



# VILLAGER

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## Neighbors weigh top 3 options for Rock-Tenn plant

### District councils take closer look at biogas, gas turbine and gasification alternatives

BY JANE MCCLURE

The St. Paul City Council has invited four of the city's 17 district councils to weigh in on the St. Paul Port Authority's top three recommendations for powering the Rock-Tenn paper recycling plant at I-94 and Vandalia Street. The Union Park, Mcalester-Groveland, Hamline-Midway and St. Anthony Park councils will have until November 7 to respond. The City Council will hold a public hearing on the matter, most likely in late November or December, before voting on which energy source would be best for the Midway plant.

Port Authority representatives and the Rock-Tenn Community Advisory Panel (RCAP) met 24 times over the past year to consider various options for powering Rock-Tenn, Minnesota's largest paper recycling plant. The \$4 million state-funded study included such options as solar and wind power, anaerobic digestion, advanced thermal energy, conventional combustion and the burning of refuse-derived fuel or various forms of biomass.

The Port Authority's preferred option is the generation of biogas through anaerobic digestion carried out at a facility in rural Minnesota that is not owned by Rock-Tenn. Anaerobic digestion uses microbes to promote the decomposition of corn by-prod-

ROCK-TENN ▶ 4



Xander Herrmann, 4, was not singing in the rain, but he did splash his way along the curb in rhythm to the seventh annual Selby Avenue JazzFest on September 13. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

## Convention: Boon or bust for St. Paul?

### Four-day affair had some local businesses seeing red, but others predict rosy future

BY KEVIN DRISCOLL

St. Paul's week in the national spotlight as host of the Republican National Convention was a boon or a bust for local business, depending on whom you ask. Though the final numbers are not in, the line of demarcation between those businesses that did well and those that did not appears to have been the security fence that was erected three or four blocks out from the Xcel Energy Center. Inside the fence, businesses generally did well; outside, not nearly so much.

"We didn't realize the challenges to some businesses near the Xcel Center until the security fences went up," said Erin Dady, the city's marketing director. "Some businesses did well during the convention, but many more did well over the past year as convention planners and media scouts from all over the country came to St. Paul to prepare. But the main reason we wanted the convention was for long-term gain through worldwide exposure of St. Paul as a place to visit and to hold big conventions. We're very pleased with how we were seen."

In terms of future convention business, "our hosting of the GOP convention has already helped us book four groups and 14,000 hotel room nights," said Karolyn Kirchglesler, president and CEO of the St. Paul RiverCentre Convention and Visitors Authority. "St. Paul is going to feel the benefits of this for years to come."

Members of the St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce met with city officials on September 17 to assess the effects of the convention. In an interview prior to the meeting, the chamber's economic development manager, Michael Belaen, described the Republican convention as "a mixed bag" for business.

"The security was more than some of our members expected," Belaen said. "For the four days of the RNC, some businesses didn't do as well as they'd hoped. But all of the hotels and many businesses did do well, and we believe it will absolutely help in the future with much more tourism and investment. The long-term benefit of telling St. Paul's story and building awareness of the city is going to be astounding."

CONVENTION ▶ 2

## Canyon crossing brings plight of Africans closer to home

BY BILL STIEGER

Highland Park residents Jane and John Cacich are now in training for their seventh consecutive rim-to-rim hike across the Grand Canyon on October 4. What began as a challenge to mark their 50th birthdays has blossomed into a major fundraiser for the small, Lexington-Hamline nonprofit organization Give Us Wings, which is working to reduce poverty in the East African

nations of Kenya and Uganda. The Caciches will be joined on the 24-mile hike by a handful of friends and family members, and solidarity walks will be held throughout the country as well as in the African villages served by Give Us Wings.

"I began taking pledges for Give Us Wings in 2004," Jane said. "It seems to get better each year. The first year we raised about \$3,500. Last year we raised over \$20,000."

The Caciches will traverse the width of the

Grand Canyon, heading down the Bright Angel Trail on the south rim and climbing out on the Kaibab Trail on the north rim. To prepare for the arduous 12-hour hike, they power-walk from three to 11 miles daily.

"You have to be in good shape to survive the canyon," Jane said. "People who can't make it end up having to be taken out by helicopter, which costs them a lot of money. It's eight miles down into the canyon and eight miles across. And the walk up—I don't care

what kind of shape you're in—seems like an eternity."

Jane, a teacher who works with vision-impaired students in St. Paul, visited Africa for three weeks in 2005 as a volunteer with Give Us Wings. She worked at a health clinic with an African ophthalmologist in Nayoga, Kenya, and found the trip highly rewarding.

"We had villagers who had never had an

GIVE US WINGS ▶ 5

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# Cities launch investigations into police conduct during RNC

By Jane McClure

The ongoing controversy over alleged police misconduct before and during the Republican National Convention (RNC) will come to a head at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, September 24, when Ward 2 City Council member Dave Thune hosts a city-wide meeting on the issue in City Hall. Meanwhile, the mayors of St. Paul and Minneapolis have launched their own investigations into the allegations, and a separate report has been promised by the St. Paul Police Department.

The issue has inundated City Hall with phone calls and e-mails and prompted about 30 people to picket a fundraiser for St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman on September 12 outside a home in St. Anthony Park.

Local authorities made 818 arrests during the convention. Some of the arrests included legal observers, journalists and peaceful demonstrators who got caught up in large group arrests.

Thune said he was upset to hear that citizens participating in peaceful marches were tear-gassed, pepper-sprayed or fired upon with smoke bombs and flash-bang canisters. "I'm concerned that free speech really suffered during the RNC," he said.

Thune also criticized a series of raids that were carried out by the Ramsey County Sheriff's Department prior to the convention. "I've heard some real horror stories," he said.

Ward 4 City Council member Russ Stark used his most recent newsletter to update constituents on the ongoing investigations and urge them to file complaints with the city

if they experienced or witnessed any police misconduct. "Many of the stories we've heard and images we've seen may not be the full story," Stark said. "I intend to wait for as full a picture of events as possible before making judgments."

There were 3,700 law enforcement officers assigned to convention security during the four-day event in St. Paul, more than 90 percent of whom were from agencies outside of St. Paul and Ramsey County. Their wages and equipment were paid for by a \$50 million grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Communities United Against Police Brutality and other civil liberties organizations are expected to testify on September 24 regarding convention security. City officials may also hear from at least two district councils.

The Macalester-Groveland Community Council and the Summit Hill Association passed resolutions on September 11 supporting an in-depth, comprehensive investigation of police conduct during the RNC, joining a chorus that included U.S. Representative Betty McCollum and Minneapolis City Council members Cam Gordon and Gary Schiff. The SHA vote was 8-2-7. The Macalester-Groveland council's vote was 11-3-1.

"The resolution is a nonpartisan show of support for an impartial, comprehensive, in-depth investigation of the way police conducted security during the RNC," said Richard Broderick, president of the Macalester-Groveland council. "Those calls are based on the belief that there is probable cause to think there may have been violations of civil liberties and

constitutional rights committed during the convention by law enforcement officials."

Since the vote, Broderick has heard from Macalester-Groveland board members who questioned the propriety of the resolution. One issue raised was that the resolution was not on either district council's published agenda prior to the meetings. Broderick said it is likely that the Macalester-Groveland resolution will be brought back in October for further discussion.

Summit Hill Association president Mark Sutherlin said that he attended a large demonstration outside the Republican National Convention on Labor Day and did not see any police misconduct. "But to see police out in full riot gear, when we were told that wouldn't happen unless it was needed, was kind of frightening," he said.

Coleman announced on September 9 that St. Paul would hire former federal prosecutors Tom Heffelfinger and Andy Lugar to review convention security plans and how they were carried out. "Conducting an independent review of this event will give our residents and future host cities better insight on what opportunities were seized and what lessons were learned," Coleman said in a statement. He said the review would be independent and "broad," but he did not specify its cost or scope.

Heffelfinger, who served two terms as a U.S. Attorney (1991-93 and 2001-2006) for Minnesota, now works for the Minneapolis law firm of Best & Flanagan. Lugar, a former Assistant U.S. Attorney, works for the Minneapolis law firm of Greene Espel. As of last week, they had yet to announce how the investigation would

proceed. However, they and the Coleman administration have stated that the investigation will not explore violations of individuals' rights nor allegations of wrongdoing by law enforcement. Many of those complaints are expected to play out in the courts or before the St. Paul Police-Civilian Review Board.

Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak announced a similar investigation on September 11 to evaluate security strategies and arrests associated with a Liberty Parade, Critical Mass bicycle ride, the demonstrations in the wake of a Rage Against the Machine concert and other Minneapolis protests held in conjunction with the RNC. Several Minneapolis city departments will participate in the investigation, including the police, the City Attorney's Office and Civil Rights Department.

One of Mayor Coleman's choices for the city of St. Paul's investigation was already sparking controversy last week. Heffelfinger is among 13 current and former Republican officials who were named as members of a new Coleman for Senate Truth Squad announced on September 16 by U.S. Senator Norm Coleman's re-election campaign. The Truth Squad has been assigned to respond to issues raised by Senator Coleman's DFL challenger, Al Franken.

Summit Hill resident Dann Dobson contacted Mayor Coleman's office and other city officials on September 17 objecting to Heffelfinger's participation in the city investigation, saying it poses a "serious conflict of interest on Mr. Heffelfinger's part" and asking that he be removed. The mayor said he would not remove Heffelfinger.

## 1 ◀ CONVENTION: BOON OR BUST?

The owners and employees of businesses outside of the security perimeter can only hope. Those restaurants and retailers, particularly along West 7th Street and Grand and Selby avenues, invariably fared much worse than they were led to expect.

"In every contact we had with the city leading up to this, they made a really big deal out of it," said David Regan, executive director of the Grand Avenue Business Association. "They said GABA members would make a lot of money during the convention and in the future. Obviously, we have to wait and see about the future, but during the convention I don't think anybody (on Grand) won."

GABA had contracts with various hotels to use doubledecker buses to carry convention delegates and media personnel up the hill to Grand Avenue, Regan said, "but the ridership on those buses was not what we expected."

"We had some convention and media set-up crews come in before the convention, but even our regulars stayed away during it," said John Wolf, co-owner of Dixie's on Grand. "The week of Labor Day is traditionally a slow week, and this year sales were about even with last year. We knew it was going to be bad when people were calling and asking, 'How do I get through the tear gas?'"

John Wengler, manager of Billy's on Grand,



The "X," the center of action during the Republican National Convention on September 1-4, was not the center of convention-related business. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

said that during the convention business was down "10 to 20 percent from last year. We didn't get any foot traffic during those four days. But the GOP seemed to love the city, so maybe it'll help in the future."

"I've heard of just one success story, the Happy Gnome," said Selby Avenue Business Association president Jeff Gardiner, "and that was because they had a 4:00 a.m. license, so they attracted a big late-night crowd. I did hear that the Louisiana Cafe got a nice boost on Tuesday morning of the RNC because the

CBS morning show broadcast from there."

Several Selby Avenue restaurants, "particularly Il Vesco Vino," got a lot of the Homeland Security and Secret Service agents during the lead-up to the convention, Gardiner said. "And W.A. Frost hosted a few events. But I know Fabulous Fern's didn't do well, and La Grolla had their worst week ever."

"I don't know of any businesses outside the perimeter that did well," said Betty Moran, community organizer for the West 7th/Fort Road Federation. "I know McGovern's and

the Eagle Street Grill were booked for the whole time, but there was so much catering inside the Xcel that delegates didn't need or, with the protests going on, didn't want to venture out."

"Because of the tight security, getting into the Republican convention sometimes took a while," Kirchgessler said. "It required delegates and the media to pass through metal detectors and have belongings searched each and every time. So most delegates stayed inside the Xcel once they were in and had their food and drinks there."

And at the end of the day, "the majority of the delegates were bused off to Minneapolis and Bloomington to parties at their hotels," said Dan Greenberg, owner of Champps on West 7th Street and president of the West 7th Business Association. "Champps did get some Secret Service and police in, but only one delegate, and he was asking for directions. I think people were afraid because of the protests."

"I'd really rather not dwell on this," said a glum Dave Cossetta, owner of Cossetta Italian Market & Pizzeria on West 7th. "St. Paul hosted the convention, but Minneapolis got the benefit. The thing is, St. Paul doesn't have the infrastructure that Minneapolis does. I'm not sure the rest of the country knows how good a host the Twin Cities can be, and I can only

REPUBLICAN ▶ 3



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**2 ◀ REPUBLICAN CONVENTION**

hope it happens for Cossetta's in the future." "It was disappointing on our end," said Pat Mancini, co-owner of Mancini's Char House & Lounge on West 7th. Mancini's had rented a tent for the convention because of the expected overflow. "But things were slower than normal because the locals stayed away," he said. "The security split the city in two. One person told me it was a 20-minute cab ride from the Crowne Plaza Hotel to our place because of the roundabout route they had to take."

Convention week was another story alto-

gether inside the security perimeter. Valid Serhan, general manager of the Liffey Irish Pub at West 7th and Kellogg Boulevard, said, "We did much, much better than last year, especially since we were open until 4:00 a.m. I can't wait until it happens again, but I don't think that'll be any time soon."

Unlike businesses outside of downtown, "we did get a lot of our regulars in during the convention," Serhan said. "It was like a big party for about three hours every night." (The RNC) really put St. Paul out there, gave us national exposure, and that's going to help in the future."

Pazzaluna on St. Peter Street and the St. Paul

Grill on Market Street also did well, according to Peg Roessler of Morrissey Hospitality, which manages the two restaurants. "Monday and Tuesday were slower than we expected because of the hurricane (on the gulf coast), but Wednesday and Thursday were very busy," she said.

"We had a fantastic week," said Russell Klein, co-owner of the Meritage on St. Peter Street. "We played our cards well. We rented ourselves out for the first half of the day and were open to the public from 7:00 p.m. to closing. We stayed busy with both delegates and media people. Having so many media people here, foreign and national, will be a big

help in the future."

Klein, who was speaking by phone from New York City, said, "I've been in New York for a week after the RNC and the papers here still have St. Paul in the headlines. The writers are saying, 'If you don't like St. Paul, you've got a screw loose.' That's priceless stuff."

The Minneapolis-St. Paul Host Committee "could have done a better job of forming expectations for the convention," Klein said. "They ridiculously inflated the idea that the city would be open for business and traffic patterns would be good. But St. Paul looked great in the background of all those TV shows. We're poised for tremendous growth."

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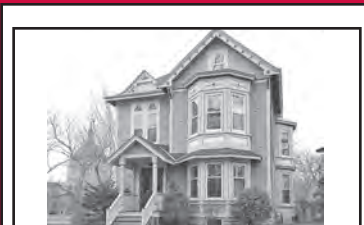
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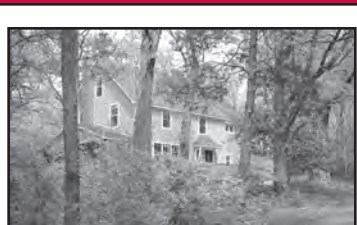
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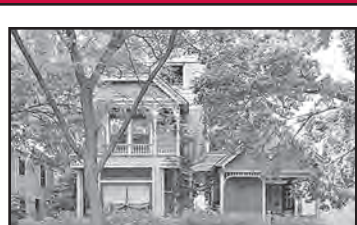
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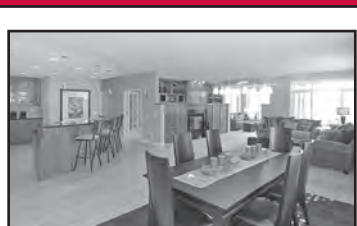
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# Work begins on new fire station at West 7th and Randolph

By JANE McCLURE

Construction of a new fire station on West 7th Street will get under way in October, resulting in what St. Paul Fire Chief Tim Butler described as a "100-year building."

The West 7th/Fort Road Federation reviewed the latest architectural renderings for the station on September 8. The \$10 million structure, which was designed by Collaborative Design Group, will be built at the corner of West 7th and Randolph Avenue. The site will be fenced off prior to construction and parking restrictions will go into effect on surrounding streets. The station is scheduled to open in late 2009.

The new station will house the fire companies now operating out of Stations 1 and 10, as well as the Fire Department's administration. Station 1 at 296 W. 7th St. dates from the 1960s. Station 10 at 754 Randolph Ave. dates from the 1880s and is the oldest fire station still in use in St. Paul. It was originally built for horse-drawn equipment and once served as a hospital for ill or injured fire horses.

Replacing Station 10 has been discussed for more than a decade. A 2007 audit of fire services in St. Paul recommended combining the two stations. Once the new station is finished, the two older stations will be sold.

Fire administration is moving to



The latest rendering of the proposed West 7th fire station. COLLABORATIVE DESIGN GROUP

make way for the proposed Penfield commercial-residential development in downtown St. Paul. The sale of the old Public Safety Building has left the department's offices in space the city no longer owns. "We kind of feel like we're squatters," Butler said.

A number has not yet been assigned to the new fire station. While there is some sentiment to name it Station 1, Butler said the department is considering Station 101 to reflect the merger of the two companies.

Architect Michael Jordan said the long and narrow site, the slope, the underlying bedrock and an underground ravine that crosses the property posed some design challenges.

The station will face West 7th, with the administration portion of the building facing Randolph. Part of the

building will also front on Toronto Street. "It's an interesting site in that there really isn't a front or a back," Jordan said.

The building's exterior will be made of red brick and buffed cast stone. A stair tower will provide a visual focal point on West 7th St. The stair tower and a separate hose tower are being designed so they can be used for firefighter training that now takes place at the department's training facility next to Midway Stadium on Energy Park Drive.

The building will be two stories tall, with room for future upward expansion. The five vehicle bays will exit on West 7th and enter on Randolph, eliminating the need for vehicles to back into the bays after returning from calls.

A two-story parking ramp will

be built behind the structure. Firefighters will enter the parking area off of West 7th, and fire administration and the public will enter off of Toronto.

Dormitory space for the firefighters will be on the second level above the vehicle bays. Eighteen firefighters will stay there during each shift. The on-call deputy chief and arson investigator will also live there. The fire station will also include offices, day rooms, a fitness center and kitchen.

About 30 people will work in the fire administration offices. The offices will include space to display historic fire equipment, including a first-floor area for the city's restored steam pumper.

Pedestrian entrances will be off of Randolph and Toronto. One com-

plaint raised by federation board members is that there is no door for public access at Randolph and West 7th. "We tried to get an entrance on the corner, but it just didn't work with the design," said architect James O'Shea.

The building will have a green roof and a plaza on the roof of the parking ramp for Fire Department events. It will have solar heating for hot water and make extensive use of natural light for its interior spaces. The city's goal is for the building to meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) silver standards, a federal rating system used to evaluate buildings by their environmental impact.

One of the questions that came up at the September 8 meeting was where the current bus stop on the corner will be moved. The United Family Practice Health Center now under construction across Randolph Avenue from the fire station site may have as many as 20 percent of its patients arriving by bus. Butler said fire administrators are talking with the clinic and Metro Transit about where the bus stop can be relocated.

Another question is how to replace parking displaced by the station. That corner of West 7th and Randolph is now used as a parking lot by nearby businesses. City officials are considering whether employees of nearby businesses could be granted access to the fire station's parking ramp.

## 1 ◀ ROCK-TENN

ucts, sugar-beet waste or cattle or poultry manure into biogas, a clean, renewable energy source that is similar to natural gas.

Various sites and raw materials are being studied for the anaerobic digestion facility. Biogas produced at the plant could be added to the natural gas pipeline system and used to buy down the cost of the natural gas that would be used to power about 75 percent of Rock-Tenn's operations. The other 25 percent would be powered by fuel oil.

By participating in efforts to produce biogas, Rock-Tenn may be able to purchase natural gas at a 10 to 20 percent discount. The

anaerobic digestion facility would provide a convenient way for a rural community to dispose of waste. Another by-product of the process is rich soil, which could be used as fertilizer.

If for some reason the biogas option does not pan out, the Port Authority's second choice is to build a new natural gas turbine at Rock-Tenn to co-generate electricity and steam. The electricity would be sold to a utility company, and the steam would be used to power the Rock-Tenn plant.

The Port Authority's third choice is to build a gasification facility at Rock-Tenn that would be fueled by a renewable form of biomass, such as agricultural or wood waste.

Early indications are that the four district councils support RCAP's recommendations, which generally support the Port Authority's recommendations while adding caveats about environmental impacts, technical difficulties and RCAP's continued opposition to the burning of refuse-derived fuel.

"I think the pieces are in place to put this proposal together," said Don Arnosti, a representative of the Macalester-Groveland Community Council on RCAP and an early advocate of anaerobic digestion.

"I think the recommendations are a win-win-win for everyone involved," said Randy Schubring, an RCAP member from Hamline-Midway.

Rock-Tenn lost its longtime source of steam power over a year ago when Xcel Energy began decommissioning its coal-fired High Bridge Plant and replacing it with a natural-gas powered plant that does not have the capacity to generate steam for Rock-Tenn. Since then, Rock-Tenn has used a combination of fuel oil and natural gas, which has increased operating costs dramatically, according to Port Authority vice president Pete Klein.

Rock-Tenn has 475 employees, including 375 members of the steelworkers union, 15 operating engineers and 12 electricians. The plant recycles about 1,000 tons of paper per day into boxboard and other packaging products.

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TAKING ACTION



Jane and John Cacich of Highland Park are preparing for another rim-to-rim hike across the Grand Canyon on October 4 to raise money for Give Us Wings. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

**1 ◀ GIVE US WINGS**

eye exam," she said. "It was a thrill to see so many people put on glasses and be able to see well for the first time."

John, an administrator at Anoka Technical College, said he was not at all nervous about his wife's service in Africa. "I met Jane while we were both serving in the Peace Corps," he said. "We got married in the Fiji Islands. Jane can take care of herself and she had researched Give Us Wings before going to Africa, so I wasn't worried. I guess we're both adventurers."

Mary Steiner and her daughter, Shawn Whelen, founded Give Us Wings in Minneapolis in 1999 following a trip to Africa where they served as volunteers for another organization. They witnessed unimaginable poverty: no clean drinking water, rampant HIV and orphans left behind by those who had died of it.

"A lot of the projects they said existed didn't," Steiner said. "We wanted to start a small grassroots group whose efforts would contribute directly to the Africans."

Give Us Wings recently opened a medical clinic in Uganda with a full-time staff of eight. Steiner, as the organization's director, travels to Africa three or four times annually, usually for a couple of months at a time. "We're a small organization," she said, "but we're looking to grow."

Give Us Wings currently sponsors more than 20 ongoing projects throughout Kenya and Uganda, including clean water projects, medical clinics, literacy groups, HIV groups, women's groups, and schools and clinics for

the disabled. The organization is 95 percent supported through private donations, with the rest coming through grants from charitable groups. Give Us Wings recently benefitted from "American Idol Gives Back," a massive fundraiser.

*"You have to be in good shape to survive the canyon," Jane said. "People who can't make it end up having to be taken out by helicopter."*

Jane was introduced to Give Us Wings through a fellow teacher who was scheduled to travel to Africa as a volunteer. The friend had to cancel the trip for personal reasons, and Jane went in her place. She continues to volunteer for Give Us Wings as a member of its steering committee.

