet and rock it steady.
Hey Mr. DJ, drop the beat,
We want to show everybody we got
the heat.

—from “Drop” by Heiruspecs

BY BILL STIEGER

St. Paul's top hip-hop act, Heiruspecs, will headline Dixie's stage at Grand Old Day on Sunday, June 1. The band—all alumni of St. Paul Central High School—view the gig as the realization of a dream.

“We’re excited to be playing for Grand Old Day,” said vocalist and lead rapper Craig Wilbourne, aka Felix. “Grand Old Day is cool because people of all ages get a chance to see and hear the bands. When I was too young to get into nightclubs, I could still go to Grand Old Day and check out the musicians.”

Heiruspecs (pronounced high-roo-spex) was formed in 1997. In the decade since, the band has released five CDs and has produced numerous videos. Its rap “5ves” found its way onto the soundtrack of the 2004 film *Harold and Kumar Go to White Castle*.

Despite the group's success, each of its members holds other jobs to put bread on the table. Wilbourne holds what he calls a “B.S. office job” and races drift cars. Drummer Peter Leggett plays with numerous

other bands and teaches at Walker West Music Academy on Selby Avenue. Bassist Sean McPherson (aka Twinkie Jiggles), vocalist John Harrison (aka Muaddib) and guitarist Josh Peterson all work at a group home for autistic children. And keyboardist DeVon Gray (aka dVRG) composes classical music and plays in various jazz bands.

“It’s pretty hard to keep the group organized with all the schedules,” Leggett said. “But we’re all committed to keeping it going. We’re working on a new CD as well.”

Heiruspecs, which takes its name from haruspex, which was a religious official in ancient Rome who practiced divination by inspecting the entrails of animals, got its start in a studio recording class at Central High taught by Red Freeberg. McPherson, who grew up in Williamstown, Massachusetts, moved to St. Paul at age 15, when his father became president of Macalester College. He chose to attend Central in part to take Freeberg's class.

“I was determined to play music,” McPherson said. “Before enrolling, I toured Edina High School and St. Paul Academy. But Central had Red's recording class and the right diversity and atmosphere. Central was a great choice, and Red turned out to be an inspiring teacher.”

“Sean was ambitious from the beginning,” said Freeberg, who still teaches at Central. “I remember early on when he had to fire a band member who was a friend of



Heiruspecs (from left to right) Craig “Felix” Wilbourne, Devon “dVRG” Gray, Josh Peterson (seated), Peter Leggett, John “Muaddib” Harrison (seated) and Sean “Twinkie Jiggles” McPherson. PHOTO BY CAMERON WITTIG

his and a popular kid at Central. It was tough for him—you know how high schoolers can be. But Sean had to make a business decision, which he did. And Sean and Felix have chemistry in their compositions that I think is the secret to their success. They complement each other.”

“I heard Felix just a few days after I arrived at Central,” McPherson said. “He knew how to improvise raps and his voice carried throughout the studio, even without a microphone. Felix has a focused energy that keeps the energy going on stage, and he’s very creative. I’m the guy they call for bookings, and I do more of the organizational things. So we do tend to support each other’s strengths.”

“I got into rap at an early age,” said Wilbourne/Felix. “My dad was into Run DMC. He listened to a lot of jazz as well. Those two sources are still where I get my inspiration.”

In high school, the fledgling hip-hoppers performed at friends’ homes, at private parties and in talent contests. After graduation they branched out into the Minneapolis club scene, playing at such venues as the 400 Bar, the Uptown Bar and First Avenue. Heiruspecs began touring full time in 2004, playing nearly every major city in the U.S.

“We stopped touring full time in 2006,” Wilbourne said. “We were getting worn out and we wanted to concentrate more on recording.”

Now that they are not touring extensively, “our biggest challenges are keeping the group going, paying our bills and getting health insurance,” McPherson said.

Various drummers, guitarists, keyboard and horn players have drifted in and out of the group over the past decade, but the current lineup has been intact for the past six years. The group has been re-

cording almost since its inception, releasing their debut “Live from the Studio” in 1998. Their latest cd, “10 Years Strong,” is a compilation of some of their best performances.

Unlike many hip-hop groups, Heiruspecs performs without turntables or prerecorded loops. “We’re at our best when we’re performing live,” Leggett said. “We want to communicate with the audience, and prefab technology can sometimes get in the way of that.”

“We work to get a real party atmosphere going at all of our performances,” Wilbourne said. “We deal with personal and political subjects in our raps, but we always make sure to keep the party going.”

“I feel that in hip hop, Heiruspecs represents St. Paul. You might say we’ve paid our St. Paul dues. So I think we deserve to headline at Grand Old Day.”

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Dixie's seeks next Grand Idol

BY LARRY ENGLUND

Local Archuletas, Cooks and Mercados will be singing their hearts out during the second annual Grand Idol competition on the Dixie's stage during Grand Old Day. The competition, in which four finalists sing to downloaded karaoke tracks, has already proven to be a favorite of the festival.

Dixie's manager Jonny Stewart serves as emcee and manages the competition. Preliminary rounds take place at Dixie's on Thursday nights in April and May. "We've noticed that more and more people are coming to take part," Stewart said. "The chance to sing at Grand Old Day is a big motivator."