"The great thing about Give Us Wings is it's almost entirely run by the volunteers," she said. "Nearly all the donations go directly to the Africans. I felt so good about the group after the African trip. It occurred to me that the next logical step was to use our hikes across the Grand Canyon as a motivator to get people to pledge for the group."

Contributions may be sent to: Give Us Wings, 450 N. Syndicate St., Suite 290, St. Paul, MN 55104. For more information, visit [www.giveuswings.org](http://www.giveuswings.org) or call 651-789-5606.

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**Slovak scholars coming to Twin Cities**

**M**artin Butora and Zora Butorova, a Slovak couple who were deeply involved in Czechoslovakia's Velvet Revolution in 1989 and the creation of the Slovak Republic, will take part in a series of free programs in early October as part of a program that evolved from the Vaclav Havel Civil Society Symposium.

The couple will lead a discussion following a screening of the film *Citizen Havel* at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, October 7, in Room 126 of the John R. Roach Center at the University of St. Thomas.

Butora will discuss "The U.S. and the New Europe: The Imperative for a New Partnership" at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 8, at House of Hope Presbyterian Church, 797 Summit Ave.

Butorova will speak on "The Role of Women in New Democracies" at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, October 9, in Room 100 of St. Thomas' McNeely Hall.

The Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota will host a reception for the couple from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Saturday, October 11, at the CSPS Hall, 383 Michigan St.

The couple will also speak at House of Hope during the 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, October 12, and at an 11:00 a.m. program on "Characteristics and Challenges of Recent Democracies in Central Europe."

For information, call 651-962-6035.

# St. Paul could see an overall 5 percent hike in property taxes

By JANE McCLURE

Projected increases in the taxes levied by the Ramsey County Board, St. Paul City Council and St. Paul School Board suggest that St. Paul property owners as a whole can expect to see increases in their property tax bills in 2009.

However, because of the slumping housing market, the growing number of home foreclosures and the resulting decrease in home market values, the tax increase will likely largely be borne by the owners of commercial property, according to Chris Samuel, manager of property records and revenue for Ramsey County.

The City Council has set a maximum levy of \$89.25 million for 2009, an 8 percent increase over 2008, to support a city budget of \$541 million, up from \$500 million in 2008. The Ramsey County Board has set a maximum levy of \$253 million for 2009, a 4.5 percent increase over 2008, to support a county budget of \$588.7 million. The St. Paul School Board was expected to adopt a maximum levy for 2009 of \$107 million on September

## Median Taxable Home Market Values

Neighborhood	2008	2009	Percent Change
Sunray-Battle Creek	\$195,800	\$180,600	-7.8
Greater East Side	\$177,000	\$161,700	-8.6
West Side	\$175,900	\$178,800	1.6
Dayton's Bluff	\$156,400	\$136,200	-12.9
Payne-Phalen	\$169,300	\$154,500	-8.7
North End	\$165,600	\$146,700	-11.4
Thomas-Dale	\$145,800	\$136,450	-6.4
Summit-University	\$202,400	\$200,600	-0.9
West End	\$172,200	\$177,400	3
Como	\$228,700	\$220,200	-3.7
Hamline-Midway	\$189,400	\$185,200	-2.2
St. Anthony Park	\$281,400	\$280,350	-0.4
District 13*	\$282,000	\$281,750	-0.1
Macalester-Groveland	\$288,350	\$281,850	-2.3
Highland Park	\$280,200	\$271,700	-3
Summit Hill	\$380,000	\$378,500	-0.4
Downtown	\$130,600	\$152,250	16.6

\* District 13 comprises the Merriam Park, Snelling-Hamline and Lexington-Hamline neighborhoods.

23, a 4 percent increase over 2008, to support an annual budget of \$625 million.

The total tax levy increase for all three local units of government is 5 percent.

State law requires maximum levies to be set by cities and counties no later than September 15 and by school districts no later than September 30 of the preceding year. After those dates, the levy amounts

can be decreased but not increased.

At this point, it appears that many St. Paul homeowners will see a reduction in their property tax bills next year due to declines in the taxable market values of their homes, although those changes varied greatly across the city (see chart).

Overall, the taxable market value of single-family residential property in St. Paul will see a 3.2 percent decrease for 2009. That compares to average increases of from 2.5 to 6 percent in the taxable market value of commercial, industrial and multi-family residential properties.

In the weeks leading up to their vote on the maximum levy, City Council members debated whether to set a higher maximum levy to provide more flexibility as they deliberate a final city budget for 2009.

Council members Dan Bostrom and Lee Helgen had wanted to provide more money to deal with the increasing number of vacant buildings across the city. St. Paul now has 2,150 registered vacant properties, most of them single-family homes that were swept up in the mortgage foreclosure crisis.

Bostrom called for an additional

\$800,000 in 2009 to address vacant buildings, saying that the vacancies are driving down property values and threatening what for many people is their largest investment.

Other council members objected, saying that tough economic times on top of the 15.9 percent increase in the city's tax levy in 2008 are straining the budgets of St. Paul property owners.

Some council members indicated that they are open to allocating more money to address vacant housing by cutting the city budget elsewhere or by taking advantage of upcoming changes in Federal Community Development Block Grant program. However, Helgen said it would be more straightforward to levy for the vacant building program instead of counting on federal funding that may never be forthcoming.

St. Paul property owners can expect to receive their estimated 2009 property tax notices in mid-November. A public hearing on the city, county and school district's proposed property tax levies for 2009 will be held at 6:00 p.m. Thursday, December 11, at Arlington Senior High School.

# Fiscal impact of Ford Plant redevelopments discussed Oct. 6

By JANE McCLURE

The two-year reprieve for Ford Motor Company's Twin Cities Assembly Plant in Highland Park does not mean an end to planning for the long-term reuse of the 146-acre property. The Ford Site Planning Task Force will reconvene on Monday, October 6, to discuss the fiscal impacts of the five redevelopment scenarios it chose last year. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. at Lumen Christi Catholic Church, 2055 Bohland Ave.

Ford announced earlier this year that the Highland Park plant will continue to produce Ranger pickup trucks until 2011. The 82-year-old plant had originally been scheduled to close in 2009. The postponement has given the city more time to study the long-term reuse of the site, according to city planner Merritt Clapp-Smith.

"Despite the extension of plant operations, the Ford Site Planning Task Force will not be

disbanded," Clapp-Smith said. However, the task force does plan to meet less frequently going forward.

The delay in the Ford plant's closing means that Ford most likely will not select a master developer for the property until the summer or fall of 2010. The selection was originally supposed to be made this year.

Last year the task force narrowed its focus to five redevelopment scenarios. Each of the five had a primary component, such as light industrial use, offices or housing. Each also included space for park land as well as newly laid-out streets.

City planner Luis Pereira and Robert Luckow of Hennepin County Community Works will present information on the fiscal impacts of the five different scenarios at the October 6 meeting.

In addition to studying the fiscal impacts, city officials are now working on two "sustainable" redevelopment efforts funded through a

\$45,000 grant from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. City staff and consultants are looking at environmentally friendly or "green" design ideas. They are also studying ways to improve stormwater management after the site is redeveloped. Those studies began in July and will continue into next summer.

A third study, funded by the Minnesota Legislature at a cost of \$100,000, will assess the potential reuse of the property for green manufacturing. Part of the study will look at skills assessment and retraining. That study will get under way this fall.

A two- to three-day planning charette regarding the 22 acres of Ford land below the bluff and adjacent to the river will take place next spring or summer. That site includes the Ford steam and wastewater treatment plants, but not the hydroelectric plant, which was sold last year to Brookfield Development.

Ford had added the riverbottom land to the redevelopment plan earlier this year. Ideas for

the riverside property will be added to the Alternative Urban Area-wide Review, which will examine the overall impact of redevelopment. That study has been pushed back to the fall of 2010 and should be completed by the following summer.

The city's revised timeline also calls for more environmental assessment of the Ford property in 2010 and 2011. Investigation of pollution in and beneath the Ford buildings cannot take place until the plant closes.

Ford is now proceeding with the identification of issues related to the network of tunnels beneath the property, Clapp-Smith said. The tunnels were used for excavating silica sand as well as for transportation and storage. Some barrels of chemicals have been found in the tunnels. Ford is working with the MPCA in studying the tunnels.

For more information on the October 6 meeting, call Pereira at 651-266-6591 or visit [www.stpaul.gov/index.asp?NID=1318](http://www.stpaul.gov/index.asp?NID=1318).

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Howard Orenstein

## Orenstein or Bohr? Voters will have to judge for themselves on Nov. 4

BY KEVIN DRISCOLL

The eight-way race for the open seat in Ramsey County's Second District Court has been narrowed to two candidates. Assistant Hennepin County Attorney Howard Orenstein and Children's Law Center of Minnesota executive director Gail Chang Bohr topped the field in the September 9 primary election with 29 and 21 percent of the votes, respectively. They will face off in the November 4 general election to replace retiring Judge John T. Finley.

Orenstein, 52, of Highland Park, has been serving in the civil division of the Hennepin County Attorney's office since 2004. From 1984 to 2002, he was an attorney in the law firm of Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi. He is perhaps best known for his work from 1987 to 1996 as a member of the Minnesota House of Representatives from District 64B.

Bohr, 64, a Como resident, founded the Children's Law Center in 1995. As executive director, she oversees a small staff of attorneys and social workers and more than 270 volunteer lawyers who help foster children, state wards and other minors who are in need of legal representation in the judicial, child welfare, health care or educational systems. She has also served as a conciliation court judge in Hennepin County since 2003.

Orenstein, who is married with three children, was born in St. Louis as the second of three children. He graduated from Vanderbilt University in 1978 and received his law degree from Northwestern University in 1982. He served one year as a clerk for U.S. District Judge John F. Grady in Chicago, moved to St. Paul in 1983 and worked for a year as a clerk at Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi before joining the firm. He eventually became a partner.

Orenstein has served as an adjunct professor of law at Hamline University and is currently chairman of the board of the St. Paul Public Schools Foundation and a member of the boards of the Metropolitan State University Foundation and the Edgcombe Youth Hockey Association, where he has coached for 14 years.

As a state legislator, Orenstein served on the House Judiciary Committee, chaired its Civil Law Subcommittee and sat on the Judiciary Finance Committee, among other assignments. He said he has had "a lifelong passion for justice and public service," developed growing up in the 1960s in a family who "talked a lot about issues. Those discussions helped me understand that the law could be an instrument for making sure that all people are treated equally," he said.

Bohr, who is married with two grown children, graduated magna cum laude from William Mitchell College of Law in 1991. She holds a master's degree in social work from Simmons College and a bachelor's degree in sociology from Wellesley College. She clerked for Minnesota Supreme Court Chief Justice A. M. "Sandy" Keith for a year and served as an associate in the law firm of Faegre and Benson

### Ramsey County Second District Court Primary

Candidate	Votes	Percent
Howard Orenstein	9,858	28.7
Gail Chang Bohr	7,042	20.5
Paul Godfrey	5,203	15.0
Connie S. Iversen	3,759	10.9
John P. Guzik	2,749	8.0
Richard F. Carlson Jr.	2,654	7.7
Joy D. Bartscher	2,109	6.1
James C. Snyder, Sr.	1,007	2.9

Source: Minnesota Secretary of State

for three years before founding the Children's Law Center.

Born in Jamaica, the ninth of 15 children, Bohr's grandparents moved to that Caribbean island from China at the turn of the 20th century. She worked for 19 years as a social worker in Boston, Sacramento and Hong Kong, moved to Minnesota in 1980 and worked for the Children's Home Society for seven years before entering law school.

Bohr said she became a lawyer because "I saw limitations in what I could do as a social worker." As an attorney, she said, she has come to appreciate "the impact that judges have on people's lives. It is important that people feel they are being treated fairly. Laws are only as good as the people interpreting and enforcing them."

Her work at the Children's Law Center has garnered several awards, including William Mitchell College of Law's Distinguished Alumni Award, the American Bar Association's Child Advocacy Award, *Minnesota Lawyer* magazine's Attorney of the Year award in 2000 and the Minnesota Council of Child Caring Agencies' Distinguished Service Award.

Bohr believes that court employees are overworked and that the courts are underfunded and understaffed, especially the Public Defenders' Office. "I would speak publicly about the lack of adequate resources and testify at the Legislature about it," she said, "but I don't think as a judge I should be calling legislators to pressure them about more money for the courts." However, she added, "there are so many different languages being spoken in Ramsey County these days, we need to ensure that everyone facing the justice system understands exactly what is going on."

Orenstein said that if he is elected, he will promote the restoration of funding in the courts for victim advocacy and court interpreter services, higher juror fees and additional public defenders. "I'm concerned that the most recent cuts have put those programs at risk," he said. "All branches of government are experiencing cuts, but the cuts in the judicial system are placing fairness in jeopardy. A good judge should establish relations with elected officials to advocate for programs to improve the dispensation of justice." Orenstein said he would use his extensive contacts in the political world to do that.

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# Viewpoint

## The view from the floor of the RNC

BY TOM CONLON

The local, national and international news media covered the speeches and the protests, but little of what the 2008 Republican National Convention was like from the perspective of Minnesota's 41 delegates.

This was my fifth consecutive RNC as either a delegate or alternate. For practical and security reasons, delegates and alternates all travel by bus to and from the delegation's hotel in every city that hosts a national convention. But since this was St. Paul, I drove downtown each day from my home to the Hilton Garden Inn where the Minnesota delegation was assigned. The \$250-a-day rate, with a five-day minimum, was too steep, but traffic and parking weren't bad. I arrived at 8:30 a.m. each day and was home around 1:00 a.m.

Each morning began with a delegation breakfast, a meeting and guest speakers. Those who appeared before our delegation included Republican congressional candidates, Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty, former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney and former Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge. Noon, afternoon and post-convention receptions were held each day at various locales.

Unlike previous conventions, most receptions were held jointly with other delegations, in our case with Montana, California, Arizona, South Dakota, Tennessee, California and a few other states. Corporate or trade sponsors such as Best Buy and the Credit Union Association picked up the tab for most of them. However, gone were the lavish dinners served up at past conventions. Due to new ethics rules, each reception was essentially hors d'oeuvres served on tiny plates with a plastic spoon or toothpicks. Gone, too, were some once-notable sponsor signs such as Enron's.

Conventions of yore were famous for floor fights and multiple ballots for competing candidates. However, national conventions are now largely scripted affairs put on solely for show. Delegates cast a vote during each state's roll call, but that vote has been previously arranged. Platform decisions are not debated; delegates elect two representatives to a committee to do that work in advance.

I rarely encountered protesters, though I didn't wander outside the Xcel Energy Center except for one day. The protesters I saw in Rice Park were nonviolent and quite creative. However, a handful of passersby chanted "Go home! This is a blue city!" when we boarded the buses, and we did have to change buses once due to slashed tires.

For me, the best part was walking the convention floor and meeting the politicians and media personalities. Among those I met were CNN's Wolf Blitzer, Fox News' Brit Hume, several U.S. senators, a couple of governors, actor Jon Voight and former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

The roll call of states is one of the convention highlights. Each delegation leader or honored designee makes a statement about his or her state and casts the vote total for the presidential nominee. Other rituals include the designated chants during prime-time televised speeches and the release of red, white and blue balloons from the ceiling after the presidential acceptance speech and the 10-minute floor celebration. Then the gavel falls and it's over.

So, was the convention good for St. Paul? In my opinion, yes. "Live from St. Paul" in the international media was priceless, put the city on the map, and should draw more convention business here in the future. Others may take a different view: The cost of security, the protests, the resulting lawsuits, and lost businesses from disruptions in normal customer traffic were all drawbacks.

My father, a member of the Twin Cities Musicians Union, felt that local musicians were displaced by recorded music or musicians from out of town. The host committee's approved vendor list did not yield work for all.

But in any case, St. Paul can hold its head high. We did well. Many delegates commented on the gracious hospitality they received here. Many citizens, regardless of political persuasion, had a chance to volunteer, host events or exercise their First Amendment rights. Now it's on to November.

Tom Conlon, a resident of Macalester-Groveland, is a member of the St. Paul School Board.



Macalester-Groveland writer Neal Bernards is all suited up for his four-day gig during the Republican National Convention, pulling a small billboard through downtown Minneapolis on a scooter.

## Being a part of history and profiting from it

BY NEAL BERNARDS

The tear gas clouds have dissipated, the security fences have been dismantled and the economic results are in: The big financial winner from the 2008 Republican National Convention was...me!

OK, me and a few Twin Cities hotels and the handful of restaurateurs who hosted private parties or rented out their entire establishments. Otherwise, the windfall that St. Paul had expected from the September 1-4 event came to nil.

With the Xcel Energy Center cordoned off tighter than Vice President Dick Cheney's subterranean offices, no Republican delegates in their right mind were going to spend their money on the streets of St. Paul if they first had to get by the black-clad, bandana-masked, window-smashing hordes. Instead, the majority of conventioners shuttled into and out of St. Paul on chartered buses to and from their Minneapolis hotels.

Two weeks prior to the convention, I made it my mission to make money off the event. Though I'm a card-carrying liberal, I wanted to join Exxon and Halliburton in taking the Republican Party for all it's worth. My only problem was that procrastination had left me precious little time to find gainful employment.

The RNC website informed me that as an applicant I was four months too late...to volunteer. The Xcel Energy Center was hiring servers, but for Minnesota Wild games this winter. The St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce needed workers, but they too were unpaid volunteers. Damn those do-gooders. If I was going to subjugate myself to the dark side of the force, I wanted a paycheck, a big, fat, Republican paycheck.

Then I consulted Craigslist. I clicked on jobs, events, gigs and—bingo!—laid out before me were numerous opportunities to pocket Republican dough. There was just one problem: Any shred of dignity I have left as a middle-aged, over-educated, under-employed hourly worker would be sorely tested.

Listed by Craig were offers to sell Republican paraphernalia as an independent contractor. An Obama man, I didn't think I could, in good conscience, sell McCain tchotchkes or Karl Rove bobble-heads. What if one of my gay, Wiccan, patchouli-scented friends saw me? The co-op would ban me for life.

I scrolled down for other leads. One looked promising until I read the disclaimer: "Must be comfortable discussing sexual health with the public." As a repressed Minnesota Lutheran, I'd be more comfortable shoveling police-horse dung.

That left two opportunities: One required reliability, attractiveness and sociability, and the other a motorcycle license. So I joined a houseful of eager applicants crammed into the main floor of a Marshall Avenue home to hear a fellow lecture on how we were to treat this gig like an acting

job. "I don't care what your political views are," the guy said. "For this week, you stick to the talking points."

What controversial, hot-button topic was this guy pushing—free trade, immigration reform, ANWR oil drilling? My mind reeled with the possibilities.

The answer? Coal. More to the point, the agenda of the American Coalition for Clean Coal Energy. After 10 seconds contemplating all I knew about coal (it's black, plentiful and dirty), I was out the door.

My wife, waiting in the car, arched an eyebrow. "Well?" "Coal," I said, sheepishly. "Clean' coal. I can't do it." "It's good to see you have *some* values," she said, her voice dripping with sarcasm.

My hopes now rested on the motorcycle gig. "Please, oh please, oh please," I prayed to the God we liberals are said to scorn. "I really need to work this convention and make some money."

Later that night, I received the e-mail. "We would like you to join our mobile advertising team," it read.

My prayers were answered! I was to join the co-owners of a Michigan-based mobile billboard company, driving a Yamaha scooter while pulling a billboard on a trailer through downtown. Downtown Minneapolis, but I was that desperate. I'd cross the river for work.

Back on the home front, my wife expressed some trepidation about this shadowy gig. "What if it's an anti-abortion campaign?" she asked. That night, my mother called. "I hope you're not promoting pro-choice," she said. "Take a deep breath," I told them. "It's only a movie"—a broadly satirical movie lampooning Michael Moore titled *An American Tale* and produced by the same folks who brought us *The Naked Gun* and *Scary Movie*.

So I joined a young couple in piloting scooters through downtown Minneapolis. After our first day of work, a city official stopped by to inform us that mobile billboards violated a municipal ordinance. I suggested we were really lunch delivery drivers, as evidenced by the uneaten peanut butter sandwich wedged in the glove box of my scooter. She sternly cited chapter and verse on how the primary function of said vehicle was but could not be advertising. Oops.

Luckily, the next morning another Minneapolis official suggested that chasing three harmless scooter riders out of town was not the city's highest priority. Besides, our little scooter-trailer motorcade added to the circus-like atmosphere of the convention. If Hollywood saw fit to grace Minneapolis with its advertising presence, who were Minneapolis bureaucrats to stand in the way?

That Thursday evening, I rode off into the post-convention sunset with a thick wad of cold, hard, under-the-table cash tucked into my pocket, knowing that I'd been a part of history and had profited from it. God bless America.

Neal Bernards is a writer and lives in Macalester-Groveland.

# Inbox

## Repression by the book

To the editor:

After a week of arresting journalists, legal observers, medics and innocent bystanders, after the promiscuous use of tear gas, tasers, pepper spray, flash grenades and riot clubs, after prisoners were beaten while in custody, after cameras, cell phones and computers were seized to prevent citizens from recording police conduct, after all these and other abuses, St. Paul police Commander Doug Holtz was quoted in the *StarTribune* on September 9 as saying: "We did it pretty much textbook."

So who wrote his textbook. Bull Connor? Benito Mussolini? Joseph Stalin?

*Oliver Steinberg  
St. Anthony Park*

## Bicyclists are getting a free ride

To the editor:

I've been following the letters by those supporting and opposing a bike boulevard in Highland Park. This winter I'll take some time to observe the bicyclists sliding or running into cars, since at least where I live on West 7th Street, the snow claims a third of the road most of the winter. Bus riders are just as "green" as bicyclists, and even bus drivers are appalled at how slow they must go so that bicyclists can have a full lane to themselves. Sure, biking is great for physical fitness, but it's not for everyone. Those of us with lower-back problems are told that biking may aggravate it and that walking is better.

Life is just as unkind to pedestrians as it is to bicyclists. Forget snow season, when sidewalks are shoveled and then plowed over by the city, especially at the ends of the block. Try crossing the streets almost anytime. I push and push the stoplight switch to get across, but the light not only stays the same, sometimes the opposite light reboots green, making me wait twice as long.

It's now chic to hate the "evil" motorist, but bicyclists fail to take into account that they're literally getting a free ride since they don't pay for bike lanes and don't have to follow vehicle safety laws. Perhaps when more motorists cut back on driving and the state loses even more revenue, bicyclists will appreciate the contributions that motorists are making. Or better yet, they'll start taking a more middle-of-the-road viewpoint, especially if they have to pay for their fair share of the road.

*Jo Heinz  
West End*

## Don't take the money and bike

To the editor:

The controversy surrounding the bike boulevard is quickly becoming a larger argument than it needs to be. Yes, riding a bike is healthier, more environmentally friendly and less noisy than automobiles, and people who ride to work should be applauded. St. Paul is a great city to live in and will continue to be, but the bike boulevard is not a deciding factor there.

A bike lane versus a bike boulevard appears to be the issue at hand. Is there research indicating that a bike boulevard is superior to a bike lane? Property values may increase for those who have a bike

boulevard near their homes, but what about those who live on the streets that will have increased motor traffic?

The bike boulevard is not a necessity, but a bonus, and only for some. What if we had to have an increase in taxes for the project? What would happen if we did not take advantage of the federal money pointed to this project? What would happen if the federal money was not spent at all? My idealistic self would feel good that this bonus money could then go back into the general federal fund, which would only help our nation's extremely weak fiscal situation.

*Sarah E. Anderson  
Macalester-Groveland*

## Build Snelling park-and-ride

To the editor:

Thank you for publicizing the need my neighborhood feels it has for a park-and-ride lot near the proposed Snelling Avenue Central Corridor light-rail station (*Villager*, September 10). In my neighborhood, adjacent to the proposed station at Snelling and University, all 20 people I spoke with support the resolution and signed the petition. The essence of the petition, signed by more than 1,000 others, is the need to plan.

The *Villager* article was fair. However, the dichotomy between those who feel the site should be developed and those who believe that sufficient parking should be made available for transit riders is false. Quoting the petition, "The park-and-ride does not preclude development of the bus barn site and the neighboring lot because the park-and-ride can be located below ground."

*David Rasmussen  
Merriam Park*

## Biogas in our backyard

To the editor:

After lengthy study, the Rock-Tenn Community Advisory Panel (RCAP) and the St. Paul Port Authority agree that biogas derived through anaerobic digestion of renewable organic matter is the right solution to meet the energy needs of Rock-Tenn's paper recycling plant. This is the same idea favored by Neighbors Against the Burner and many neighbors who expressed concern over proposals to burn garbage at Rock-Tenn.

The September 10 *Villager* highlighted the concept of an on-site anaerobic digester and some controversy relating to it. It should be clear that RCAP members were only discussing an on-site digester as a potential small-scale addition to Rock-Tenn's overall fuel needs. Even if the plant at Cretin Avenue and I-94 made use of solar, wind and on-site biogas, it would still need a much larger source of fuel. So while the discussion of how to make this plant as green as possible included on-site biogas production, RCAP members did not intend that to replace the proposal for a digester located close to large supplies of organic matter that will likely come from agriculture waste or residue.

*Tom Welna and John Curry, Members  
Rock-Tenn Community Advisory Panel*

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# VILLAGER

Volume 56, Number 14

*Maurice F. Mischke, 1920-1991*

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### Drilling in the wrong direction

To the editor:

Several years ago I traveled to North Carolina to see the wild rhododendrons and azaleas that traditionally bloom at the summer solstice in Roan Mountain State Park. On the trip up the mountain, I was dismayed to see great swaths of dead and dying pine trees. When I got to the top where the rhododendron thickets form an extensive natural garden covering several mountain peaks, there was a bigger disappointment. The rhododendrons had budded out, but the large pink buds were so browned-off on the tips that the flowers were unable to open.

I went to the park visitors' center to inquire what was going so wrong with the vegetation. The park rangers indicated that the source of the problem was air pollution. They had created a large map of the U.S. with an air-brushed gray haze representing the path of pollution drift. To my surprise, Minneapolis and St. Paul had been traced as the source. Of course, the great gray cloud picked up steam over Chicago and Gary, and a change in wind direction could bring another blast from the steel industry of Birmingham. Still, there we were, labeled on the map as culpable for the destruction of this beautiful wild garden.

The local environmental protection agency assures me that Minnesotans have taken important strides to curb our output of some pollutants. Many of us have begun to commute to work and run our errands by bicycle. These are important steps toward saving our natural environment. Another important step is to prevent the Bush administration from opening our wilderness areas to oil drilling. Not only will drilling spoil wildernesses like the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, eventually via pipe, tanker and SUV exhaust systems, petroleum by-products will corrupt other wilderness areas thousands of miles to the southeast.

I am sure we are all willing to trade a few unnecessary car trips per week to save our beautiful wilderness areas. However, the Bush administration and the Republican Party, with their chants of "Drill, baby, drill," must be put on notice that they are headed in the wrong direction.

Susan Fiene  
Macalester-Groveland

### Promise of a pipeline

To the editor:

As the health of the economy and fuel prices continue to make headlines, we were not surprised to see the results of the recent PEW Research Center survey that found Americans are giving a higher priority to energy exploration than conservation. Nearly half of the survey participants deemed energy exploration as the highest priority, up from 35 percent in February. These results illustrate a much-needed shift and a broader realization that primary energy demand in the U.S. is expected to rise 19 percent between 2006 and 2030. We hope this increased interest in energy exploration translates to the oil development and supply projects under way in our own backyard.

Minnesota has taken a step in the right direction by upgrading and expanding the state's oil refineries and pipelines to improve access to a stable source of crude oil, i.e., Canadian oil sands. Canada's oil reserves are vast and are second only to Saudi Arabia's. By upgrading refineries and pipelines to accommodate Canada's growing oil supply, access to resources will be maximized and development and supply will increase.

Not only will pipeline and refinery expansion put Minnesota in a better position to answer the state's growing energy demand, it will move Minnesota from the back to the front of the crude oil supply line. With Canada's secure nearby supplies, Minnesota refineries will be less vulnerable to supply disruptions and consumers will be provided with a more reliable fuel supply.

Pipeline and refinery expansion will not only address energy goals, but bring economic development to Minnesota communities through job opportunities and increased tax revenue to support schools, infrastructure development and other state operations. Construction and operation of the upgraded pipelines and refineries will create thousands of new jobs in the state and boost the economy through increased development. And by expanding our relationship with Canada, Minnesota will achieve greater oil security.

Minnesota's strict environmental regulations will help ensure expansion efforts are environmentally sound. Tapping Canada's oil sands will put us one step closer to achieving our energy goals and will ultimately leave our state and our country in a more secure economic state.

Tom Koehler and Joan Archer  
Ramsey Hill

Editor's note: The writers are co-chairs of the Minnesota Environmental Coalition of Labor and Industry, a coalition of more than 70 unions, businesses and their trade associations.

### 'Swingtown' redefines society

To the editor:

There was a time when women and children were protected, but now we carelessly eliminate, abuse and disregard them. Hollywood takes the lead, calling it "entertainment." This mother shouts, enough! We watched the lewd Al Bundy in "Married with Children." Then we slid from "Desperate Housewives" into CBS's "Swingtown" sewer. "Swingtown," set in the Chicago suburbs circa 1976, shows Bruce and Susan Miller moving into an upscale neighborhood where couples "swing," sharing more than insidious grins in the spirit of camaraderie. "Swingtown" has no redeeming qualities. Viewers who are not repelled but sanction such pompous themes have already forfeited their family principles.

According to Carol Barbee, one of the series' executive producers, "Swingtown" is "about sexual freedom, but because it's set in the '70s, it's not about sexual responsibility. It's about emotional responsibility—or lack thereof. It'll be interesting to see how far (the network) lets us go.... We're doing a show about adult, free-thinking people having sex with whomever they choose. You don't want a scene to be a PSA for safe sex, and we don't want to punish people with TV

morality?"

Presenting "Swingtown" as real life in middle-class suburbia is drivel. Meanwhile, unfaithful spouses, abusers and abortionists are commonplace. The family is the foundation of any tribe, culture or nation. What goes against the family removes happiness, peace and love—love of the cherished kind, sacrificial and unconditional.

Let us re-examine the purpose of TV, because our children are watching. Whoever tells the story defines the culture.

Phyllis M. Plum  
Mendota Heights

Editor's note: The writer is director of the Minnesota Parents Television Council.

### Times require honest answers

Editor:

Wake up, America! The U.S. is hemorrhaging its wealth: Four trillion dollars of additional debt during the last eight Bush years, millions of homes foreclosed on, millions of jobs lost, our car industry in shambles, our airlines in bankruptcy, our social security system near collapse, our health care system out of control. The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan go on and on and on with no end in sight. Our economy has tanked and our energy policy is a disaster. Although envied by the free world, Americans are now hated worldwide.

The American people are entitled to honest answers from their elected officials. Let's forgo the B.S. and beauty contests. Tells us how we can save our jobs, our homes and our country.

Tom Birbilis  
Highland Park

### Unions, yes, nationalization, no

To the editor:

In his letter calling for the nationalization of Ford Motor Company's Twin Cities Assembly Plant in Highland Park (Villager Inbox, September 9), Michael Wood raises spin-doctoring to a fine art form. Reading him quote Gus Hall and Karl Marx left little doubt where his agenda lies. Someone should inform Mr. Wood that this is not Nicaragua. In this country we don't give the government dictatorial power to confiscate property with no compensation.

Being a libertarian, I reject the right of the state to take anyone's property, whether it's by nationalization, eminent domain or any other rationalization. In a free society this simply isn't done. But I'm guessing freedom of choice is not a high priority for Mr. Woods. He apparently has more faith in the dictatorial power of the government than I do.

In his letter, he says, "Ford is not entitled to any compensation. The working class has subsidized Ford's manufacturing at the St. Paul plant for years." Oh, really? In what way? I believe the record would show that through its history, Ford has paid a fair day's wage for a fair day's work. Subsidizing doesn't enter the picture.

I am now retired, but I was a union worker most of my

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life. I believed then and I believe now that a labor union is the appropriate way to negotiate with management for rights and benefits in the work place. The oppressive power of an abusive government was never needed.

*Mike Casey  
Macalester-Groveland*

**Palin and the will of God**

To the editor:

Governor Sarah Palin is identifying some of her positions on issues with the will of God. This includes her support of the TransCanada gas pipeline from Alaska to the Lower 48. She also sees the war in Iraq as a task for our nation assigned to us by God. How many other dimensions of her leadership does she or will she identify with the will of God? Are we moving toward a theocracy here?

Recall the passage from Isaiah: "My thoughts are not your thoughts; neither are my ways your ways, says the Lord." Surely the Lord of all creation has not taken a position on our transport of natural gas or the disposition of our armed forces.

*Rolf E. Westgard  
Macalester-Groveland*

**Obama is no peace candidate**

To the editor:

I think I know why homeowners display multiple lawn signs next to the sign for the presidential candidate—to convey commonality of ideals. For example, "Peace" and "Bring Home the Troops" and "Neighbors Against the War" next to the "Obama" sign imply that Barack Hussein Obama is all of that. The messianic following he has would support that assumption, yet it is delusional.

The week of the Republican National Convention, Barack Hussein Obama acknowledged that America is at war against Islamic extremists and must continue to be on the defensive, and that he includes as an option war against Iran with respect to that country's nuclear program. Barack Hussein Obama now supports the Terror Surveillance Bill. Sound like the peace candidate to you? Clearly Ron Paul or Ralph Nader would be a better fit next to the peace signs.

Wake up, liberal Democrats. We are at war and will continue to be at war for the foreseeable future. Electing Barack Hussein Obama president will neither bring the troops home nor end all wars.

*Jon Wiersma  
Highland Park*

**Stealing the election**

Dear editor:

I live on a busy street. If I support a candidate running for political office, I will put his or her campaign sign in my yard. Two days prior to the primary election, I put up a sign for John McCain next to a sign I had for a judicial candidate. Both signs were stolen from my yard the night of the primary. I put up a replacement McCain sign on the following morning. That sign was stolen before I got home from work that afternoon. I since have replaced the replacement McCain sign. I'm even considering putting up a sign for a Democrat running for judge. But placing that sign will have to wait until I see how long my third McCain sign lasts.

*Terrance M. Cullen  
Highland Park*

**A fair judge for Ramsey County**

Dear editor,

Since the last national election, the U.S. Supreme Court has decided a key case that affects the judicial races that Ramsey County voters will decide this fall. The case allows judicial candidates to run with political campaigns. Given how divided the two political parties are, I am a bit anxious about the implications for our Minnesota judges. As a lawyer and mother of three kids, I see that there are always at least two sides to every story. Judges should not have a political agenda, nor should they be beholden to political parties. Indeed, one of the reasons we have three branches of government, with the judicial branch independent of the executive and legislative branches, is to ensure that there are checks and balances on power. I hope our judiciary does not become politicized.

That is why I support Gail Chang Bohr for judge in Ramsey County. I met Gail 12 years ago, shortly after I gave birth to my first child. She recruited me to provide voluntary legal services to teenagers in foster care and teenagers who were the victims of child abuse. I have come to know Gail as an incredibly smart, energetic and engaging lawyer. She has all the hallmarks of a judge who will be respectful of

all who enter her courtroom, yet run the courtroom with a firm hand. She has the ability to see all sides of a situation. As a judge, she will be fair, hear all sides and not jump to conclusions.

*Emily E. Duke  
Highland Park*

**Gem of a school**

To the editor:

I was delighted to see your article about St. Paul Preparatory School (formerly Nacel International School) in the August 6 *Villager*. Students from more than 20 different countries live with host families and attend this small international high school. What some may not know is that St. Paul Preparatory also accepts American students.

My son is one of the local students at St. Paul Preparatory, and his experience there has been nothing short of extraordinary. His good friends hail from nations as diverse as Germany, Kazakhstan, Russia, Vietnam and Korea. There is no doubt in my mind that he will be well prepared to succeed in a global economy. Academically, too, the school is a cut above. Its outstanding math and science program was a particularly nice surprise.

St. Paul Preparatory is a hidden educational gem right here in our backyard. I encourage any American student looking for unique high school experience to check it out.

*Vicky Sandberg  
Highland Park*

**Eating au naturel**

Dear editor,

Thank you for your nice article on raw foods (*Villager*, August 6). Your readers and your journalist, Jo Marshall, may want to know that right here in your readership area, Twin Cities Living Foods has had a monthly raw potluck with a lecture for the past 12 years on the second Saturday of each month at the Friends Meeting House, 1725 Grand Ave. We have brought in many well-known raw-foodies and raw-food chefs for seminars and other learning experiences. The thinking is, live food for live bodies. Here's to our health!

*Nancy Hone  
Merriam Park*

**Carnival thanks**

Dear editor:

We are writing to send a big "thank you" to the local businesses, families and individuals who donated to, volunteered at or attended our Kids Play for a Cure Carnival on September 6 at Groveland Park. Thanks to the folks at Just Jump Inc., Widmer's Supermarket, Pro Pharmacy, Euphoria Salon and P.J. Murphy's Bakery for their generous donations. The response was overwhelming and we were able to raise over \$1,300 for research and support of families dealing with breast cancer. We are happy and proud to live in a neighborhood where a good idea from kids can actually become a success. Thanks to everyone who helped and who came to have fun at the carnival.

*Owen Mische, Vivian Scheel, Maisie Mische  
Macalester-Groveland*

*Editor's note: The writers, ages 7, 7 and 5, respectively, planned and helped organize the recent fundraiser.*

**McCollum supports the troops**

To the editor:


After reading Jennette Gudge's criticism of U.S. Representative Betty McCollum (*Villager*, August 20), I was inspired to write this letter and share how Representative Betty McCollum helped my friend.

My friend has served our country in the military for over 11 years. As of a year and a half ago, she began to have pay issues. Basically, she was not getting most of her pay because of a military mix-up. She had tried for several frustrating months to correct the situation, and no one in the military wanted to help her. I told my friend, who was at this point almost fed up, to call Representative Betty McCollum and see what she could do for her. Betty McCollum had my friend's pay issues solved in two short weeks. During this process, we learned that many of our troops serving overseas are also having pay issues and not receiving full pay and benefits.

Betty is a true leader, visionary and patriot who understands and listens to the real issues of her constituents. She is a representative who has the courage to stand up to the government, protecting the interests of the troops and their families.

*Dawn Singleton  
Macalester-Groveland*

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# Crime Report

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

## Highland Park

**Burglary**—Numerous tools were taken from a home on the 2100 block of Pinehurst Avenue between noon and 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, August 26. Entry was forced through a kitchen window.

—A home on the 1300 block of South Mississippi River Boulevard was burglarized between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Friday, August 29.

—A home on the 1400 block of South Mississippi River Boulevard was burglarized between 4:00 p.m. and midnight Friday, August 29.

—An electric, conduit-bending machine was stolen from the work site at the Rockwood Place Apartments, 2259 Rockwood Ave., over Labor Day weekend.

**Assault**—A 46-year-old Highland Park man was arrested for assault on the 1300 block of St. Paul Avenue on Wednesday, August 9. The man reportedly talked a juvenile female into coming with him on July 29, saying that she could recharge her cell phone at his house. When they were at his apartment, he made sexual advances that she rebuffed. He then stabbed her several times and threw her out of the apartment.

**Theft**—A window was broken and a purse and other items were stolen from a vehicle in the Hidden Falls parking lot on South Mississippi River Boulevard between 4:00 and 4:30 p.m. Saturday, August 23.

## Lexington-Hamline

**Robbery**—Two juveniles were robbed at Hague and Hamline avenues at about 9:30 p.m. Friday, August 29.

—Three St. Paul men ages 19-23 were arrested on the 300 block of North Dunlap Street at about 9:30 p.m. Saturday, August 30, for robbing a man at knifepoint.

**Burglary**—An attempted burglary occurred on the 1200 block of Laurel Avenue between 4:00 and 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, August 26. The suspect was described as a white

male, in his 20s and around 6-foot tall. He was wearing a blue-and-white striped shirt with a red collar.

**Miscellaneous**—A man with a knife threatened passengers on the bus at Selby Avenue and Griggs Street at about 4:00 p.m. Sunday, August 31. He was gone when police arrived.

## Macalester-Groveland

**Burglary**—A home on the 1900 block of Randolph Avenue was broken into between 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Monday, August 25.

—A home on the 200 block of Amherst Street was burglarized between August 3-8.

—A home on the 1200 block of Lincoln Avenue was burglarized between 11:00 p.m. Thursday and 4:30 a.m. Friday, August 7-8. The resident was home asleep at the time.

—Artwork, jewelry and other items were stolen from a home that was broken into on the 500 block of South Mississippi River Boulevard between 8:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 27.

—Electronic equipment was stolen from a home on the 1600 block of Randolph Avenue between 6:00 p.m. Friday and 12:30 a.m. Saturday, August 29-30. Entry was forced through a side window.

—A home on the 300 block of South Snelling Avenue was burglarized between 5:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Saturday, August 30.

**Theft**—A pot-bellied stove was stolen from the backyard of a home on the 1300 block of James Avenue between 7:30 a.m. Wednesday and 7:30 a.m. Thursday, August 6-7.

—A theft from auto occurred at the monument on Summit Avenue and Mississippi River Boulevard between 2:00 and 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, August 27.

**Assault**—Child abuse and assault were investigated on the 1100 block of Grand Avenue at about 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, August 13. The suspect was gone when police arrived. The suspect was described as a white female, 30 years old, 5-foot-7, heavy set with brown hair.

## Merriam Park

**Theft**—A car was stolen on the 400 block of North Wilder Street between 10:30 a.m. Monday and 8:00 a.m. Tuesday, August 25-26.

—License plates were stolen off a vehicle on the 1600 block of Concordia Avenue between Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday afternoon,

August 26-27.

**Miscellaneous**—A male juvenile was cited for criminal damage to property after he broke a window during a fight at the Merriam Park Recreation Center, 2000 St. Anthony Ave., at about 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, August 26.

—A 20-year-old White Bear Lake woman was cited for underage alcohol consumption on the 2000 block of Laurel Avenue at about 4:00 a.m. Saturday, August 30. Police were called to the area on a report of suspicious activity.

## Snelling-Hamline

**Theft**—A window was broken out and two purses were stolen from a vehicle at the State Fair park-and-ride lot on Snelling and St. Anthony avenues between 10:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Thursday, August 21.

## Summit Hill

**Robbery**—Cherokee Bank, 985 Grand Ave., was robbed at about 7:00 a.m. Wednesday, August 27. The suspect was male, around 5-foot-10, wearing a black face mask, a dark hooded sweatshirt, dark pants and gloves.

**Miscellaneous**—A man was cited for reckless driving at St. Clair Avenue and Victoria Street at about 10:30 a.m. Saturday, August 30. He had crossed the center lane and tried to run into a police car. The man then asked police to shoot him. He was taken to Regions Hospital for observation.

## Summit-University

**Robbery**—Two male suspects displayed firearms and stole \$4,000 in cash during a home invasion on the 1000 block of Concordia Avenue at about 3:00 p.m. Sunday, August 24.

—A woman's purse was stolen during a strong-arm robbery at Laurel and Western avenues at about 10:00 a.m. Sunday, August 24.

—A woman was robbed of her purse at Milton Street and Summit Avenue at about 2:00 a.m. Sunday, August 31.

**Burglary**—The Summit University Planning Council's office, 627 Selby Ave., was burglarized between 5:00 p.m. Thursday and noon Friday, August 7-8.

—Tools were stolen from a home on the 100 block of Mackubin Street between 7:30

p.m. Wednesday and 9:00 a.m. Thursday, August 20-21.

—A purse was stolen from a home on the 800 block of Hague Avenue between 10:00 p.m. Saturday and 1:00 a.m. Sunday, August 23-24. The residents were home at the time.

—A coin-operated washing machine was broken into at an apartment complex on the 300 block of North Western Avenue at about 3:00 a.m. Saturday, August 30. The side door of the complex was forced open.

**Assault**—Two suspects assaulted a man because he had not moved out of his apartment on the 800 block of Dayton Avenue at about 12:30 p.m. Monday, September 1. One of the suspects was reported as the landlord.

**Weapons**—A gun was found hidden in bushes near a group of known Selby Sider gang members on the 700 block of Holly Avenue at about 6:30 p.m. Friday, August 29. One male juvenile was arrested on a warrant. Police were called to the area on a report of males who were using and selling drugs.

**Miscellaneous**—A 29-year-old Summit-University woman was cited for disorderly conduct at about 12:30 p.m. Friday, August 8, at Chicago Submarine, 612 Selby Ave. She complained to the owner about her food, disrupted the business, caused customers to leave and refused to leave herself when the owner told her to get out.

## West End

**Robbery**—The Dairy Queen at 280 W. 7th St. was robbed at gunpoint at about 10:30 a.m. Monday, August 25.

—Three men robbed a Minneapolis man of his cell phone and wallet on West 7th Street and Western Avenue at about 2:00 a.m. Sunday, August 24.

**Burglary**—Police arrested a 20-year-old Apple Valley man for burglary on the 800 block of West 7th Street at about 3:30 a.m. Wednesday, August 27. The burglary had occurred about 1:30 a.m. that day. Police set up a perimeter and arrested the suspect when he returned to his car.

**Theft**—A safe was recovered in the alley on the 200 block of West 7th Street at about 12:30 a.m. Monday, August 25.

**Miscellaneous**—Dog statues were vandalized at the Fort Road Animal Clinic, 1284 W. 7th St., between 5:00 p.m. Monday and 7:30 a.m. Tuesday, August 25-26.


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# News Briefs



St. Kate's faculty, students and staff gathered for an opening-day procession (pictured above) and assembly on September 11 that included the official renaming of the school as St. Catherine University, effective next June. PHOTO BY ANNE BRANDRUD

## Ordinance would change way St. Paul regulates health clubs

No-frills health clubs could be open around the clock if an ordinance regulating their operation is adopted next month by the St. Paul City Council. The ordinance will be the topic of a public hearing at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 1 at City Hall.

For several months city officials have been wrestling with regulating health clubs that provide basic workout equipment, but few other amenities. Anytime Fitness and Snap Fitness franchises have opened in the city in recent years, but they have been thwarted in their efforts to remain open 24 hours a day without staff continually on the premises.