The preliminary competitions run from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Thursdays, which is Dixie's regular karaoke night. "By 11:00 p.m. people generally get the courage to sing a few songs," he said.

Things are somewhat informal for the preliminaries. Stewart and other restaurant managers decide who will take part in the semifinals, which will be held on May 22 and 29. "If they've got some friends here to cheer them on and put on a good performance, they get a certificate and get to take part in the semifinals," he said.

The singing can be "very theatrical," Stewart said. "A lot of dancing goes on, and lots of times the contestant will come down and dance with the fans."

Participants are mostly in their 20's and 30's, which influences the songs they choose to sing. "Once in a while someone will do something from the '80s, but it's mostly the '90s, with a few from present day," Stewart said.

Those who get chosen often have been singing karaoke for years. "This year we've already chosen a couple of people who sing in bands," he said. "I guess you could call them semi-professional."

Dixie's generally cuts the field down to 15-20 contestants for the semifinals. Three guest judges then winnow the field down to four finalists for Grand Old Day.



Peter Gilliam (above) and Lyndsey Clerico (below) take their turn at the mic at Dixie's. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER



The culmination of the Grand Idol competition will take place at 3:00 p.m. on Grand Old Day. The contestants will sing to pre-recorded music. "They decide the song and they're usually big, big songs—songs that everybody knows," Stewart said. "It's all about getting the crowd involved. The more people you get to sing along, the better."

As for deciding who the Grand Idol will be, Stewart said it will be determined much like the television version. "We let the 3,000 people in the parking lot decide," he said.

Live music stages

The Grand Old Day Entertainment District will feature live music in seven festival gardens beginning at noon and ending at 5:00 p.m. People must be 21 or older to enter the festival gardens and must first buy a wristband if they want to purchase an alcoholic beverage. Wristband sales will begin at 10:00 a.m. and the festival gardens will open at 11:00 a.m., with beverage sales beginning at noon. The musical lineup (from east to west) includes the following:

DIXIE'S STAGE

Grand and St. Albans
Strangelove
A Verse Unsung
The New Congress
Vampire Hands
Grand Idol finale
Heiruspecs

THE ONION/WALGREENS STAGE

Grand and Grotto
Noon—McNally Smith College of Music Band
1:15 p.m.—E.L.n.O.
3:15-5:00 p.m.—Doomtree featuring emcees P.O.S, Sims, Dessa, Mictlan and Cecil Otter

LAVENDER STAGE PIER 1 IMPORTS LOT

Grand and Grotto
The Roxxy Hall Band
DJ Red Richard
Heroinshiek vs. DJ Naughty Boy
Live podcast with Wanda Wisdom

WILD ONION STAGE

Grand and Avon
Noon-2:00 p.m.—Uncle Chunk
2:00-5:00 p.m.—G.B. Leighton

BILLY'S ON GRAND STAGE

Grand and Victoria
The Walleyes
Arc Flash Hazard
Orange Whip

D'AMICO & SONS STAGE

Grand and Chatsworth
Landing Gear
Corpse Show Creeps
Black Blondie
Chooglin'

US BANK STAGE

Grand and Oxford
Noon—The Nightingales
1:00 p.m.—The Debut
2:15 p.m.—Jistoray
3:45 p.m.—Roster McCabe

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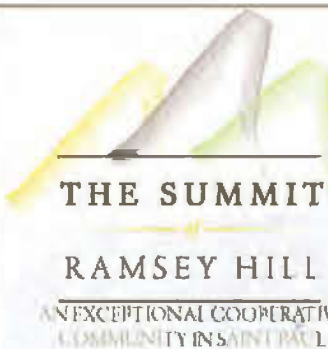
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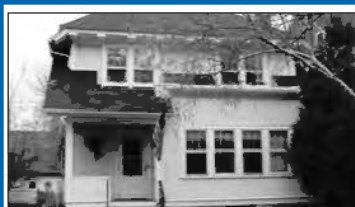
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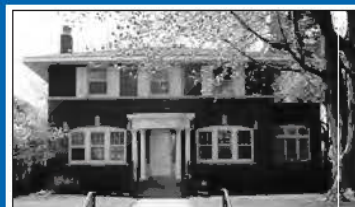
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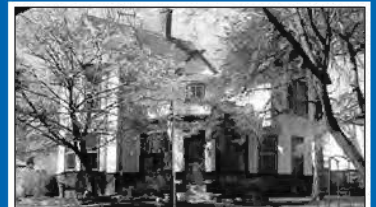
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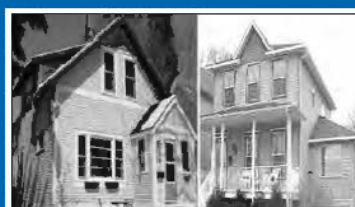
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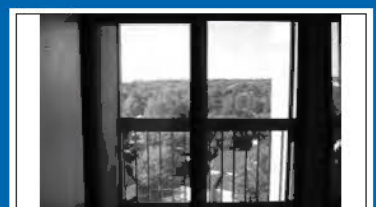
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