Ward 2 City Council member Dave Thune blocked an attempt earlier this year to allow the clubs to operate 24 hours a day for fear that they would bring a return of the storefront prostitution businesses that called themselves "health clubs" or "saunas." Efforts to regulate those illicit businesses resulted in a city ordinance that requires health clubs to have staff trained in first aid and cardio-pulmonary resuscitation on duty at all times.

Thune has now authored an ordinance that would allow 24-hour clubs to operate without staff on-site at all times. The ordinance would require video cameras to allow monitoring in case a client has a medical emergency or there is illegal activity. It would also limit the clubs to commercial zones and stipulate the size of windows on the exterior of the clubs. The ordinance has the support of club owners and the St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce.

The ordinance is certain to face additional amendments prior to the hearing on October 1. Thune and Ward 6 council member Dan Bostrom have asked city staff to look into ways to regulate room sizes. The concern is that small rooms could be used for sexual activity, as they were in the illegal clubs years ago.

## St. Paul set to approve new Human rights department

A newly organized Department of Human Rights and Economic Opportunity is expected to be approved by the St. Paul City Council on October 1.

A hearing on the new department drew little public comment on September 10. Only a few people, including Vic Rosenthal of Jewish Community Action and Harry Melander of

the St. Paul Trades and Labor Assembly, testified in support of the new department.

The new department is being created on the heels of two extensive studies of city contracting and vendor outreach. The studies found that the city needed to improve the way it seeks contracts from minorities, women and people with disabilities. Both studies made several recommendations, including creating a new city department to oversee contracts, vendor outreach and compliance with diversity policies.

The new department will consolidate regulatory functions that are currently carried out in the city's existing Human Rights, Planning and Economic Development, and Purchasing departments. Eight different ordinances have to be amended to create the department, designate lead staff and make other changes in city practices.

The new department will continue to be in charge of investigating complaints about discrimination. When the new department was first proposed last summer, organizations representing minorities wanted assurances that discrimination complaints would not get short shrift in any reorganization of city functions. No one raised that concern at the September 10 hearing.

## Corps of Engineers to repair Minnehaha Falls' historic walls

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District have signed an agreement that will result in the repair of historic Works Progress Administration walls that were constructed in the 1930s below Minnehaha Falls. The project includes stabilizing about 1,400 feet of walls and providing erosion protection for the park area immediately downstream.

The work is expected to cost \$1.2 million and begin later this fall.

The walls currently have gaps of up to 2 feet underneath the concrete footings. The portion of the walls closest to the falls have toppled over and some areas downstream have collapsed due to the lack of structural support.

A copy of the corps' environmental assessment on this project may be found at: <http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/environment/default.asp?pageid=1024&subpageid=449>.

News Briefs were compiled by Jane McClure and John Wadell.

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# Fall Clean-Up

Highland and Macalester-Groveland District Councils

Saturday, October 11, 2008 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

~ \$15 per car ~

St. Paul Ford Assembly Plant Parking Lot

Enter off Mississippi River Boulevard

This one-day event allows residents to discard items sitting around their house. Furniture, electronics, lawn mowers, toys, tires-bring almost anything you would like to get rid of. We bring together haulers and vendors in one central location and make efforts to reuse or recycle your old stuff for less cost than you would pay a garbage hauler to take it away. This event is only open to Macalester-Groveland and Highland residents, so bring your driver's license or a bill with your name and address. Please enter the cleanup site from Mississippi River Boulevard.

[www.highlanddistrictcouncil.org](http://www.highlanddistrictcouncil.org)  
[www.macgrove.org](http://www.macgrove.org)

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# School Notes

**Nativity School's 8th-grade** classes of 1940 to 2000 are invited back for an all-school reunion on Saturday, October 11. The event will open with an alumni Mass at 5:00 p.m. in the upper church followed at 6:00 by a social, appetizers and dessert in the auditorium of the school at 1900 Stanford Ave. A cash bar will be available. Alumni are asked to RSVP by October 3 by contacting Mary Jo Iverson at 651-696-5411 or [miverson@nativity-mn.org](mailto:miverson@nativity-mn.org).

**Ann Wolski** of Cretin-Derham Hall was one of only three Minnesota students out of a total of 20,000 to achieve a perfect score of 36 on the ACT test taken in June. She also was one of only 162 in the world out of the more than 410,000 who were tested that month to achieve the score.

**The People's Law School**, a series of seminars on legal topics presented in plain language and sponsored by St. Paul College and the Moss & Barnett law firm, will be held from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, September 30 to November 18, at the UAW-Ford-MnSCU Training Center on Ford Parkway and Mount Curve Blvd. Topics will cover such items as matrimonial and family law, estate planning, traffic violations, real estate law and civil lawsuits. The cost is \$15 per topic. Call 651-846-1783.

**St. Paul College** will offer a four-session class, "Pet Portraits

Using Charcoal and Pencil," from 9:30 a.m. to noon on Saturdays, September 27 through October 18, in the college's CTAC Building, 317 Marshall Ave. The fee is \$79. Call 651-846-1783.

**St. Thomas Academy's Rifle Team** placed seventh in the "sporter" category at the 2008 U.S. Army Junior Air Rifle National Championship in Fort Benning, Georgia. The invitational tournament featured the country's top 1,200 teams, a total of 4,500 individual junior shooters. Individually, team members' results were senior Will Sullivan, 11th in the nation; senior Blake Bowersox, 13th; senior Elliot Mitchem, 30th; and junior David Zimmermann, 31st.

**Sanford Middle School**, 3524 42nd Ave. S., Minneapolis, will hold an all-school reunion from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Friday, October 24. Since opening in 1924, tens of thousands of students have passed through Sanford's doors. The evening will include musical entertainment, food, memorabilia, story telling and more. To help with planning, contact Vicki Jones at 612-668-4914 or [liaison0102@yahoo.com](mailto:liaison0102@yahoo.com).

**EXCO (Experimental College)** is now accepting registration for free fall classes. Register at [www.EXCOtc.org](http://www.EXCOtc.org) or call 651-696-8010.

**The District 197 Educational Foundation** had teamed up with Applebee's in West St. Paul in an

effort to raise money for students. Applebee's is donating 15 percent of the bill from diners who eat there between 4:00 and 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday in September and mention that they are there for the foundation fundraiser.

**St. Paul College** is offering two computer classes from 4:30 to 6:30 and from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the UAW-Ford-MnSCU Training Center on Ford Parkway and Mount Curve Boulevard: "Microsoft Word: Getting Started" on Monday, September 29, and "Google On" on Thursday, October 2. The cost is \$44 per class. Call 651-846-1783.

**David Lanegran** of Macalester-Groveland has received Macalester College's 2008 Alumni Service Award. Lanegran graduated from Macalester in 1963 and later earned his Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota. He chairs the geography department at Macalester and has devoted untold hours to nurturing the connection between alumni and the college.

**The St. Paul Public Library's** Homework Centers offer free one-on-one help to students of all ages during after-school hours. Students may drop in to work on homework independently or get help from volunteers. The centers are equipped with reference books,



Bruce Black, left, and Ananda Guneratne were among the volunteers who gathered on September 19-21 to add a pirate ship and tree fort to the popular Treasure Island Playground next to Expo School, 540 S. Warwick St. PHOTO BY ANNE BRANDRUD

SCHOOL NOTES ► 15

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## Minnehaha dedicates campus renovation

Minnehaha Academy in Minneapolis will celebrate the completion of the \$13 million renovation of its south campus at 4200 W. River Pkwy. with tours and a dedication service on Sunday, October 5. The event is the culmination of a three-year effort on the campus that has been home to the academy's lower and middle school programs since 1981.

Virtually every area of the now 150,000-square-foot school building was addressed in the renovation. All classrooms were refurbished and four new ones were added to serve the school's 600-plus students. Other major improvements include a new entry, enlarged lunchroom and administrative offices, a 350-seat chapel, energy-saving windows, a new parking lot and a bus lane.

The south campus renovations are being financed through the academy's current Foundation for a Lifetime campaign. It is

Minnehaha's second major capital undertaking in the past eight years. It was preceded by a north campus (grades 9-12) campaign that concluded in 2003. Combined, Minnehaha has invested more than \$25 million in new construction and remodeling, the largest and most sustained building effort in its 95-year history.

Tours of the newly renovated facility will begin at 2:00 p.m. on October 5, followed by a dedication program in the school's new chapel at 3:30 p.m.

Minnehaha Academy was founded in 1913 and is sponsored by the Northwest Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church. The academy has an enrollment of approximately 1,200 students.

In addition to its two Minneapolis campuses, Minnehaha operates a school for pre-school through grade 5 at 10150 Xerxes Ave. S. in Bloomington.

### 14◀ SCHOOL NOTES

computers with Internet access, printers and school supplies. Homework centers are located at the Rondo, Rice Street, Sun Ray, Dayton's Bluff and Riverview libraries. Call 651-266-7433.

**St. Paul Open School**, 90 S. Western Ave., will celebrate its homecoming from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Friday, October 3. Alumni, current students and their families are invited to attend and should come prepared for outdoor fun, food, snacks by a crackling fire and more. Call 651-293-8670.

**The Twin Cities Youth Bands (TCYB)** will have its first meeting of the 2008-09 season at 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, October 7, at Capitol Hill School, 560 Concordia Ave. TCYB gives musicians in grades 6-9 an opportunity to play traditional band music, pop and jazz. Weekly rehearsals are held from 6:30 to 8:15 p.m. on Tuesdays, with at least two concerts per year. Call band director Diane Sollenberger at 651-325-2500, extension 2558.

**Two new computer classes** will be offered by St. Paul College Continuing Education the week of October 6. Openings remain in Social Networking on Thursday, October 9, and Document Formatting on Monday, October 6. The two-hour classes will be held at 4:30 and repeated at 7:00 p.m. at the UAW-

Ford-MnSCU Training Center on Ford Parkway and Mount Curve Boulevard. The fee is \$44 per class. Call 651-846-1783.

**"Helping Your Child Succeed at School,"** a free workshop for parents of children in public schools, will be offered by the Minnesota Parent Information and Resource Center from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, September 30, at the Rondo Library, 461 N. Dale St. Professionals from the center will share tips on what parents can do at home or in partnership with the school to support their children's learning. Call 952-838-9000 or visit [www.PACER.org/MPC](http://www.PACER.org/MPC).

**Twin Cities Academy High School**, 426 S. Osceola Ave., is looking for additional citizens to become part of its school board. The academy is a college-preparatory charter school sponsored by the St. Paul Public Schools. For information, call Greg Posewitz at 651-205-4797.

**Rick LaVoie**, a nationally renowned speaker, will present a seminar on "Parenting Today: Unique Pleasures and Unique Pressures" at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, September 30, in De Sales Auditorium at Visitation School on Dodd and Mendota Heights roads in Mendota Heights. His seminar will explore the ever-changing world of childhood and the challenges faced by parents and educators. Call Patty Healy Janssen at 651-683-1705.

## Religious Notes

**St. Mary's Episcopal Church**, 1895 Laurel Ave., will offer a forum for parents of adolescents on "Youth and Spirituality" from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 24. Admission is free. Call 651-646-6175.

**The Lawyers' Guild of St. Thomas More** will hold its 58th annual Red Mass at 9:00 a.m. Sunday, September 28, in the chapel at the University of St. Thomas. Brunch will follow. Call Liz Pojar at 651-962-6437.

**Groveland Unitarian Universalist Fellowship**, 1671 Summit Ave., will offer free talks at 10:15 a.m. on "Building Your Own Theology" on September 28, and "Growing Up White" on October 5. Call 651-699-2920.

**The women of St. Paul's United Methodist Church** in Mendota Heights invite other women to join them for a talk by Sue Swanson on her recent trip to Chartres Cathedral in France at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, October 4, at the Real Life Co-op, 180 E. Emerson Ave., West St. Paul. Afterward, the women will walk the labyrinth at nearby Augustana Lutheran Church. Call 651-452-5683.

**An open house** for adult Catholics interested in learning about the Carmelite way of life will

be held at 1:00 p.m. Sunday, October 5, in the lower level of Nativity Church, 324 S. Prior Ave. Call 651-454-6123.

**Organist James Frazier** will present a free recital at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, October 5, at St. John Ev. Episcopal Church, 60 N. Kent St.

**Mendota Heights United Church of Christ**, 680 Highway 110, will hold a worship service at 10:00 a.m. Sunday, September 28, featuring hymns sung by the New Revelation Quartet. Call 651-454-1311.

**"Wounded by the Church"** will be offered at 10:00 a.m. Sundays, October 5-26, at Open Heart Church, 1901 Ford Pkwy. Call Pastor Ted Weidman at 651-263-2464.

**A blessing of the animals** service will be held at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, October 5, at St. Clement's Episcopal Church, 901 Portland Ave. A reception will follow. Call 651-228-1164.

**House of Hope Presbyterian Church**, 797 Summit Ave., will offer an adult education series on "Societal and Spiritual Challenges of Post-Communist Central Europe" from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, September 24 and October 1. Call 651-227-6311.



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# Kaposia continues to make strides for people living with disabilities

BY BILL STIEGER

**M**aclester-Groveland resident Anne Schwarz will be one of participants in the third annual Walk for Wheels on Saturday, September 27. Participants will walk or wheel around Como Lake in an effort to raise \$45,000 to purchase a new wheelchair-accessible van for Kaposia Inc. clients in need of transportation.

Kaposia is currently marking its 45th year of helping adults with developmental disabilities and other challenges find meaningful employment. It offers career planning, job training and retirement services, and provides transportation to its many clients who are unable to drive. Kaposia also works with clients who are making the transition from welfare to work or facing language and cultural barriers.

Schwarz, who is a client of Kaposia, has worked for 18 years at BankCherokee on Smith Avenue. "I do the recycling, put coins in rolls, a little bit of everything," she said.

Terry Frankfurth, her supervisor at the bank, said Schwarz is a resourceful employee. "Anne is very self-sufficient," Frankfurth said. "She takes care of a lot of tasks that make life here easier. Kaposia sends

a job coach to us about once a week just to see how she's doing, but Anne has always done a great job."

Schwarz's father, Joe Schwarz, has seen his daughter thrive through the efforts of Kaposia. "Kaposia works for the good of its people throughout their career, all the way into retirement," he said. "They place about 85 percent of their workers in integrated work environments instead of sheltered workshops where they may not be as productive and don't make a living wage. I can't say enough good things about Kaposia."

Jon Anderson, who had worked at Kaposia for a decade, took over as CEO in July. According to him, last year's Walk for Wheels attracted about 140 participants. "We're shooting for 200 this year," he said. "Everyone is invited to participate. The more, the merrier. Walkers may make a personal donation or collect pledges or both."

Walkers may participate as individuals or as part of a team. Walking, jogging, even in-line skating is allowed. Participants may register by contacting Kaposia and downloading a pledge sheet through its website at [www.kaposia.com](http://www.kaposia.com).

Anderson said Kaposia receives some money from the state in order



Anne Schwarz, right, shares a smile with supervisor Terry Frankfurth while rolling coins at BankCherokee. Schwarz will be participating in the third annual Walk for Wheels on September 27. PHOTO BY ANNE BRANDRUD

to purchase vehicles, but it is never enough. The organization owns a fleet of 20 vans, but not all of them are wheelchair-accessible.

"The gas prices are tough, of course," he said, "but we do everything we can to provide transportation for our clients. The funds from Walk for Wheels are used strictly for transportation."

Kaposia, which is a Dakota Indian word that means "fleet of foot" or "one step ahead," got its start in 1963 as the Neighborhood House Day Activity Center to serve adults with

developmental disabilities on the West Side of St. Paul and in West St. Paul. In 1971, after several moves, it took the name Kaposia Area Day Activity Center. In 1983, the center was converted from a day training and rehabilitation program to a customized employment service. It took the name Kaposia Inc. in 1985 and its transportation service was inaugurated in 2002.

Today, Kaposia has more than 300 adults working at more than 200 businesses and organizations. Local employers range from A Child's

View, Davanni's and the Jewish Community Center to Kowalski's Grand Market, Louisiana Cafe and Wells Fargo. Nearly half of Kaposia's clients are unable to provide for their own transportation.

Walk for Wheels will begin with check-in at 8:30 a.m. Donations will be collected, followed by a drawing for prizes. The walk will begin at 9:30 a.m. The route is about 3 miles long and is wheelchair-accessible. A 1.5-mile course will also be available. Call 651-224-6974 or visit [www.kaposia.com](http://www.kaposia.com).

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# Restyled affair lets you taste Grand's wares and wearables

BY BRENDAN KENNEALY

It's no secret that Grand Avenue is St. Paul's premier retail business district. The Grand Avenue Business Association will remind people why that is on Thursday, October 2, when it presents Taste of Grand: Restyled, a showcase of 32 of the avenue's restaurants, bakeries, coffee shops, hair salons and clothing boutiques.

Complimentary food and refreshments, a runway fashion show, a silent auction of art and other goods and services, and theater and circus performances will be featured from 7:00 to 10:30 p.m. in the ballroom of Kagin Commons at Macalester College.

General admission is \$30, and VIP seating is \$75, but restaurant samples and business displays will also be offered free of charge from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. on the courtyard outside Kagin.

Among the event's 16 restaurants will be D'Amico and Sons. "We plan to highlight our catering services by providing antipasto and grilled Atlantic salmon platters," said Sarah Paul, general manager of the restaurant.

Coffee News Café, whose cookies were a hit at last year's Taste of Grand, will be back this year with more of the same, according to Stephen Schweckendieck, manager of the restaurant and coffee shop.

Karma, a clothing boutique, will be modeling a "wide variety of looks, such as fall coats and dresses," said owner Jada Breuer.

Grand Avenue pet groomer and accessories retailer Don't Make Me Beg will be dressing up canines in fashionable attire and showing people how to "have more fun with their pets and make them a bigger part of their everyday life," said owner Sandra Zak.

Also featured on the runway will be clothing, accessories and hair and other salon fashions by Susan Metzger, Hot Mama, Picky Girl, Stella Blu, Che Bella, Coat of Many Colors, the Wedding Shoppe, Siji Kids, Flirt, Quince, CorePower Yoga, Charlemagne, Juut, Phresh and Great Clips.

GABA executive director David Regan and



The fashionable attire and accessories available at Grand Avenue boutiques and salons will once again walk the runway at A Taste of Grand: Restyled on October 2. This was the scene at last year's event. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

his assistants Jaimee Lucky Hendrickson and Jeanna Blumme have been planning the event for the past year. "It's much more complicated than most fashion shows due to the involvement of restaurants and performers," Regan said.

GABA held its first Taste of Grand five years ago. It was a multi-course progressive dinner that moved from restaurant to restaurant. Last year GABA added the fashion show and other entertainment to the mix, a formula that proved successful and that Regan expects will be followed for years to come.

Co-sponsored by St. Paul's Summit Brewery and Coca-Cola, Taste of Grand: Restyled will feature three stage shows this year, including acrobats from the Blue Phoenix Circus, actors from St. Paul's SteppingStone Theatre for Youth Development and fire dancer Melissa Cross of the Illumination Fire Troupe.

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

## Business Briefs

The Highland Business Association's next membership luncheon will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Thursday, September 25, at the Wellington, 2235 Rockwood Ave. St. Paul police commanders Doug Holtz and Colleen Luna will discuss crime issues in Highland Park. The cost is \$15-\$20 and includes lunch. Call 651-699-9042.

Dixie's and Saji-Ya will celebrate the completion of their new patios with an open house on Sunday, September 28, at the two adjoining restaurants, 695 Grand Ave. Complimentary food and sodas will be served from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. that day both inside and out.

The SweatShop, 167 N. Snelling Ave., is offering free sample classes this week. The schedule includes Pilates at 8:15 a.m. and cardio-boxing at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday September 24; Pilates at 9:15 a.m., kettle-lats at 7:00 p.m. and gyrokinetics at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 25; and Pilates at 8:00 and 11:00 a.m.

and kettlebell at noon on Saturday, September 27. To register, call 651-646-8418.

"Garden Design Basics," a seminar by Molly Moriarty, will be offered from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 1, at Highland Nursery, 1742 W. 7th St. The seminar will include a look at more than 100 gardens and is designed for beginners and experts alike. The cost is \$15. Call 651-265-8000.

Aspire Chiropractic, 333 Grand Ave., will offer a free health day on Wednesday, September 24. The clinic will be offering free spinal and nervous system exams, food and fun. Walk-ins are welcome. Call 651-294-2332.

The Midway Chamber of Commerce will hold a Business After Hours event from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 27, in the Progress Center at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds. The event will feature a business expo, food and networking opportunities. Admission is free. Call 651-646-2636.

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# District Council News

## Highland Park

www.highlanddistrictcouncil.org • 651-695-4005

**Fall cleanup**—A joint cleanup for the Highland Park and Macalester-Groveland neighborhoods will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Saturday, October 11, in the Ford Motor Company's employee parking lot off Mississippi River Boulevard. Volunteers are still being sought to work morning or afternoon shifts. For information, call Karmann Peters at the Macalester-Groveland office at 651-695-4000.

**Bike boulevard**—The Highland District Council's Transportation Committee will be distributing a flier regarding the proposed Highland Parkway bike boulevard to residents on Edgumbe Road, Highland Parkway, and Eleanor and Pinehurst avenues by September 28. The flier will include information on the bike boulevard proposal, a meeting timeline, the agenda for an upcoming meeting on October 27.

**Neighborhood Honor Roll**—Nominations are now being accepted for St. Paul's Neighborhood Honor Roll. Local nominees should be people who have given of their time and talents to make the Highland Park neighborhood a better place. Information with the person's name, address, background and list of volunteer activities should be sent to the HDC office. An honor roll celebration will take place on January 16.

**Bow hunt at Crosby Park**—In an effort to reduce the growing deer population in Highland Park, St. Paul Parks and Recreation is partnering with the Metro Bowhunters Resource Base to conduct bow hunts in Crosby Farm Regional Park on October 13-15 and November 3-5. During those days, the park will be closed to the public. Archers have already been selected for this year's hunt. For information, contact Adam Robbins at environment@ci.stpaul.mn.us or 651-632-2457.

**Ford Task Force Meeting**—A discussion on the fiscal impacts of five Ford plant redevelopment scenarios will be presented during a meeting of the Ford Site Planning Task Force at 7:00 p.m. Monday, October 6, at Lumen Christi Catholic Church, 2055 Bohland Ave. Robert Luckow of Hennepin County Community Works and Luis Pereira of the city of St. Paul will present the results of the initial fiscal analysis. For information, call Pereira at 651-266-6591.

**Mark your calendar**—Transportation Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m. Monday, September 29, Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy.; board of directors meeting, 7:00 p.m. Thursday, October 2, Hillcrest; Community Services Committee meeting, 7:00 p.m. Monday, October 6, Hillcrest.

## Macalester-Groveland

www.macgrove.org • 651-695-4000

**Run with KidsPark**—KidsPark, the Macalester-Groveland Community Council's drop-in child-care center, will host its inaugural 5K Run and 1K Family Fun Run on Saturday, October 11, at its future location in the Desnoyer Park Recreation Center. Registration starts at 8:00 a.m., with the 5K beginning at 9:00 a.m. and the 1K at 10:00 a.m. The event will include prizes for the top finishers and food and coffee. The cost is \$30 for the 5K and \$10 for the 1K. For information or a registration form, visit the website or call the office.

**Neighborhood cleanup**—The Highland and Macalester-Groveland neighborhoods' annual fall cleanup will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Saturday, October 11, in the parking lot of Ford Motor Company's Twin Cities Assembly Plant. This fall's cleanup will again accept reusable electronic products at no cost. Other items that will be accepted (and should be loaded up in this order) include fluorescent bulbs, tires, children's items, reusable household goods, non-reusable electronic products, bikes, metals, lawn mowers, snow blowers, construction debris, mattresses, carpets, concrete and rock. Volunteers who work a shift 8:30 a.m. to noon or 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. will receive a free pizza lunch and a \$15 voucher good for use at the cleanup. For information, visit the website or contact Karmann Peters at the Macalester-Groveland office.

**Free fall raking**—Every year, the Job Connection offers free fall raking services to area seniors. Last year, 80 households signed up, and volunteers are again being sought this year. Raking will occur on October 25-26 and November 1-2. For information on volunteering or having a lawn raked, call Afton Martens at the community council office.

## Summit Hill

www.summithillassociation.org • 651-222-1222

**SHA annual meeting and elections**—The Summit Hill Association will hold its annual meeting and board elections at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, October 7, at the Linwood Recreation Center, 860 St. Clair Ave. Anyone who lives in, owns property or a business in, or serves as the designated representative of a business in the neighborhood is eligible to run for one of the

nine open seats on the 21-member board. Renters are especially being encouraged to run since more than half of Summit Hill residents rent. The application deadline is September 26. For information, call the SHA office.

**Fall house tour kudos**—Neither rain nor chilly weather could dampen the enthusiasm of the throngs who braved the elements and sometimes long lines during the Summit Hill House Tour on September 14. This year's tour, presented by Warners' Stellian, was a sellout and would not have been possible without the support of many volunteers and merchants.

**Worm composting workshop**—The SHA Environment Committee will host a free workshop on worm composting at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, October 14, at the Linwood Recreation Center, 860 St. Clair Ave. With an indoor worm bin, residents can turn their kitchen scraps into a potent natural fertilizer all year long. A worm bin will also be raffled off that evening.

**Upcoming meetings**—SHA Communications Committee, 7:00 p.m. Monday, September 29, Linwood Recreation Center, 860 St. Clair Ave.; annual meeting and elections, 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, October 7, Linwood.

## Summit-University

www.Summit-U.com • 651-228-1855

**Lao Family partnership**—The Summit-University Planning Council has entered into a partnership with the Lao Family Community of Minnesota. The partnership is intended to enable the planning council to work more closely with Hmong families living in the Summit-University neighborhood. The SUPC is currently looking for volunteers who speak the following languages to help with neighborhood outreach efforts: Hmong, Thai, Karen, Somali, Oromo, Arabic and Spanish. For information, contact Irna Landrum at the Summit-U office.

**Western Sculpture Park**—When it was first created, the Western Sculpture Park on Marion Street between I-94 and University Avenue included numerous gardens for public enjoyment. Over time, many of the gardens have become overgrown or in need of new plants. Volunteer gardeners are now being sought to help with planting and weeding. For information, visit the planning council's website.

**SUPC board openings**—The planning council is currently looking for three Summit-University residents who want to become more involved in the neighborhood by joining its board of directors. Board vacancies exist in Subdistricts C, D and F. For more information about board member responsibilities and activities, visit the website.

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

## Union Park

www.unionparkdc.org • 651-645-6887

**Union Park annual meeting**—The Union Park District Council will hold its annual meeting on Wednesday, October 1, at Bethel Christian Fellowship, 1466 Portland Ave. Social time will start at 6:30 p.m., followed by the meeting at 7:00 p.m. There will be a presentation by Nina Axelson from the Rock-Tenn Community Advisory Panel on energy recommendations for the paper recycling plant. All residents and business owners in Union Park are eligible to vote in the election.

**New executive director**—Theresa Heiland is leaving at the end of September after seven years of working as the executive director for both the Merriam Park and new Union Park district councils. Roger Bromander will be taking over as the new executive director beginning September 25. For information, call him at the council office.

**Ward 4 photography contest**—Photos of life in Ward 4 are being sought, with the winning pictures to be framed and hung in the Ward 4 St. Paul City Council office. The age categories are 18 and younger, and 19 and older. Topic categories include places/scenery, people, doing business, getting around, community events, and wildlife and nature. The submission deadline is 4:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 1. Digital photos should be e-mailed in a JPG format with the highest file size. Printed photos or those on a CD should be sent to 15 W. Kellogg Blvd., Suite 310-D, City Hall, St. Paul, MN 55102-1615. For more information, e-mail Samantha Henningson at Samantha.henningson@ci.stpaul.mn.us.

**Merriam Park Library closed**—The Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave., will be closed from September 29 to October 10 in order to install new carpeting.

**Recycling bins**—Recycling bins are available from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at the Merriam Park Recreation Center, 2000 St. Anthony Ave. The next pickup dates are October 1 and 15.

**Redesigned website**—The Union Park District Council has a redesigned website. Check it out for meeting schedules, opportunities for neighborhood involvement and local projects.

# Food



**Hot Dish**  
By Morgan Smith

## Key West hangout or sports bar, Wenglers' fine diner fits the bill

Now that the chain-link fences surrounding the Xcel Energy Center are gone, the pennant race is heating up and the NFL is back on the air three days a week, all is right with Billy's on Grand, 857 Grand Ave.

Though it's known as a popular sports bar and a twenty-something hangout, Billy's has somewhat of a split personality. Yes, it has pool tables, electronic dart boards and no less than 30 television screens devoted to sports, but it also has a patio off the street with an outdoor bar with roll-up doors reminiscent of the establishments you find in warmer climes. Opening up onto the patio is a glass-enclosed dining room with a fireplace and lots of fresh air and natural light.

And just like Sloppy Joe's in Key West, Billy's pays homage to a longtime patron. A large family crest hangs on a wall to honor the memory of the late Jim Reilly, a plumber who helped with the renovation of the bar and a Billy's regular since its days as the Royal Garden. Billy's even names a menu item after Reilly, the Brie Amandine O'Reilly (\$7.95), a warmed wheel of Brie cheese topped with toasted almonds and served with Granny Smith apple slices and small bagels.

To be sure, sporting events are also televised on the patio and in the fireplace room, but they're not nearly as conspicuous as they are further back in the windowless original bar. That's where you'll also find the pool tables and video games.

"When I got out of the Army in '61, I had the idea of opening a fine-dining restaurant," said Billy's owner Bill Wengler. In 1977, he and his brother Jim bought the Victoria Crossing East Mall. The Royal Garden, a Chinese restaurant, opened there in 1980, and when it closed five years later, Bill took it over and changed the name to Victoria Garden.

In 1987 Bill decided to remake the place as Billy's. It was a family affair almost from the start. Bill cooked and waited on tables. Sons John and Peter washed dishes, cooked and tended bar. Daughter Gretchen waited on tables and worked in the back office. All three siblings help manage the business now.

Over the years, Billy's gradually expanded into its current space. The Green Room with the fireplace opened in 1991, and the outdoor patio was added in 1993.



Vikings' fans can't lose at Billy's on Grand—not when they can watch a game while treating themselves to a plate of Nachos Guillermo (right) or a Firehouse Burger with habenero sauce, bleu cheese and bacon.

PHOTO BY JANET HOSTETTER

Admittedly, there is little about Billy's that shouts "fine dining." For example, there are the darts leagues, the Bloody Mary bar on Saturdays and Sundays, the happy hours six days a week, and the lunch club that offers patrons a free lunch for every four purchased between October and April. On the other hand, Billy's menu is far more varied than what you find in a typical sports bar. The on-line version runs to seven pages.

My friend and I stopped by on a recent Sunday. The Vikings were playing on Monday night that week, so the crowd was pretty thin at 1:00 p.m., even though the New York Jets and its new quarterback, Bret Favre, were lighting up the TV screens.

As an appetizer, I liked the beer-battered onion rings (Billy's O-Rings, \$6.95) better than my friend did, and she liked the soup of the day, tomato basil (\$3.95 for a cup and \$4.95 for a bowl) better than I did. She thought the turtle cheesecake (\$4.95) was perfect; I thought it was a bit on the dry side.

The one thing on which we agreed wholeheartedly was the quality of the grilled slab of tuna that came with my friend's salad with tuna special (\$9.95). I'm not ordinarily a big fan of tuna, so when I say it tasted more like grilled meat, that's a compliment. As for my half-pound turkey burger (\$7.45), it was fine but nothing to write home about.

I haven't said anything about the pasta of the week, Billy's ribs (full rack \$16.95), the Alaskan snow crab legs (\$14.95 for a pound) and the dozens of other dinners, sandwiches and salads on Billy's menu. They'll have to wait for my next visit.

What does Bill himself order? "Before I had to watch my cholesterol, I loved the ribs and burgers," Wengler said. "Now I can't eat too much of that, so I tend toward the rotisserie chicken (\$9.95), the walleye (lunch \$9.95, dinner \$14.95) and the salads."

With seating for 400 inside and out and its prime location at Grand and Victoria Street, Billy's was expecting big crowds during the recent Republican National Convention. But that week, "our business was down 10 to 20 percent," said manager John Wengler. "And we had ordered extra supplies and put on extra staff."

Instead of driving up business, John Wengler thinks the Republican convention merely drove away Billy's regulars. "I think the city misinformed us about the financial impact of the convention," he said. "I don't think it planned well enough how to get the conventioners (beyond the security perimeter)."

Too bad. They could have had a grand old party. Billy's on Grand strikes me as a cross between a Key West hangout (OK, OK, maybe the large outdoor heaters on the patio don't exactly remind me of palm trees) and a Midwest sports bar. The great thing about it is, you can have it either way.

Don't like it dark and noisy? Move to Billy's fireplace room. Tired of burgers and fries? Order a grilled chicken and strawberry salad (\$9.95). It's that simple.

Or maybe that complicated.

## Tidbits

"Savoring the Harvest," a St. Paul Public Library series featuring local culinary experts, will wrap up with Raghavan Iyer, author of *660 Curries*, at 7:00 p.m. Monday, September 29, at the Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy. Iyer will discuss the flavors, the seasonal ingredients and the kaleidoscope of spices and unexpected combinations that can be found in Indian cooking. Admission is free. Call 651-695-3700.

The eighth annual Fall Festival of Hope Restaurant Extravaganza will be held on Tuesday, October 7, at the historic Depot in downtown Minneapolis. The event will feature food prepared by executive chefs from 20 of the Twin Cities' finest restaurants along with live and silent auctions, complimentary cocktails and live music. Tickets are \$200. Proceeds will benefit the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Call 952-893-0442.

Mississippi Market, 622 Selby Ave., will offer workshops in "Juicing Your Harvest," showing participants how to create juice from their favorite fruits and vegetables, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, September 24 (the cost is \$19, call 651-458-6600); and "Balanced Foods for Balanced Moods," which will demonstrate how to increase energy and manage stress through balanced eating, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., Saturday, September 27 (the cost is \$27-

\$30; call 651-310-9499).

The Great Mississippi River Wine and Dine Rendezvous will be held from noon to 8:00 p.m. Saturday, September 27, on Raspberry Island in St. Paul. The event will include fine wines and food, wine seminars, live music and more. The cost is \$150, with a portion of the proceeds benefitting Friends of the Mississippi River. Visit [www.doyouvous.com](http://www.doyouvous.com).

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# The Kiosk

## Wednesday/September 24

**VICTORIAN SECRETS** will be revealed during a program at 6:00 and 7:30 this evening at the Alexander Ramsey House 265 S. Exchange St. Learn about the private side of Victorian life in this adults-only tour, including how they dealt with the "birds and the bees," mental illness, restrictive undergarments, medical ailments and the "sins of the flesh." The cost is \$8.00-\$10. Call 651-296-8760.

**FREE DOCUMENT SHREDDING** will be offered by Wells Fargo Bank from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. today to help local residents fight fraud. Members of the public are invited to bring up to 25 pounds of personal paper documents to be shredded and recycled. The shredding will take place at the Wells Fargo locations at 1827 Grand Ave. and 2145 Ford Pkwy. For information about identity theft prevention, visit [www.wellsfargo.com](http://www.wellsfargo.com).

## Thursday/September 25

**A FREE SEMINAR** on seizures will be offered by Dr. Jeanne Beattie, an instructor of neurology at the University of Minnesota, from 6:30 to 8:30 this evening at the Linwood Recreation Center, 860 St. Clair Ave. Call 952-525-4507.

**HEART & SOUL III**, a fundraiser to benefit the children of Ethiopia, will be held by Fill a Mind and Heart from 6:30 to 9:30 this evening at the Fort Snelling Club in Minneapolis. Silent and live auctions will be held, and music will be provided by GST. Appetizers and desserts will be served and a cash bar will be available. Admission is \$35. Call 612-722-2374.

**THE CAPITOL REGION WATERSHED** District will hold a watershed plan kickoff event from 6:00 to 8:30 this evening at the Como Lake Pavilion, 1360 Lexington Pkwy. A reception recognizing the district's first 10 years will be followed at 7:00 p.m. with a keynote address by Steve Wise of the Center for Neighborhood Technology in Chicago. The district is beginning work on a watershed plan that will guide it through the next 10 years. Call 651-644-8888.

**A SELF-PUBLISHING WORKSHOP** will be held by the Twin Cities chapters of the National Writers Union at 1:00 this afternoon at the Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave. Corrine and Seal Dwyer of North Star Press and Pat Morris of the Midwest Independent Publishers Association will share their expertise about self-publishing. Admission is free. Call 651-642-0385.

**A WORLD WAR II ROUND TABLE** on "Four Years of German Occupation in Normandy" will be held at 7:00 this evening at the Fort Snelling Visitor Center. French author Domnique Francois will describe how the Battle of Normandy actually started in June 1940 for the Normans. The cost is \$5.00; free for students. Call 952-941-5700.

## Friday/September 26

**THE FUR TRADE** will be discussed during a Homeschool Days program from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. today at the Sibley House Historic Site, 1357 Sibley Memorial Hwy., Mendota. Participants will learn how the fur trade operated, play voyageur games, haul bales of furs and see the oldest private residence in the state. Admission is \$4.00-\$5.00. Call 651-452-1596.



Guitar Hero performer Daniel Gendreau, 8, concentrates while demonstrating his knack for playing the popular video game during the Nativity County Fair on September 13. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

**A RUMMAGE SALE** will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. today and tomorrow and from 9:00 a.m. to noon on Sunday at St. Mark's Church, 2001 Dayton Ave. Coffee and doughnuts will be sold. Call 651-644-7724.

## Saturday/September 27

**ANNIE'S KITCHEN** will be open to teach Victorian baking from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. today at the Alexander Ramsey House, 265 S. Exchange St. In this adult class, participants will use Ramsey recipes, explore Victorian cake and biscuit techniques, try samples of baked items and tour the mansion. The cost is \$23-\$26. Call 651-296-8760.

**MINNESOTA ROCK HISTORY** will be discussed during a hike to collect fossils at 1:00 this afternoon from the Dodge Nature Center in West St. Paul. Participants will hike through the Lilydale brickyards and search through clay pits to find and identify fossils. The program is designed for adults and children 6 and older. The cost is \$5.00-\$7.00, or \$15 per family. Call 651-455-4531.

**A RUMMAGE SALE** will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. today in the parking lot at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2730 31st St. E., Minneapolis. The sale will include jewelry, antiques, wooden furniture, toys, craft supplies, baked goods and more.

**TOURS OF THE MEEKER ISLAND** ruins will be offered at 10:00 a.m. and at 1:00 p.m. today by Friends of the Mississippi River and the National Park Service. Historian John Anfinson will lead the tour of what's left of Mississippi River's first lock and dam. The site is located off Mississippi River Boulevard and Eustis Street. Admission is free. To register, contact Sue Rich at [srich@fmr.org](mailto:srich@fmr.org) or 651-222-2193, ext. 14.

**A SYMPOSIUM** on "Climate Change in Minnesota: What Can You Do?" will be offered by Audubon Minnesota from

9:00 a.m. to noon today at St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church, 60 Kent St. The symposium will look at how global warming will alter Minnesota's climate and what citizens can do to reduce their carbon emissions. Admission is free. Call Susan Solterman at 651-260-7040.

**THE MINNESOTA STATE FAIR** will be the topic of discussion during a program today at Fort Snelling State Park. At 10:00 a.m., visitors will tour through historic buildings and hear the story of how the second State Fair was held at Fort Snelling. Then at 2:00 p.m., Kathryn Strand Koutsky and Linda Koutsky will talk about their book, *Minnesota State Fair: An Illustrated History*. Admission is free. Call 612-725-2724.

**ST. PAUL-ITICS**, a series of the St. Paul Public Library, will continue with University of Minnesota history professor Hy Berman speaking at 7:00 this evening at the Hamline Midway Library, 1558 W. Minnehaha Ave. Berman will talk about Minnesota political history and provide perspective on this year's campaigns. Call 651-642-0293.

**THE NEXT-TO-NEW SALE** will be presented by the Junior League of St. Paul from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. today in the Dairy Building at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds. The 59th annual sale offers thousands of new and gently used items. Prices will be cut in half at 1:00 p.m., and at 2:15 p.m. shoppers will be able to fill a bag for \$5.00. Visit [www.jlsp.org](http://www.jlsp.org).

**AN OKTOBERFEST AND BOOYA** will be held by St. Francis de Sales at the Highland Park Pavilion this weekend. Mass will be celebrated at 4:00 this afternoon, followed by a German dinner at 5:30 p.m. The cost of dinner is \$5.00-\$10. Afterward there will be dancing to music by Paul Hermann's Chord Authority Band until 10:00 p.m. The festival will continue from 11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. tomorrow with booya,

other food, games and a raffle. Call 651-228-1169 for advance dinner tickets.

## Sunday/September 28

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

**A PANCAKE BREAKFAST** will be served between 8:00 a.m. and noon today at Mendota Heights United Church of Christ, 680 Highway 110. The cost is \$8.00 for adults, or \$7.00 with food-shelf donation, and \$3.00 for children. Call 651-454-1311.

**E. PATRICK JOHNSON** of Northwestern University will speak on "Going Home Ain't Always Easy: Southern (Dis)Comfort and the Politics of Performing History." at 4:30 this afternoon in the Weyerhaeuser Chapel, at Macalester College. Admission is free. Call 651-696-6410.

## Monday/September 29

**ELEANOR CLIFT**, a contributing writer for *Newsweek* and former White House correspondent, will give a talk about women and politics at 7:00 this evening in the O'Shaughnessy Educational Center at the University of St. Thomas. The talk is free and open to the public. Call 651-962-6119.

## Wednesday/October 1

**A CANDIDATES FORUM** for state House District 64A will be sponsored by the St. Paul League of Women Voters from 7:00 to 8:30 this evening in the Hillcrest Recreation Center auditorium, 1978 Ford Pkwy. Candidates scheduled to appear are DFL incumbent Erin Murphy and Republican

**20◀ THE KIOSK**

challenger Meg Ferber. They will make introductory and closing statements and answer written questions from the audience. The forum will be cablecast by the St. Paul Neighborhood Network.

**THE CHILDREN'S LAW CENTER** in Lexington-Hamline will celebrate its 13th anniversary with a benefit from 5:00 to 8:30 this evening at the Millennium Hotel, 1313 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis. There will be live and silent auctions, award presentations, hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. Call 651-644-4438.

**Thursday/October 2**

**MACALESTER COLLEGE** will kick off its 15th annual International Roundtable with a free keynote address by Yale University professor James C. Scott on "Vernaculars Cross-Dressed as Universals: Globalization as North Atlantic Hegemony" at 4:30 this afternoon in the college's Campus Center. The roundtable will continue through Saturday, October 4. Call 651-696-6332 or visit [www.macalester.edu/globalcitizenship/roundtable](http://www.macalester.edu/globalcitizenship/roundtable).

**KAY REDFIELD JAMISON**, a professor of psychiatry and leading expert on bipolar disorder, will speak at 7:00 this evening in O'Shaughnessy Auditorium at the College of St. Catherine. Tickets are \$20, \$10 for students. Call 651-690-6700.

**Friday/October 3**

**A FLEA MARKET** and street dance will be held today in the parking lot at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Snelling and Goodrich avenues. The flea market will run from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., with dancing to music by the House of Mercy Band beginning at 6:30

p.m. The flea market will continue from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. tomorrow. Proceeds will benefit Project Spirit of the St. Paul Area Council of Churches and the Immanuel Lutheran general fund. Call 651-699-5560.

**A PUBLIC HEARING** on the city of St. Paul's proposed Transportation Plan will be held at 8:30 this morning at the Central Corridor Resource Center, 1080 University Ave. The Transportation Plan is one of six chapters being reviewed as part of an update of St. Paul's Comprehensive Plan. A draft of the plan is available at [www.stpaul.gov/compplan](http://www.stpaul.gov/compplan). Printed copies may be obtained from Christina Morrison at 651-266-6546 or [christina.morrison@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:christina.morrison@ci.stpaul.mn.us).

**Saturday/October 4**

**A WAKAN ISLAND WALKING TOUR** will be offered from 10:00 a.m. to noon today at the Sibley House Historic Site in Mendota. Participants will carpool to Gun Club Lake in Fort Snelling State Park, then explore Wakan Island, also known to the Dakota as Wita Wakan (Island of Great Mystery). The cost is \$4.00-\$6.00. Call 651-452-1596.

**A HOPE FOR RECOVERY** workshop will be offered from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. today at the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Minnesota, 800 Transfer Road, Suite 31. The free, one-day workshop will provide information on mental illnesses, practical coping strategies and hope for recovery. To register, call NAMI at 651-645-2948.

**AN INTERPRETIVE WALK AND TALK** will be offered from 10:00 a.m. to noon today at Crosby Farm Regional Park, located below the bluff from Shepard Road and Davern Street. Friends of the Mississippi River restoration ecologist Karen Schik and National Park Service ranger Tom Ibsen will lead a tour of the park's new three-

acre prairie restoration project, along with other parts of this park. Participants are encouraged to bring their binoculars for a better look at migrating birds. To register, Call Sue Rich at 651-222-2193, ext. 14.

**AN EDUCATION FAIR** will be presented by *Minnesota Parent* magazine from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. today at the Como Park Zoo & Conservatory. Entertainment will be provided for children while parents explore information on schools and educational programs from around the region. The fair is co-sponsored by St. Thomas Academy and Ready4K. Admission is free. Visit [mnparent.com](http://mnparent.com) or call 612-825-9205.

**ST. PAUL FIRE STATION 18**, 681 University Ave., will celebrate its 100th year of service from 1:00 to 6:00 this evening. The party will feature antique fire equipment, food, activities, games and demonstrations. Admission is free. Call 651-228-6210.

**A RUMMAGE SALE** will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. today, with a bag sale from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. on Monday, October 6, at St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church, Portland Avenue and Kent Street.

**A CRAFT FAIR** will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. today at St. Stanislaus Church, 395 Superior St. More than 20 crafters will be selling their handmade items. There also will be a silent auction and bakery.

**FREE DOCUMENT DESTRUCTION** will take place from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. today at the Rock-Tenn paper recycling plant, 2250 Wabash Ave. Members of the public may bring their confidential and sensitive paper documents for destruction and recycling. Documents may be put into paper grocery bags and secured by stapling or taping shut. Call 651-641-4444.

**Sunday/October 5**

**"CLOSE ENCOUNTERS: Jewish Survivors in Occupied Germany"** will be presented by Atina Grossmann at 11:00 this morning at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St Paul Ave. Grossmann is professor of history at Cooper Union in New York City. The lecture is free. Call 651-698-0751.

**Monday/October 6**

**A SPAGHETTI DINNER** will be served by the Blind Branch Club of the St. Paul Midway Lions from 5:00 to 8:00 this evening at O'Gara's Bar and Grill, 164 N. Snelling Ave. The cost is \$9.50, with proceeds supporting blind Lions.

**Tuesday/October 7**

**ARC SIBSHOPS** will meet from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month, beginning this evening, at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. Sibshops use games and recreation to help kids ages 6-12 express their thoughts and feelings about having a sibling with a disability. Admission is free for Arc and JCC members, and \$10 per child for others. Call 952-920-0855.

**THE MAD HATTER'S TEA HOUSE**, 943 W. 7th St., will hold a conversational salon from 6:30 to 8:30 this evening. The salon will be on the life of the Catholic Worker Movement creator Dorothy Day. Steve Pastick will lead the discussion. The salon is free, but donations are encouraged for the program and treats. Call 651-227-3228.

**THE ST. PAUL HIKING CLUB** will meet at 7:30 this evening at the corner of Summit Avenue and Victoria Street for a neighborhood walk. Call 651-646-6421.

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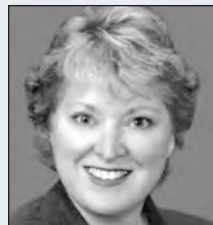
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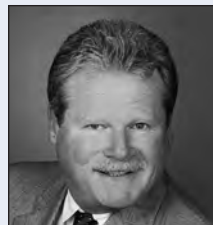
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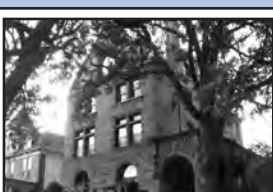

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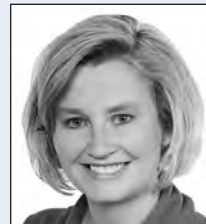
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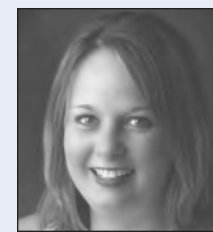
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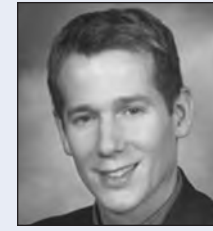
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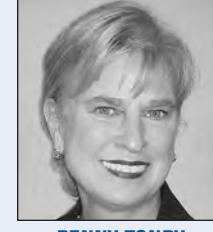
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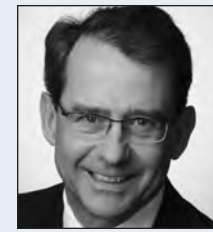
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# Home Improvement

## Through the eyes of architects

### Fall tour offers insider's look at three Cass Gilbert homes

BY FRANK JOSSI

Eleven years ago, Nicholas Marcucci and his wife, Ann Schroder, slipped letters of inquiry into the mailboxes of five homeowners on Portland Avenue who lived in houses designed by Cass Gilbert, the architect of the Minnesota state Capitol and the U.S. Supreme Court Building. Gilbert spent the early part of his career in St. Paul and the city is heir to the largest collection of his home designs in the country.

Four years ago the real estate agent of the family who owned 552 Portland Ave. called Marcucci to tell him the rowhouse was for sale. The homeowners had held onto the letter for seven years and the agent figured he might have a potential buyer on the line. He was right.

The Marcucci rowhouse is one of three Gilbert-designed homes that will be featured in a tour that will be presented by the Cass Gilbert Society on Sunday, September 28. The walking tour will be decidedly different from other historic home tours because the focus will be on three Gilbert creations all owned by architects who will personally lead visitors through their homes.

The homes include Marcucci's rowhouse, Gar Hargens' rowhouse at 548 Portland Ave. and Peter O'Brien's single-family home at 505 Summit Ave., also known as the George W. Freeman House. Marcucci and Hargens live in Portland Terrace, an 1888 commission that hugs the corner of Portland Avenue and Kent Street. The Freeman house was built in 1896 just a short distance away.



Nick Marcucci and Ann Schroder relax in the sun room of their rowhouse at 552 Portland Ave., one of three Cass Gilbert-designed homes that will be featured in a tour on September 28. At right is their living room. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

A native of Ohio, Cass Gilbert moved with his family to St. Paul in 1868 when he was 9 years old. He left after high school to earn a degree in architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Returning to St. Paul in 1882, he worked for the next 18 years on numerous commissions, among them more than two dozen homes and churches on and near Summit Avenue. In 1889 he moved to New York and went on to design numerous landmark buildings there and in Washington, D.C.

Marcucci said the chief appeal of the upcoming tour will be the opportunity for visitors to hear from the architects about why they like living in a Cass Gilbert home and what changes they have made during their stay.

"The tour will be interesting because you'll see how the architect in today's world adjusts and solves problems in an old house," he said. "Some renovate it back to the original condition, others modernize and make adjustments. How three architects solve those problems is the question that will be the most fun."

Hargens, who manages Close Architects in St. Paul, bought his home 15 years ago and has added a back porch and renovated the basement. O'Brien, of Pearce and O'Brien in Minneapolis, is restoring his single-family home



to its former glory, room by room. Marcucci, an architect at Wold Architects and Engineers in St. Paul, has completed a handful of renovation projects on his home.

The tour will also include information on the people who commissioned Gilbert to design the homes. Portland Terrace was originally built for attorney Leidum Sharpe, who rented out four units and lived with his family at the end unit, where Hargens lives now. The Freeman House was built for the president of the Gotzian Shoe Manufacturing Company.

Marcucci said architecture buffs will notice that the detailing found in Gilbert's single-family homes is greater than in the rowhouses, and that the rowhouses carry the influence of similar structures found in the United Kingdom and Boston's Back Bay neighborhood.

Marcucci said he has done little to change the basic design of the three floors in his 2,700-square-foot rowhouse. Previous owners had made renovations over the decades,

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24 ◀ CASS GILBERT TOUR

including removing a wall between the dining and living rooms, though he has totally rebuilt a sun porch on the third floor.

Rowhouse living is hardly new to Marcucci, who resided three doors down from his current home when he was in his 20s and has lived in two other rowhouses. "I loved living in this area," he said. "It was one of the nicest situations you could have in St. Paul."

As a member of the Cass Gilbert Society, Marcucci has viewed the famed architect's work in other cities as well. His last tour, to New York City, gave him an opportunity to tour the 57-story Woolworth Building, for 17 years the tallest building in the country, and the 23-story 90 West St.—also called the West Street Building—an office building so badly damaged by the terrorist attacks of 9/11 that it has been renovated into apartments after meticulous restoration.

When asked to name his favorite Gilbert design, Marcucci picked one just a short walk from his home. "I think of our house, of course, as a favorite," he said, "but I believe the state Capitol is a great accomplishment and it has been copied throughout the world. That building influenced a lot of people."

The walking tour will be held from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Sunday, September 28. The tours will start every half hour and will be conducted for no more than 20 people at a time. Tea and refreshments will be served after the tours on the porch of the Freeman House. Participants may visit the homes in any order they wish. Tickets are \$20 for Cass Gilbert members and \$25 for others. Tickets may be purchased at any of the three homes during the event.



An exterior view of the Portland Terrace rowhouses, an 1888 Cass Gilbert commission and the location of two of the homes on the walking tour.

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# Colonial Revival revived

### Restoration aims to give century-old home another 100 years of habitation

BY LARRY ENGLUND

Like many people who have never done a major house remodeling or restoration project, Pam and Kevin Johnson didn't know exactly what they were getting into when they purchased their century-old Summit-University home seven years ago. "I needed a project," said Pam, a retired software engineer. "Kevin got dragged along."

Though they lived in Eagan, the couple were familiar with the Summit Hill and Summit-University neighborhoods from years of driving one of their daughters to oboe lessons near Grand Avenue and Victoria Street. "Every Wednesday at 2:45, I'd drop her off and then stay in the area," Pam said.

Pam had also taken part in many of the Historic Hill District's house tours and had come to love its old homes. "It seemed like the right thing to find a house that we liked that was worthy of being fixed and to pour our energy into it," she said.

Pam described her five-bedroom house as a Colonial Revival. "Sometimes it's described as an American Four Square, though we have a bit more room," she said.

The house on Holly Avenue was built in 1901 when the English Arts & Crafts movement was just taking hold in the U.S., and its architecture reflects the simplicity of that movement. The woodwork features simple geometric trim, and the stained-glass windows are less ornate than their Victorian counterparts elsewhere in the neighborhood.



Kevin and Pam Johnson in front of the century-old Summit-University home they have spent the past seven years restoring. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

"The house was almost exactly 100 years old when we moved in," Kevin said. "We liked the idea of trying to preserve it for another 100 years."

Though the Johnsons bought the 2,860-square-foot house from a woman whose family had lived in it for 50 years, they suspect that it had once been used as a boarding house. "There had been locks on the bedroom doors, and we were told that all of the upstairs bedrooms had sinks in them," Kevin said.

The Johnsons replaced every light fixture in the house and remodeled the kitchen, which was "in a shape where you just didn't want to deal with it," Pam said. They removed the carpeting, revealing hardwood floors with a nice finish. The original woodwork was also

in remarkably good shape, though each of the stained-glass windows needed repair.

The Johnsons then hired Jet Construction to remodel the home's two bathrooms, add a third bathroom and turn a bedroom into a walk-in closet and dressing room.

Jet Construction owner and project manager Matt Hinton convinced the couple of the importance of getting the updated mechanicals correct at the outset of the project. As Pam explained it, "you need to be able to use a hair dryer and an electric saw at the same time, and have enough outlets so extension cords aren't circling the room."

RESTORATION ► 27

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26 ◀ RESTORATION

The Johnsons also learned about doing things in the right order. "It doesn't make sense to finish the foyer when we have to carry plumbing fixtures and sheet rock up the steps," Kevin said.

"Here in the kitchen, we're now taking off wallpaper that's about seven years old," Pam said. "We probably wouldn't have had to do that if we knew then what we know now."

"We learned to take a step back and think brand new," Kevin said. "Our basement was a maze of pipes for the original gas lighting and for the sinks in the bedrooms. We took out over 150 feet of pipe." And while redoing the bathrooms and replacing the water heaters, they routed the new hot-water pipes to make sure they didn't have to run any further than necessary.

The Johnsons chose not to add on to their house, though the windows in the kitchen were bumped out a foot. They also took advantage of the home's two trunk rooms, the storage areas commonly found in homes in the early part of the 20th century.

Previous owners of the house had used the trunk room off the kitchen as a baby's bedroom and a bathroom. The Johnsons turned it into a powder room. "It's as small as it can be by code," Pam said.

The couple remodeled the upstairs trunk room as a bathroom with marble tile, radiant heat and a glass-enclosed shower. The tile is a rich gray in the shower and white in the rest of the room. "We tried to make it look like it was always there," Kevin said.

This bathroom is a favorite of Hinton's. "It's small, yet the glass shower surround makes it feel bigger since you can see the whole room," he said. "I particularly like the 3-by-5 subway tiles."

"We were inspired by J. J. Hill's bathroom," Pam said, "and tried to get the same feel. Jet fashioned all of the woodwork from scratch."

The other existing bathroom was completely gutted and new plumbing and electrical systems were installed. Here, too, the Johnsons strived for a vintage look, though the bathing alcove is accented by pink glass tiles. "It's a bit more modern look, but I love it," Pam said. The bathroom also has a fiberglass clawfoot tub that widens at the shower end, but the fil-



The Johnsons completely gutted the upstairs bathroom in their 107-year-old home, but strived to maintain a vintage look with a glass-enclosed clawfoot tub.

ial on top of the shower matches the filials on the staircase.

Pam said she was surprised at "how emotional and discombobulated I felt when certain parts (of the restoration) were going on." With her kitchen ripped up and bathrooms not functioning, she felt displaced. For his part, Kevin said he has gained "terrific respect for the original builders of this house. It's solid, astonishingly built."

Hinton agreed. "This house was insulated from the beginning using sawdust to fill the wall cavities from top to bottom," he said. "There are 1-by-6 tongue-and-groove boards on the outside and inside, with 2-by-4s forming the frame. Inside, tar paper was laid on the 1-by-6s, then 1-by-2 stripping and finally lath and plaster. What's really remarkable is that the sawdust had only settled a couple of inches in the 100 years since it was built."

Though they take great pride in the restoration to date, the Johnsons are not planning to include it on a house tour anytime soon. "This is still a work in progress," Pam said. For one thing, the couple want to turn the attic into an office for Kevin. And then there's the matter of the kitchen.

"We made some decisions (in the kitchen) the first time out that we realized weren't the right ones," Pam said. "So we're thinking maybe we should redo things the right way."



The glass transom in the Johnson's Summit-University home was refitted with a new stained-glass window by local artisan Sue Patrangelo.

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Diane and Win Grandstrand sit in the gourmet kitchen of their Macalester-Groveland home, which will be part of the Remodelers Showcase on October 10-12. Shown below is a decorative tile from their kitchen wall. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER



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## Showcase serves up smorgasbord of remodels

BY DAVE PAGE

When Win Grandstrand took a job in St. Paul in 1980, he and his wife Diane bought a 1930s Arts and Crafts bungalow at 355 Macalester St. Ten years ago, he changed job locales again, this time to Hopkins.

"The auditors I manage asked when I was going to move to Hopkins," Grandstrand said. "I told them, 'Never!' This is such a great area."

Needless to say, when the couple—who both love to cook and entertain—decided it was time they had a gourmet kitchen, neither of them considered relocating. Instead, they decided to build an addition off the back of the house

and chose West End-based contractor Tim Christensen, who has operated Design Restoration for the past 23 years.

Christensen had nearly rebuilt the house across the street from them, top to bottom. The Grandstrands talked with their neighbors and by May Christensen's crew was digging the basement for their addition.

The couple recently got the chance to try out the oven rotisserie in their new gourmet kitchen. The Grandstrands are so happy with the project did that they agreed to be part of the 21st annual Fall Parade of Homes Remodelers Showcase on October 10-12.

Besides a new kitchen, the Grandstrands' project involved taking a portion of the old kitchen to expand the closet space in their bedroom, remodeling a back entrance to create a new mud room and laundry, and building a new outdoor patio. In addition to functioning as a hallway from the dining room to the new kitchen, the old kitchen doubles as a space to set up a buffet for large dinner parties.

The new kitchen was designed to create several distinct work stations. The baking center features a lower granite countertop, "so that you can press down harder when rolling out the dough," Grandstrand said. It has its own spice rack and pull-out bread board next to the Miele double oven.



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# Housing Resource Center gives homeowners a hand with making improvements

BY KEVIN DRISCOLL

Planning a home improvement project, but unsure how to arrange financing or find a reliable contractor? The Housing Resource Center (HRC) in St. Paul can help.

"We offer housing information and referrals, affordable home improvement loans, construction consultation, and first-time homebuyer information and assistance," said Laura Bolstad, program administrator for the HRC-St. Paul office, which is located above Mississippi Market at 627 Selby Ave.

The center's home improvement services include site visits with homeowners, information on contractors to do the work, assistance in getting bids, and help in determining accessibility modifications for health and safety issues. For do-it-yourselfers, the center provides information on building codes and helps homeowners secure the appropriate permits. All of the assistance is provided at no cost.

Nancy Elsola of Merriam Park swears by the center's efficacy. She needed work done on the exterior of her house, but didn't know how the process for obtaining bids or finding a reputable contractor. That's where HRC-St. Paul construction manager Curt Bennett stepped in.

"(He) came out to the house, helped me figure out what materials I needed and set up a bidding process," Elsola said. "Then he came out after it was finished to make sure it was a quality job."

One of the bonuses from Bennett's visit was that he noticed that Elsola needed the chimney on her house rebuilt. "That's something I never would've noticed," she said.

Elsola said she also appreciated the help she received from the center in financing her project.

The center's home improvement financing services include assistance in filling out the necessary forms to obtain loans and figuring out which loan program is the best fit.

For those families with gross annual household incomes of \$93,100 or less, a Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA) Fix-Up Fund Loan might be their best bet. The loans can be anywhere from \$2,000 to \$35,000 with a fixed interest rate, currently 6.5 percent, and up to 20 years to repay.

"That program has the benefit of an affordable monthly payment that never changes," Bolstad said. "There's no down payment and the loan fees are low. However, homeowners should know that luxury improvements, such as a swimming pool or an underground sprinkler system, do not qualify."

Bolstad said the center will also help owners of rental property obtain MHFA Rental Property Loans. These are 6 percent, fixed-rate loans. The owners of rented single-family homes and duplexes may qualify for up to \$25,000, and the owners of larger rental properties may qualify for up to \$10,000 per unit. There is no income limit and the repayment term is up to 15 years.

For homeowners with substantially lower incomes, there are MHFA Rehabilitation Loans. They are zero-percent-interest, forgiv-



Zach Fredrickson of Nilles Builders repairs a window in a Lexington-Hamline home being rehabbed with the help of the Housing Resource Center. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

able loans of up to \$15,000 for basic repairs and energy improvements. The loan is forgivable for homeowners after 20 years. If the owner sells the home to someone else or no longer resides there, the loan is payable in full. Otherwise, there are no monthly payments. An additional \$5,000 is available under that program for accessibility improvements or lead stabilization.

The income limit for an MHFA Rehabilitation Loan is 30 percent of the median household income in the metro area, adjusted for household size. For example, a household of two must make no more than \$19,400 to qualify. A four-person household may have a total income of \$24,250. There also is a \$25,000 asset limit to qualify for this loan. A first home, first car and retirement accounts are not counted as assets, but the value of a second home or car or stocks are.

The HRC-St. Paul also provides information on home maintenance and safety topics, first-time homebuyer classes, mortgage foreclosure prevention programs, energy assistance programs and more.

The HRC-St. Paul, one of five such offices in the metro area, is a program of the Greater Metropolitan Housing Corporation. The GMHC was started in 1970 by the Minneapolis businesses to increase affordable housing for low- and moderate-income families, and to assist the neighborhood with housing revitalization. Dozens of businesses and foundations continue to help cover the annual operating costs for the GMHC and its HRCs.

The five HRCs now serve a total of 19 cities, including all of Minneapolis and St. Paul, and suburbs in Ramsey, Washington and Hennepin counties.

To reach the HRC-St. Paul, call 651-228-1077 or e-mail lbolstad@gmhchousing.org. For the HRC-Southside, which includes Minneapolis' Longfellow and Nokomis East neighborhoods, contact program representative Kendra Ryan at 612-722-7141 or kryan@gmhchousing.org.

For more information, visit [www.housingresourcecenter.org](http://www.housingresourcecenter.org).

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The beverage station features cherry cabinets with glass doors and internal lighting, a beverage refrigerator, a bar sink and an under-cabinet rack to hold wine glasses.

The cooking area is centered around a five-burner cooktop set near a side-by-side refrigerator with doors to match the rest of the cabinets. Opposite the cooktop is a generous island with another bread board.

The sink area has a pullout cabinet for garbage and recycling as well as a drawer for towels. Six windows provide plenty of light as well as views of the back yard.

Though Christensen has built a lot of gourmet kitchen additions, he said he is just as happy remodeling old kitchens without expanding the footprint. "I like to help people get what they want within their space and budget," he said.

That's the kind of attitude Wendy Danks, director of marketing for the Builders Association of the Twin Cities, credits with keeping the remodeling sector going strong in a weak housing market. There are other factors as well.

"For one, high gas prices are making people think about buying smaller houses in the central cities or inner-ring suburbs and then remodeling them to fit their lifestyles," Danks said.

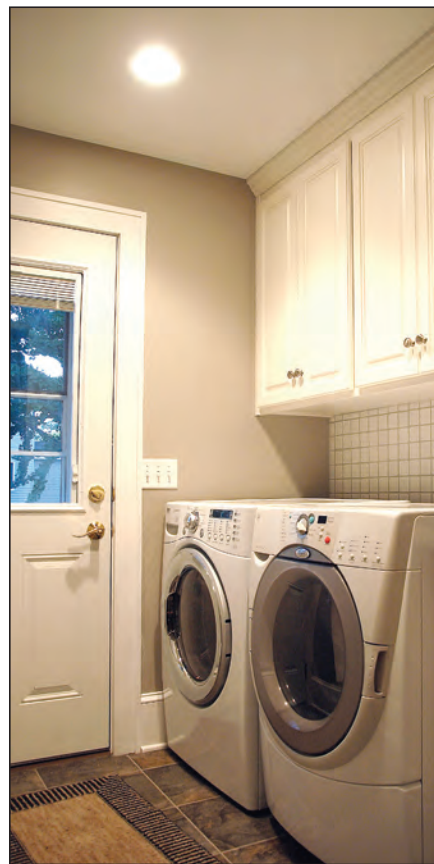
"People are also concerned about building green, so they want to learn more about the Minnesota GreenStar certification program. Even if they don't want the certificate, they're asking about building green, not just for energy efficiency, but for health reasons."

There are nine GreenStar-certified homes on this year's showcase, including 95 Mackubin St., an update of a historic Victorian house by Building Arts Sustainable Architecture & Construction. The home features geothermal heating and cooling, closed cell foam and dense-pack cellulose insulation, flooring made from recycled materials, water-saving appliances, energy-saving lighting, new fiber cement siding and reused lumber.

The 12 other local homes included in this year's showcase include:

#### St. Paul

- 84. N. Mississippi River Blvd. Regal Designers & Remodelers gave this house an interior facelift with new cabinets, granite countertops and updated appliances in the kitchen; cherrywood flooring and stone-faced fireplace in the liv-



The Grandstrand home addition includes this new laundry room.

PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

ing room; and recessed, pendant, sconce and monorail lighting.

- 257 Mount Curve Blvd. TreHus Builders totally remodeled this 1951 Greek Revival residence and built an addition. The main-floor includes a living room, mud room, front and back hall with kitchen open to the dining and family areas, a rear screen porch and bluestone patio.

- 2088 Watson Ave. Bacchus Homes provided this 1939 Cape Cod with a new kitchen, family room, mud room and half-bath on the main level; a new owners' suite on the second floor; and a fourth bedroom, fourth bath and craft room on the lower level.

- 2040 Princeton Ave. Vision Remodeling created a new two-story addition featuring a new kitchen/great room and mud room with custom lockers on the main floor, and a laundry room and new master suite above.

- 1865 Wellesley Ave. Authentic Construction redid the main living area with new cabinetry, windows, appliances, onyx tile, granite counters and a stone hearth, and added a spa-like master suite.

- 1619 Scheffer Ave. Archtrave Design & Remodeling redid this 1920's Storybook-style home's family room, kitchen and lower level. The living room's rare random-oak flooring with walnut pegs and butterflies was reproduced in the kitchen, which also features French doors and a quarter-sawn oak island.

- 615 S. Fairview Ave. Vujovich Design Build added a new front dormer to this pre-World War II home, along with a built-in entertainment center and custom quilting room.

- 1306 Osceola Ave. Martin Joseph Design & Construction took space from a closet to expand a bathroom in this 1924 Craftsman-style home. The kitchen was also remodeled using quarter-sawn oak cabinets, quartz countertops and thick oak flooring.

- 1162 Portland Ave. Sylvestre Construction remodeled the kitchen with heated wooden floors, a larger center island and warm wooden cabinets. A basement remodeling also was part of the project.

#### Minneapolis

- 3641 47th Ave. S. RRR Construction created new dormers, a full bath with a walk-in shower, a small kitchen addition, lower-level windows for a home office, decking from recycled plastic and a new two-car garage to this 1930-era home.

- 3552 45th Ave. S. EnterSpace Professional Design joined the kitchen and dining room of this Arts and Crafts home, added a full screen porch, a second floor bedroom and a first-floor mud room.

- 3255 47th Ave. S. Robert Residential reconfigured the living room, dining room and kitchen of this bungalow to create a larger dining area with a spacious kitchen and built a great room addition.

The 2008 Fall Parade of Homes Remodelers Showcase will run from 1:00 to 7:00 p.m. Friday, October 10, and from noon to 6:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, October 11-12. Admission is free except for two Dream Homes where visitors will be asked for a \$5.00 donation, with proceeds used to build homes for families that can't afford them.

Free copies of the showcase guidebook will be available at all Holiday stations by October 1. The guidebooks may also be picked up at the homes on the days of the tour. For information, call the Builders Association at 651-697-1954 or visit [www.paradeofhomes.org](http://www.paradeofhomes.org).

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# On the Town

## He's come undone

In new book, Summit-U poet redeems his present by facing up to his past

BY BOB GILBERT

In *Undoing*, his first book of verse, Summit-University poet James Cihlar embraces middle age and, through the written word, brings order to his memories of a childhood that for a long time was his undoing.

Cihlar, 47, the managing editor of Milkweed Editions, has devoted much of the past decade to settling in and settling down with domestic partner and fellow poet William Reichard. The fruits of that journey

are reflected in his collection of 47 poems.

"When you get to middle age, you realize that you're past being a young person spinning around with crazy anxiety," Cihlar said. "You stop worrying about what's going to come next and what people think of you. My book is really about undoing the ravages of the past and undoing the stuff I put myself through as a result."

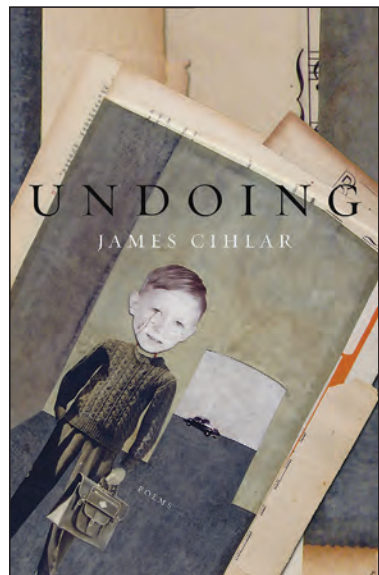
A native of Omaha, Cihlar is the third of five children born to a bank teller mother and a woodworker father. He attended the Iowa Writers Workshop as an undergraduate before earning a Ph.D. in creative writing at the University of Nebraska. He moved to the Twin Cities to become managing editor of New Rivers Press and worked as the director of marketing and sales for Coffee House Press before landing a job at Milkweed three years ago.

"A lot of this book is about two gay men trying to define what marriage and family mean to them," he said. "The poems are about treasuring home and treasuring family."

Some of the poems in *Undoing* were part of Cihlar's dissertation, which included a study of the



Summit-University poet James Cihlar. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER



relationship between poets and the places they live.

"There's a sense of obligation and responsibility between a writer and the people and places that inspire him," Cihlar said. "It's sort of a back and forth relationship that in and of itself is a kind of reward. I think the way writers give that back is through insight and the expression of our experiences that a reader can relate to."

Cihlar said he has been inspired by the Twin Cities. "I couldn't picture living the life I live here in Nebraska," he said. "Minnesota is like a different century to me. This is a much more hospitable place. I feel lucky to live in a place such as Minnesota with a history of valuing the things that make communities strong, such as education, diversity

and the arts."

Cihlar's poetry has previously appeared in such literary journals as *Prairie Schooner*, *Kirkus Review* and *Painted Bride Quarterly*. *Undoing* was published by Little Pear Press, the Massachusetts publishing house whose 2006 anthology, *Regrets Only*, also included a poem by Cihlar.

In *Undoing*, Cihlar said, he is attempting to "use the layering of time in a particular life to say something larger about how each generation responds to and furthers the ambitions of its predecessors." As he writes in "The House Made of Words":

*When my father left for good  
the words spilled like ink  
off the edge of the paper.*

*It would be years before  
I began to pick them up  
and lay them in a line.*

*Someone's got to do it,  
shake the moment  
by the collar  
and say, Learn.*

*Some day I will have  
a house made of words.  
It will be all windows and doors,  
with the words placed in rows,  
each one leading to the next,  
the way the present  
wears the face of the past.*

Cihlar will read from *Undoing* in a free program at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, October 16, at Birch Bark Books, 2115 W. 21st St. in Minneapolis.

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# On the Town Briefly

## Theater

**Power**, Nick Dear's tautly woven tale of cunning, greed and corruption in the French court of King Louis XIV, is being performed through October 5 at Theatre in the Round, 245 Cedar Ave. S. in Minneapolis. The curtain rises at 8:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$20. Call 612-333-3010.

**The Sisters Rosensweig**, Wendy Wasserstein's drama of 1992 about the complex relationships among three middle-aged siblings, is playing through October 5 at Park Square Theatre, 20 W. 7th Place. Charity Jones, Carolyn Pool and Angela Timberman star. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday. For ticket information, call 651-291-7005.

**Mr. Wonder Boy**, a funny and poignant commentary on life and art written and performed by Bob Stromberg, co-author and original cast member of the comedy *Triple Espresso*, is being presented through October 4 at the Music Box Theatre, 1407 Nicollet Ave. S. in Minneapolis. The curtain rises at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, 8:00 p.m. Friday, 5:00 and 8:00 p.m. Saturday and 3:00 and 6:30 p.m. Sunday. For ticket information, call 612-874-9000.

**Two edgy one-act plays**—*Sia(b)* by May Lee-Yang and *Asiamnesia* by Sun Mee Chomet—are being performed through October 5 at the Playwrights' Center, 2301 E. Franklin Ave. in Minneapolis. Produced by Mu Performing Arts, the new plays unravel long-held stereotypes about Asian women. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 4:00 p.m. Sunday, October 5. Tickets are \$18, \$16 for students and seniors, or whatever you can pay for an additional show at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, September 24. Call 612-824-4804.

**Il Trovatore**, Verdi's thrilling melodrama about revenge and remorse, is being performed through September 28 by the Minnesota Opera. Sung in Italian with English translations above the stage, it features Russian stars Mlada Khudoley as Leonore, August Amonov as Manrico and Olga Savova as Azucena. The curtain rises at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday at the Ordway. For tickets, call 612-333-6669.



The 14th-century mosaic of an angel; the tiara of Pope Pius VII, which was a gift to the pontiff from Napoleon; and a 1,500-year-old plaque from the tomb of St. Peter are among the 200 objects on loan from the Roman Vatican that will be displayed this fall in St. Paul. "Vatican Splendors" opens on September 27 at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. Reserved tickets at \$20, \$17 for seniors and students, \$13 for children ages 6-12, are available at the History Center or by calling 651-989-5151.

**The Fula from America: An African Journey**, Carlyle Brown's powerful and hilarious drama of homecoming, told in the tradition of the African *griot*, or storyteller, will be performed September 26 through October 5 at Dreamland Arts, 677 N. Hamline Ave. The play follows the adventures of

an African American who sets off alone through Senegal, Mali, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea and Sierra Leone, discovering friendship, generosity, poverty, wondrous beauty and civil war and questioning whether he is more American than African. Show times are 7:30 p.m. on Friday and

Saturday and 3:00 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets are \$20. Call 651-645-5506.

**The Colored Museum**, George C. Wolfe's absorbing perspective on the African-American experience, a gallery of humor, pathos and song, will be performed September 26 through October 7 on the Main Stage of the Fine Arts Center at Macalester College. The curtain will rise at 7:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 2:00 p.m. Sunday and 7:00 p.m. Thursday. Tickets are \$7.00, \$5.00 for seniors. Call 651-696-6359.

**Deer Camp**, a new comedy by Actors Theater that follows four fearless deer hunters into the woods, will be performed September 26 through November 30 at the Lowry Theater, 16 W. 5th St. What happens at deer camp stays at deer camp. Problem is, after decades of hunting trips, the guys have yet to bring home a deer and the wives are getting suspicious. Shanan Wexler directs the play, which stars Greg Eiden, Paul Reyburn, E.J. Subkoviack and Eric Webster. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, 5:00 and 8:30 p.m. Saturday and 5:00 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$29-\$39. Call 612-673-0404.

## Exhibits

**Stone, sand, clay and glass** are reinterpreted by seven regional artists in an exhibit running through October 31 in the Lobby Gallery of the O'Shaughnessy Educational Center at the University of St. Thomas. "Bridge of Sand and Clay" includes 50 works by potter Marti Nelson, mosaic artist Elisa Lux, stone carver Marc Clements, multimedia artist K. Daphnae Koop, sculptor Susan Haas Morrissey, painter John Olympio and bead and textile artist Paulette Lack. A reception for the artists will be held from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. Saturday, October 4. Admission is free. Call 651-962-5560.

**"Spiritual Anchors and Vehicles of Hospitality"**, featuring ceramics by Emily Schollet and paintings by Sarah Schaleger, will open with a reception from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Thursday, September 25, at the Benevolent Acorn, 1087 Grand Ave. The art will remain on view through November 9. Call 651-291-3848.

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October 18 in the gallery of the College of Visual Arts, 173 N. Western Ave. An opening reception and furniture auction is scheduled for 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Thursday, September 25. Call 651-290-9379.

**"Artability,"** paintings, drawings, sculpture, poetry, photography and music by more than 95 artists with mental illness, will be displayed October 2-4 at People Incorporated's Apollo Center, 313 N. Dale St. An opening reception will be held from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday. The show continues from 10:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Friday and noon to 5:00 p.m. Sunday. Admission is free.

**"Art of the Wild,"** more than 100 paintings, illustrations, watercolors and photographs by regional and national artists, will be displayed from October 7 through January 4 at the Bell Museum of Natural History, 17th and University avenues in Southeast Minneapolis. An opening reception with light refreshments will be held at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, October 7. Admission to the reception is \$10. Admission to the museum is \$5.00, \$3.00 for children. Call 612-624-7083.

**The sixth Minnesota Print Biennial,** a national juried showcase of printmaking featuring 90 works by 56 artists, will be displayed from October 7 through November 6 at the Katherine E. Nash Gallery, 21st Avenue and 4th Street in South Minneapolis. An opening reception will be held from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, October 10. Admission is free. Call 612-625-6518.

## Books

**Common Good Books,** 165 N. Western Ave., will present readings by authors Dana Nelson from *Bad for Democracy* at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, September 24; Mildred Armstrong Kalish from *Little Heathens* at 7:00 p.m. Friday, September 26, at the Virginia Street Swedenborgian Church, 170 N. Virginia St.; Cristin O'Keefe Aptowicz from *Words In Your Face* at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, September 28, at Nina's Coffee Cafe, 165 N. Western Ave.; Scotty Roberts from *The Rollicking Adventures of Tam O'Hare* at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, October 4, at the Virginia Street Swedenborgian Church; Eric Dregni from *In Cod We Trust: Living the Norwegian Dream* at 3:30 p.m. Saturday, October 4, at the Virginia Street Swedenborgian Church; George Rabasa from *The Wonder Singer* at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, October 9. All events are free and at Common Good Books unless otherwise indicated. Call 651-225-8989.

**2008 Minnesota Book Award** winners will converse with *St. Paul Pioneer Press* book editor Mary Ann Grossmann in programs at 2:00 p.m. Sundays at the Central Library, 90 W. 4th St. Authors Lynne Jonell (*Emmy and the Incredible Shrinking Rat*); Jill Kalz (*Farmer Cap*); and Will Weaver (*Defect*) will be featured on September 28. The October 5 program includes authors Charles Baxter (*The Art of Subtext*); Doug Hoverson (*Land of Amber Waters: The History of Brewing in Minnesota*); Deborah Keenan (*Willow Room, Green Door*); and Wang Ping (*The Last Communist Virgin*). Call 651-222-3242.

**"Soap Boxing,"** a spoken-word competition open to anyone age 18 and older, will kick off a new season at 8:00 p.m. Monday, October 6, at the Artists' Quarter, 408 St. Peter St. Also appearing that evening will be Andrea Gibson, a four-time Denver poetry slam champion, and Tristan Silverman, a two-time National Poetry Slam qualifier from Chicago. Admission is \$5.00, or free to those who compete in the slam. Call 612-207-7991.

**Irish and Irish-American poets** will read to the accompaniment of Highland Park accordionist Paddy O'Brien's trio on Friday, October 10. Daniel Tobin, Eamonn Wall, Dublin-born James Liddy and Ethna McKiernan will be among the authors taking part in the program, which begins at 7:30

p.m. at St. Paul's Central Library, 90 W. 4th St. Admission is free, but reservations are requested by calling 651-222-3242.

## Dance

**"The Jury,"** a sociological dig into the past to uncover the messy truth behind a woman's role in the death of her lover, will be performed October 3-12 by Off-Leash Area. Choreographed by Jennifer Ilse with text by Max Sparber, the premiere production stars Ilse, Elena Gianetti and Karla Grotting. Show times are 7:00 p.m. Friday through Sunday in the garage theater at 3540 34th Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Call 612-724-7372.

**"Ode to Flowers,"** a new dance blending classical and contemporary Chinese forms, will be performed October 4 and 5 by the Chinese Dance Theater. The program will begin at 7:00 p.m. Saturday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday in O'Shaughnessy Auditorium at the College of St. Catherine. Tickets are \$18, \$12 for children ages 2-12. Call 651-774-0806 or 651-246-3387.

**Sundari Aur Nag,** a retelling of the classic tale *Beauty and the Beast*, will be performed by Rita Mustaphi and her Katha Dance Theatre at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, October 5, at the Ordway. Live music and narration in three languages will accompany the traditional dance of northern India. Tickets are \$25 and \$35. Call 651-224-4222.

**The charismatic Jose Porcel** will bring his *Compañia Flamenco* to Northrop Auditorium at 7:30 Tuesday, October 7, for an evening of traditional flamenco dance as interpreted by the Spanish-born choreographer. Selections include a sensual taranto duet, a rhythmic ronda, the joyous and complex farruca and solea and two solos danced by Porcel. All of it will be accompanied by the company's spirited singers and guitarists. Call 612-624-2345.

## Film

**Orgasmic Birth,** a new documentary about labor and delivery that demonstrates how they were intended to be enjoyed, not just endured, will be shown at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, September 25, at the Riverview Theater, 3800 E. 42nd St. in Minneapolis. The film maintains that modern society, by subjecting healthy women to the medicalization of birth, denies them a prime experience. Tickets are \$18 in advance, \$20 at the door. Visit [www.MinnesotaOrgasmicBirth.com](http://www.MinnesotaOrgasmicBirth.com).

**College Road Trip,** the 2008 Disney comedy about an overachieving high school student, her overprotective father and their adventure-filled tour of prospective universities, will be shown at 7:00 p.m. Friday, September 26, in the gym at the West 7th Community Center, 265 Oneida St. Admission is free. Call 651-298-5493.

## Music

**The St. Paul Chamber Orchestra** will give Twin Citians a chance to hear the music it will perform on its December tour of Scandinavia on September 25-28. The program includes Mozart's Concerto No. 5 for Violin and Orchestra, Peteris Vasks' Meditation for Violin and Orchestra, and Beethoven's Seventh Symphony and Overture to Coriolan. Violinist Nikolaj Znaider will conduct and serve as soloist. The music begins at 8:00 p.m. Thursday at Trinity Lutheran Church in Stillwater, 10:30 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Friday at Wooddale Church in Eden Prairie, and 2:00 p.m. Sunday in the Great Hall at Bethel University. Tickets are \$10-\$25, \$5.00 for children. Call 651-291-1144.

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at 8:00 p.m. Friday, September 26, in the Concert Hall of the Fine Arts Center at Macalester College. Admission is free.

**Shades of "American Bandstand,"** vintage rock-'n'-rollers Bobby Vee and the Vees, Fabian and the Chiffons will perform on Saturday, September 27, at O'Shaughnessy Auditorium at the College of St. Catherine. The 7:30 p.m. show is a benefit for the Cradle of Hope, a nonprofit agency that helps mothers and children who are in financial crisis. Tickets are \$30-\$85 and may be purchased by calling 651-690-6700.

**Lyra Baroque Orchestra** will perform airs and dances from Marin Marais' hit opera of 1706, *Alcione*, Couperin's *Apothéose de Lulli* and other French numbers from the Baroque era on Saturday, September 27. The concert will begin at 8:00 p.m. in Sundin Music Hall at Hamline University, 1531 Hewitt Ave. Tickets are \$6.00 to \$23. Call 651-209-6799.

**Acclaimed Liszt interpreter**, Italian pianist Massimiliano Motterle will perform works by Liszt and others in a free recital at 7:00 p.m. Friday, October 3, in the Recital Hall of the St. Paul Conservatory of Music, 29 E. Exchange St. The program will include Mozart's *Sonata K283*; Schumann's *Novelette*; Chopin's *Polonaise*, *Ballade No.1* and *Ballade No.4*; and Liszt's *Hungarian Rhapsody No.2*. Call 651-224-2205.

**Organist David Jenkins**, director of liturgical music at the University of St. Thomas' St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity, will play the music of Distler, Hindemith, Laurin, Pärt, Alain and Hovland in a free recital at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, October 4, in St. Mary's Chapel, 2260 Summit Ave.

**Beethoven's 4th Piano Concerto** will highlight concerts by the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra at 8:00 p.m. Saturday, October 4, at the Ordway and at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, October 5, in the Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 S. 4th St. in Minneapolis. Pianist Pierre-Laurent Aimard will conduct and perform. The program will also include Ives' *The Unanswered Question*, Ravel's *Three Miroirs* and Debussy's *Petite Suite*. Tickets are \$11-\$59, or \$5.00 for children. Call 651-291-1144.

**George Baker**, organist at Perkins Chapel at Southern Methodist University and the winner of three international organ competitions, will present a free recital at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, October 5, at Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 3045 Chicago Ave. S. in Minneapolis. A reception will follow. Call 612-827-5919.

**"Medieval Music and the Apocalypse"** will be explored on Tuesday, October 7, in a free workshop conducted by members of the Rose Ensemble. The program will run from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Hamline-Midway Library, 1558 W. Minnehaha Ave.

## Family

**Folk stories, traditional music**, puppets and a magic act are on tap at 11:15 a.m. Saturdays at St. Paul's Central Library, 90 W. 4th St. The free program will feature a musical adventure to the Andes Mountains of South America led by Leo and Kathy Lara on September 27; folk stories told by Danielle Daniel to the musical accompaniment of Alphonse Bolden on October 4; and the Schiffelly Puppet Company in *Captain Schnook*, *Stinker Bell* and *the High-Frying Adventures of Peter Pan* on October 11.

**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 Laurie Keller and her book *The Scrambled States of America Talent Show* at 7:00 p.m. Friday, September 26; Patrick McDonnell and his book *South* at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, September 27; Gigi Amateau and her book *Chancey of the Maury River* at 1:00 p.m.



Iranian-American pianist Sara Daneshpour, 21, will open the Frederic Chopin Society's new season with a recital at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, September 28, in the Concert Hall of the Fine Arts Center at Macalester College. Daneshpour will play Beethoven's *32 Variations in C minor*, Chopin's *Sonata No. 2 in B-flat minor*, Prokofiev's *Sarcasms and Toccata in D minor*, Scriabin's *Prelude & Nocturne for Left Hand Alone*, and Rachmaninoff's *Corelli Variations*. Tickets: are \$20, \$12 for students with ID. Call 612-822-0123..

Sunday, September 28; Kate DiCamillo and her book *Louise, The Adventures of a Chicken*, at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, October 4; H. M. Bouwman of Macalester-Groveland and her new historical fantasy *The Remarkable & Very True Story of Lucy & Snowcap* at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, October 5; a reading by Neil Gaiman from his *The Graveyard Book* at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 8, at St. Paul's United Church of Christ, 900 Summit Ave. Call 651-224-8320.

**"Squirrels: Clowns of the City,"** an interactive program for toddlers and their families, will be offered from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. Thursday, October 2, at the Bell Museum of Natural History, 17th and University avenues in Southeast Minneapolis. Discover how this mammal has adapted to city life and learn how it prepares for the winter. The program is free with museum admission (\$5.00, \$3.00 for children). To register, call 612-624-9050.

**"Family Art Day,"** a tour of the James J. Hill House's art collection designed for children age 7 and older and their families, will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 4, at the Gilded Age mansion at 240 Summit Ave. The cost is \$8.00, \$6.00 for seniors and college students, and \$5.00 for children ages 6-17. Call 651-297-2555.

**"Hmong at Heart,"** a journey into the history and traditions of the Hmong people, will be offered from October 4 through January 19 at the Minnesota Children's Museum, 7th and Wabasha streets. The recreation of a village in Laos, a refugee camp in Thailand and a typical Hmong-American home will offer families a window into the everyday lives of the Hmong people. Visitors can use colored beads to create Hmong art, examine Hmong artifacts, practice everyday Hmong phrases and plot how to plant 50 acres of crops. The history and family life of a Hmong-American farming family are related on video.

**Learn how to manage an 1870s kitchen** and prepare a meal of dumplings, turnovers, butter and preserves, all from Victorian recipes, in "Annie's Kitchen," a program running from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. Friday, October 10, at the Alexander Ramsey House, 265 S. Exchange St. Proper table setting and the life of a Victorian servant will also be covered in the program, which is intended for children ages 9-12. Reservations are required. The cost is \$23 and includes refreshments. Call 651-296-8760.

# Sports



## The Wright Call By Dave Wright

### Scanlan to be toast of the town

Ask Mal Scanlan how many players he coached over the years in golf, hockey and football and he'd probably shrug his shoulders. Ask him how many games or matches he won as a coach in those sports and you'd probably get the same reaction. However, ask him about the individual players whose lives he affected and those who affected him and you'd better have a seat. It will likely be one long conversation.

On October 14 at Oakdale's Prom Center, some of those players will get their chance to thank him—and perhaps needle him as well. Scanlan will be the guest of honor at a banquet that night, with proceeds going to the Rice Street Athletic Club. Tickets are \$50 and can be obtained by contacting Steve Baldwin at 651-633-8567 or Pat Lynch at 651-489-5733.

It's altogether appropriate that Scanlan will be reconnecting with his Rice Street roots. He started his coaching career at Washington High School in 1967 before moving on to Cretin-Derham Hall, the University of St. Thomas and the University of Minnesota. (He has been back with the Raiders for several years now assisting his brother, head football coach Mike Scanlan.)

Although the banquet is billed as a tribute, the list of speakers who were longtime coaching rivals—such as St. Thomas Academy's Gerry Brown and Stillwater's George Thole—and playing contemporaries—such as Rod Magnuson and Bob Paradise—leads one to think there might not be much left of Scanlan's hide by the end of the night. But that's probably as it should be.

Former CDH football coach Rich Kallok will serve as the emcee. Kallok's first head coaching job was at St. Bernard's in the Rice Street area.

Like a lot of other coaches in the 1970s, Scanlan also served as a hockey referee. One night at the Coliseum, a Humboldt player was called for a penalty by Scanlan. As the player sat in the penalty box, a look of recognition came across his face. "Hey, isn't that guy a football coach in our league?" he asked, pointing to Scanlan.

When told yes, the player looked on the ice and frowned. "Skates like one, too," he said. "Just don't tell him I said so."

### Cadets name first nine to Hall

When I scanned the list announcing the members of St. Thomas Academy's Hall of Fame, everything seemed in order. There was quarterback Eddie Krowka, supposedly the only man in North America with bigger hands than Johnny Bench. In a later life, Krowka (class of '45) helped the then-College of St. Thomas football team to its only bowl appearance ever. There also was Joe Sturdivant ('48), an outstanding baseball player who played for the White Sox,

WRIGHT CALL ▶ 38

## Redhawks soar

### Minnehaha girls take early lead in Tri-Metro soccer

BY BILL WAGNER

It appeared at the onset of the season that even a girls' soccer program as traditionally solid as Minnehaha Academy's was a year away from serious contention. The Redhawks were unusually young, with only a handful of seniors in the starting lineup, coming off last year's impressive 16-2-1 season.

But Minnehaha always seems to find a way to win under coach Mark Anderson. As of last week, the Redhawks were 4-0-1 in the rugged Tri-Metro Conference and 7-2-1 overall.

Minnehaha notched a convincing 3-0 road win over Stewartville on September 13. But even before that, the Redhawks proved that they would be in the thick of the Tri-Metro race this fall with a 1-0 victory over Visitation and a well-earned tie against undefeated St. Paul Academy.

The victory over Visitation was especially sweet because the Blazers knocked Minnehaha out of the playoffs last season. The winning margin in the win over Visitation came on a neat 35-yard goal off the foot of freshman midfielder Maggie Moran.

"That game was big for us," Anderson said.

The tie against a tough SPA squad was almost as big. "That was the most physical game we've played this year," Anderson said.

As many as five teams could be vying for the top spot in the Tri-Metro this fall and Anderson said he knows it will be a long haul. "The conference is the strongest it's been in the 26 years I've been here," he said.

However, stout defense has been the hallmark of Anderson's teams over the years and this year's team is rock-ribbed even by the Redhawks' high standards. Senior Karen Kelley gives the team the steady netminding that all great teams need to have. She proved to be the difference against SPA, making several outstanding saves, and is widely considered one of the best goalies in the state.

"She's even better than she was last year," Anderson said. "She's so strong and smart."

Not to be overlooked is the four-player shield of defenders in front of Kelley. "The four of them are all from the same mold," Anderson said. "They're strong and tough as nails."

The two outside defenders are sophomores Rachel West and Hannah John-



Minnehaha forward Nicole Roth, left, battles DeLaSalle's Kai Brinson for the ball on September 16. The game ended in a tie. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

son. At sweeper is Fiona Cummings, the first 10th-grader to play that position for Minnehaha. The stopper is junior Sarah Scholl, who effectively shadows the opposition's best scorer and can quickly convert from defending to attacking.

Early in the season, Minnehaha had a streak of seven straight games without allowing a goal. Though that may be the definition of defensive success for most teams, the Redhawks like to go one better. "We have a phrase we use around here," Anderson said. "We say that we shouldn't be happy unless we haven't given up a shot in the game."

Minnehaha's midfield positions were considered somewhat of a question mark at the outset of the season. The team has had to make do without the services of junior midfielder Rachel Hansen, who hurt her knee badly in basketball last year and is just now return-

ing to playing status after reconstructive knee surgery. However, Anderson has gotten good midfield mileage out of junior Anna Krieger, senior Lindsay Olson, senior Emily Engdahl, senior Anne Marie Alexander and freshman Moran.

Krieger was slated to be a sweeper this season, but was moved to center midfielder for the injured Hansen. Olson is a versatile player who can be plugged in at defense or midfield. Alexander and Engdahl are both senior captains who provide outstanding leadership. Moran, who started as an 8th-grader last season, has great feet and Anderson predicted she will be heavily recruited by colleges as her high school career progresses.

The X-factor at midfield is Hansen, who has been medically cleared to play

REDHAWK SOCCER ▶ 36

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Central senior running back D.J. Johnson carries the ball during the Minutemen's 32-6 win over Highland Park on September 19 at Griffin Field. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

## Central's dynamic duo

Johnson, Larson provide Minutemen's offensive punch

BY BILL WAGNER

Opponents of the Central High School football team are facing a two-headed monster this year. They don't know if the threat is going to come on the ground or through the air.

Senior running back D.J. Johnson and wide receiver Jordan Larson have combined their talents to lead the Minutemen to a 3-0 start in the St. Paul City Conference (3-1 overall) with lopsided victories against Harding, Arlington and Highland Park. One of the things coach Scott Howell likes best about Johnson and Larson is the confidence with which they play. It's a quiet belief that infects their teammates and creates an overall positive attitude.

"Neither of those guys is shy, I'll tell you that," Howell said.

"We're both team leaders, for sure," Larson said.

That leadership has translated into some impressive production so far this fall. Through the first three games of the season, Central had outscored its foes 93-30 while rolling up nearly 1,000 total yards. The 5-foot-8, 170-pound Johnson had carried the ball 37 times for 204 yards and four touchdowns. The 6-foot-3, 210-pound Larson had caught six balls for 90 yards and two touchdowns while proving to be an effective blocker.

The other thing about the two is that they rarely come off the field. "Maybe for special teams, but that's about it," Larson said.

Both are also defensive stalwarts for the Minutemen. Larson, a hard-hitting linebacker who had more than 100 tackles last season, can play both in the middle and at the corners. Johnson's speed comes in handy as a cornerback who also plays strong safety at times.

The two have been friends for years, going back to the time they played foot-



Senior Jordan Larson's efforts at wide receiver and linebacker for Central have attracted the attention of several Division I colleges.

ball at the Jimmy Lee Recreation Center and basketball at the Martin Luther King Center. "We grew up together," Johnson said.

Larson's combination of size, strength and athleticism has attracted the attention of several Division I colleges, including Iowa, Houston, Wisconsin and Iowa State.

"Iowa seems to like him more for his defense, and Houston seems to like him more as a flex tight end," Howell said. "He can play both."

Johnson plays a lot bigger than his size. He logged more than 1,000 yards last year while averaging seven yards per carry, and has continued to be a workhorse this fall. His 4.5 time in the 40-yard dash makes him capable of breaking off big runs. However, he is also strong enough to run through tight quarters.

"D.J. might not be very big, but he's a hard-nosed runner who knows how to get tough yards," Howell said. "But that doesn't mean he can't break one. He's already had a couple of those this year."

The more Johnson gets the ball, the better he likes it. In fact, he said he wouldn't mind getting it 15 to 20 times a game. "I can't ever get the ball enough," he said.

Both Johnson and Larson follow the NFL, and it's no surprise that each has someone who plays his position as his favorite player. Johnson likes the Vikings' Adrian Peterson because of his tenacity. "He's a hard runner and he's very competitive," Johnson said. "You can tell he wants to score every time he has the ball."

Larson likes Terrell Owens of the Dallas Cowboys because of the way he works so hard to get open and make big plays. "I wear number 81 for a reason," Larson said. "He (Owens) plays the game with passion, and I like to play with passion."

Despite their confidence, both Larson and Johnson downplay their status as go-to players for Central. "I know that we're expected to play well," Johnson said, "but we couldn't do it without our teammates."

### 35◀ REDHAWK SOCCER

in Minnehaha's last regular-season game at home on October 4 versus Highland Park. Anderson said a healthy Hansen makes the Hawks at least 10 percent better. He has watched her prepare for her return and said she has not lost a step following surgery. "She looks as quick as

ever," he said.

Up front, the Redhawks are in good hands with sophomore forwards Nicole Roth and Emma Dolphin. Both have a knack for finding the net and are the team's top two scorers, respectively.

Despite Minnehaha's early success, Anderson cautioned that the Redhawks' inexperience could still catch up to them

in postseason play. Still, he noted that their only losses so far have been to two pretty good teams—Holy Angels and Rochester Lourdes—and that this year's squad is much more settled than last year's was at this point in the season.

"A lot can happen over the course of a season," Anderson said, "but we're about where we thought we'd be."

# Sports Shorts

**The Run for the Prize 5K Run/Walk and Little Tyke Dash** will be held by Divinity Lutheran Church at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, September 27, around Lake Phalen. The family event will include refreshments, awards and door prizes. The cost is \$10 in advance and includes a T-shirt, or \$5.00 on race day (no shirt provided). Proceeds will benefit St. Paul Parks and Recreation scholarship fund and the Central Africa Medical Mission. Register by e-mailing [run4theprize@divinitylutheran.org](mailto:run4theprize@divinitylutheran.org) or calling 651-235-9727.

**The St. Paul Shamrocks** amateur baseball team finished third in the 2008 Class A state amateur baseball tournament held at Veterans, Dunning and Midway stadiums. The Shamrocks (26-10) qualified for the 12-team tourney by winning the St. Paul League playoffs. The Shamrocks went 4-2 in the double-elimination tournament, twice knocking off the two-time defending champion Minnetonka Millers. The Shamrocks consist of former University of St. Thomas baseball players, as well as current collegiate players who grew up in the area.

**The St. Paul Basketball Association** will hold tryouts for its 2008-09 traveling teams for boys and girls in grades 5-8 on Saturday and Sunday, September 27-28. Visit [www.saintpaulbasketball.org](http://www.saintpaulbasketball.org) for the tryout schedule or call Steve Otto at 651-645-4764 or Jay Johnson at 651-690-9834.

**Beginning yoga classes** are being offered by St. Paul College on Tuesdays from 6:15 to 7:15 p.m. at the UAW-Ford-MnSCU Training Center on Ford Parkway and Mount Curve Boulevard. Those who are interested in seeing what yoga is all about may check out a class for \$10. Call 651-846-1783.

**A Gorge Fall Colors Paddle** will be offered by Friends of the Mississippi River from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday,

October 11, from the East River Flats in Minneapolis to Hidden Falls Park in St. Paul. On the guided trip, paddlers will travel six miles through the only true gorge on the Mississippi River and experience an urban wilderness at the peak of fall colors. Along the way, Friends and National Park Service staff will talk about the history, ecology and management of the river. Shuttle service will be provided to all paddlers, and a limited number of rental canoes are available. The cost is \$15-\$25, plus \$20 for canoe rental. To register, contact Sue Rich at 651-222-2193, ext. 14 or [srich@fmr.org](mailto:srich@fmr.org).

**Joe Delaney of Highland Park** will tee up his 19th annual Wally World Classic open golf tournament on Sunday, October 12, at Highland National Golf Course. The four-person scramble will commence with a shotgun start at noon. The registration fee of \$65 per player or \$260 per foursome covers the cost of 18 holes of golf, cart, prizes and a taco buffet that will be served up immediately after at Plums Neighborhood Grill and Bar, 480 S. Snelling Ave. Among the honors to be bestowed that evening is the first Bill Skally Spirit Award, named after the late golfer and Grand Avenue accountant and given for the "most heroic shot" of the day for birdie or eagle. To register, call Delaney at 651-690-1341.

**Registration for winter youth basketball** will be accepted from October 13-17 in St. Paul Parks and Recreation's Southwest Area, which includes the Edgcombe, Griggs, Groveland, Hancock, Hillcrest, Langford, Merriam Park, Palace and South St. Anthony recreation centers. Late registration will be accepted if space is available. Call 651-266-6400.

**The Metropolitan Council** has published a colorful map of the area's 49 regional parks and park reserves, 29 regional

trails and six special recreational areas. The map lists the recreational opportunities available at each park, such as picnicking, swimming, boating, fishing, camping and horse trails, as well as winter activities. It also includes a list of 40 things to do at various regional parks, ranging from scuba diving at Square Lake to stargazing at Baylor Park. Copies of the map are available at many of the area's regional parks, county libraries and Metro Transit stores. They also may be obtained by contacting the Met Council's Data Center at 651-602-1140 or [data.center@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:data.center@metc.state.mn.us).

**Rec Check**, a free after-school program for children in grades 1-6, is being offered at 16 recreation centers throughout St. Paul, including Arlington, Baker, Conway, Dayton's Bluff, Duluth and Case, Front, Hancock, Jimmy Lee, Martin Luther King, McDonough, North Dale, Palace, Prosperity, Scheffer, Sylvan and West Minnehaha. The program will run from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. on days that the St. Paul Public Schools are in session. Rec Check is free and open to youths who live or go to school in St. Paul. Participants engage in supervised activities, including homework, arts and crafts, games, reading and special events. They may also take part in gym games, outdoor play and walking. A daily snack is provided. Youths will be required to check in with staff upon arrival and check out when leaving. Parents may request to be notified if their child does not check in or requests to check out. For information, call Ann Simerson at 651-292-6508.

**The West 7th Business Association Golf Tournament** will begin with a shotgun start at 1:00 p.m. Friday, October 3, at Highland National. A buffet will follow at Champps. The cost is \$65 and proceeds will benefit the West 7th Boys Club. Contact Lynda Barry at [lyndamb@comcast.net](mailto:lyndamb@comcast.net).

## High school football roundup midway through the season

### Central (3-1)

Aug. 29 vs. Shakopee ..... 12-22  
 Sept. 5 vs. Harding ..... 46-8  
 Sept. 11 vs. Arlington at Bakken ..... 35-0  
 Sept. 19 vs. Highland Park ..... 32-6  
 Sept. 25 vs. Como Park .....  
 Oct. 2 vs. Johnson .....  
 Oct. 10 at Humboldt .....  
 Oct. 15 vs. Mpls. team .....

### Henry Sibley (2-2)

Aug. 29 at Mahtomedi ..... 0-27  
 Sept. 5 vs. North ..... 21-0  
 Sept. 12 at South St. Paul ..... 27-14  
 Sept. 19 vs. Simley ..... 3-6  
 Sept. 26 at St. Thomas Academy .....  
 Oct. 3 vs. Hill-Murray .....  
 Oct. 10 vs. New Ulm .....  
 Oct. 15 vs. Richfield .....

### Mpls. Roosevelt (1-3)

Aug. 28 at Southwest ..... 0-48  
 Sept. 4 vs. South at Hamline ..... 0-34  
 Sept. 12 vs. North ..... 21-6  
 Sept. 19 at Washburn ..... 0-60  
 Sept. 26 vs. Edison .....  
 Oct. 3 vs. Patrick Henry .....  
 Oct. 10 at St. Peter .....  
 Oct. 15 at St. Paul team .....

### St. Paul Academy (1-3)

Aug. 29 vs. St. Croix Lutheran ..... 21-70  
 Sept. 5 at St. Anthony ..... 6-35  
 Sept. 12 vs. Minnehaha Academy ..... 26-7  
 Sept. 19 vs. St. Bernard's ..... 20-36  
 Sept. 26 vs. DeLaSalle .....  
 Oct. 3 at Brooklyn Center .....  
 Oct. 10 at Blake .....  
 Oct. 15 vs. Breck .....

### Cretin-Derham Hall (4-0)

Aug. 29 vs. Forest Lake ..... 35-19  
 Sept. 5 at Hastings ..... 33-0  
 Sept. 12 vs. Woodbury ..... 22-16  
 Sept. 19 at Stillwater ..... 42-7  
 Sept. 26 at Roseville .....  
 Oct. 3 vs. White Bear Lake .....  
 Oct. 10 at Park .....  
 Oct. 15 vs. Mounds View .....

### Highland Park (2-2)

Aug. 29 vs. Como Park ..... 26-16  
 Sept. 5 at Johnson ..... 16-28  
 Sept. 12 vs. Humboldt ..... 44-14  
 Sept. 19 at Central ..... 6-32  
 Sept. 27 vs. Harding .....  
 Oct. 3 vs. Arlington at Griffin .....  
 Oct. 10 at Litchfield .....  
 Oct. 15 vs. Mpls. team .....

### Minnehaha Academy (1-3)


Aug. 29 at St. Bernard's ..... 13-26  
 Sept. 5 vs. Concordia Academy ..... 6-20  
 Sept. 12 at St. Paul Academy ..... 7-26  
 Sept. 19 vs. Brooklyn Center ..... 37-17  
 Sept. 26 at Blake .....  
 Oct. 4 vs. Breck .....  
 Oct. 10 vs. St. Anthony .....  
 Oct. 15 vs. DeLaSalle at Brooklyn Center ..

### St. Thomas Academy (3-1)

Aug. 29 at South St. Paul ..... 42-2  
 Sept. 5 vs. Simley ..... 14-20  
 Sept. 12 at Duluth Denfield ..... 49-16  
 Sept. 19 vs. Hill-Murray ..... 49-21  
 Sept. 26 vs. Henry Sibley .....  
 Oct. 3 at Richfield .....  
 Oct. 10 vs. North St. Paul .....  
 Oct. 15 at Tartan .....

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35 ◀ WRIGHT CALL

and Steve Dolan, who was the school's best athlete when he graduated in 1951.

You also couldn't have an STA Hall of Fame without such coaching choices as Terry Flynn ('55), who went 126-24 as a basketball coach and was a heck of a player, too. The same goes for Gerry Brown ('58), who helped turn the Cadets into a football power in the 1970s and also coached baseball.

There's always room in a hall of fame for a guy like Gerry Thomas ('53), who was the winning pitcher when the Golden Gophers won the 1956 College World Series, and Mike Wright ('56), who was named a high school all-American in football before going on to gridiron fame at the U of M.

For the more modern crowd, there's Mike Robertson ('65), who spent time with the old Washington Senators and later the Texas Rangers system.

Finally, they'd laugh you out of the building if you didn't find a place for Tom Malchow ('95), the STA swimmer who went on to star at the University of Michigan before winning a silver medal in the 1996 Olympics and a gold medal in 2000.

Yes, they were all good choices and you could only nod in approval with the announcement that they are all going to be honored at an induction ceremony at 5:00 p.m. Friday, September 26, at STA. (They also will be introduced during halftime at that evening's homecoming football game). But then the announcement was read again. Was this right? Is this really the inaugural class of STA's Hall of Fame members?

"It took us a while, but we're catching up," said STA athletic director Jack Zahr.

Mike Byrne, a fair coach for STA who is now the school's assistant headmaster, was on the 13-member committee that chose the nine inaugural members. "The Alumni Association has been talking about this for a while now," Byrne said. "We had more than 70 candidates this year and there were some very good candidates. It was quite a process."

Fortunately, STA has decided to do this annually, so those who were passed over this time will have other shots.

**Will Jim Kaat finally get the nod?**

Jim Kaat, who was one of the few Major League Baseball players to have appeared in four different decades and was a sterling pitcher for the Minnesota Twins for a dozen years, is a rarity in many ways. After spending several seasons

as a durable starting pitcher, he made the transition to short-inning reliever for the last five seasons of his 25-year career. Kaat and Tony Oliva are among the 10 players who have made it to the Veterans' Committee this year for consideration in baseball's Hall of Fame. Luis Tiant, who spent one season with the Twins, is also on the list.

The case for Kaat is a strong one. Despite the fact that he spent much of his playing days on poor teams, he won 283 games and compiled a career ERA of 3.45.

Kaat was one of the game's better athletes for most of his career. He earned 16 Gold Gloves and for a pitcher was an excellent hitter, finishing with a career slugging percentage of .267. The Twins used him as a pinch-hitter and as a pinch-runner on occasion. He finished with five stolen bases in his career, more than former Twin Tim Laudner managed in 734 career games. In 1,251 career at-bats, Kaat hit into just 14 double plays, which is fewer than Joe Mauer, Justin Morneau and Delmon Young have hit into this season alone.

With the exception of the 1972 season when he suffered a knee injury, Kaat was a remarkably durable pitcher. Unfortunately, longtime Twins fans still remember he had to leave the penultimate game of the 1967 season in Boston because of an elbow injury. The Red Sox rallied against Jim Perry and Ron Kline and finished off the Twins the next day to claim the pennant.

For some reason, Kaat never caught fire with the writers and broadcasters who do the yearly voting for the Hall of Fame. This time, it's the players already in the Hall who will decide who joins them. If Kaat doesn't make it with that crowd, some those people need to get their memories checked.

Unfortunately, durability works heavily against Oliva, Kaat's ex-teammate. Those of us who were lucky enough to see Tony O play when he was young can still remember him as the right fielder with the rifle arm who could run and hit. For several years Oliva was about

as exciting a player as there was in the game. But his knees gave way too soon, and if it hadn't been for the advent of the designated hitter rule, Oliva's name would never have gotten any consideration at all for enshrinement in the Hall.

If the votes were cast strictly on the basis of what might have been, Oliva would win hands down. But the Hall is reserved for those who persevered at a high level for a long time, occasionally against long odds.

As much fun as Oliva was to watch, his numbers simply don't stand up against such longtime hitters as Vada Pinson (2,757 hits, 127 triples) or Al Oliver (2,743 hits, .303 lifetime average). You can even make a better case for Joe Torre, who hit .297 over 17 full seasons and ended up playing three positions—catcher, first base and third base.

Granted, Oliva, who finished with 1,917 hits and a .304 lifetime average, did a lot in a short time, winning three batting titles, finishing second once and third on three other occasions.

Unfortunately, he only played eight full seasons in the outfield, another three as a DH and small parts of two other seasons. Terrific player? Absolutely. Hall of Famer? Only if sentiment takes precedence.

*(Dave Wright can be reached at [dwright53@msn.com](mailto:dwright53@msn.com).)*



The 2008 Dodgers captured the Linwood Recreation Center intramural baseball league championship this year with a 15-1 record. Pictured, from left, are (back row) coach Todd Blohm, Jirell B., Lizzie Lofton, Austin Shepherd, Riley Dolan, Ethan Heyers, Caleb West and coach Joe Seidel; and (front row) Matt Cousin, Evan B., Claudia Blohm, Max Landy, Miles Hulse, Chris Steiner, Mike Heller and Jemarcus Howell.

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Continued page 40


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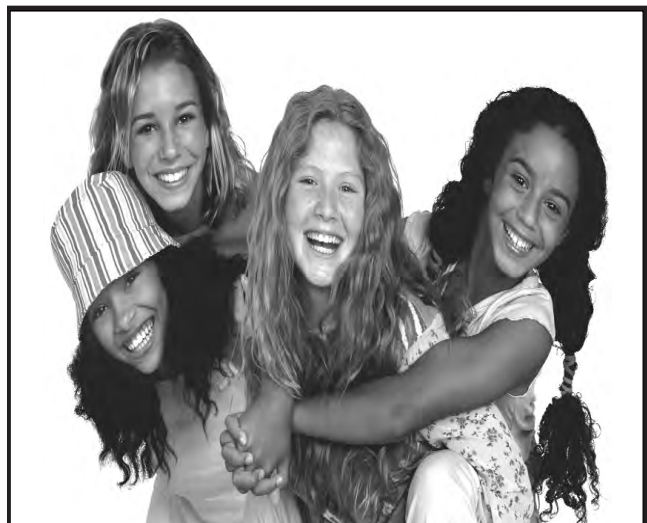
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