

Scholarly pair reveal what happy couples do to keep romance alive

By Frank Jossi

Carol Bruess and her husband, Brian, started a romantic ritual last year. Instead of acknowledging their wedding anniversary just once a year, the Merriam Park couple decided to mark the occasion by seeing which of them would be the first to say “happy anniversary” on the 13th day of each month—the day of their wedding.

Brian has been defeated regularly in the friendly competition. However, last month Carol decided to give him a little extra time to win and he came through.

Bruess, who has a Ph.D. in interpersonal and family communication, lifted the ritual from the research she conducted for her new book, *What Happy Couples Do: Belly Button Fuzz & Bare-Chested Hugs—The Loving Little Rituals of Romance* (Fairview Press, January 2008). Co-authored by Longfellow resident and fellow scholar Anna Kudak, the slender volume takes a decidedly non-academic approach to analyzing the loving gestures, pet names and other forms of endearment that couples create for each other.

“It’s all about a sense of oneness—communication rituals composed of inside jokes, playful approaches and symbols, like even collecting belly button fuzz,” Bruess said with a laugh. “These are the playful rituals that keep couples together.”

Bruess (her name rhymes with peace) began documenting patterns of spousal communication as a graduate student and has continued to do so for the last nine years as an associate professor of communication and journalism at the University of St. Thomas. If she looks familiar, she probably is, having become a minor media celebrity as a frequent guest on WCCO News’ “Good Question” segment.

In addition to collecting belly button fuzz, the romantic rituals the two women found during their years of researching happy couples included scrawling salacious love notes on the surface of a new jar



Carol Bruess, left, holding her wedding photo, and Anna Kudak are co-authors of *What Happy Couples Do*. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

of peanut butter, making love each year under the Christmas tree and hiding rolled-up banners that say “I love you” in their spouse’s jacket.

Then there were the simple gestures of blowing kisses to each other, employing well-placed winks and hand squeezes, and coming up with goofy nicknames.

To Bruess, who is the mother of two young children, the rituals

HAPPY COUPLES ▶ 7

Transportation tops agenda at Capitol in 2008

Other initiatives take a back seat to roads, rails & bridges

By Kevin Driscoll

Transportation issues are expected to dominate the 2008 session of the Minnesota Legislature, which opens on February 12. Governor Tim Pawlenty has proposed a \$965 million general obligation bonding bill, and \$416 million of that is dedicated to transportation, according to his spokesman, Brian McClung.

Pawlenty has earmarked approximately \$85 million for road projects and \$225 million for work on more than 600 bridges across the state, including the Lowry Avenue bridge and a St. Anthony Parkway bridge in Minneapolis and a Wheelock Parkway bridge in St. Paul. The governor’s bonding bill also includes \$70 million for the Central Corridor light-rail transit line, or exactly half of what is being sought by local legislators for whom the Central Corridor is the top priority this session.

“We need to fund the full \$140 million of the state’s contribution to the Central Corridor,” said Representative Michael Paymar (DFL-District 64B). “I agree with the governor that some people will have to give up on their demands for certain aspects of the light-rail line. But with the governor and the business community behind it, I think the Central Corridor has a better chance of getting the funding it needs overall.”

LEGISLATIVE SESSION ▶ 4

Expansive Central Corridor transit project put on crash diet

By Jane McClure

City and county officials are scrambling for ways to reduce the ever-escalating cost of constructing the proposed Central Corridor light-rail transit line between the downtowns of St. Paul and Minneapolis. While potential savings along the 11-mile line have been identified in recent weeks, the estimated cost is still well above the \$840 million threshold to qualify for the federal funds that would pay half of the cost.

Governor Tim Pawlenty has told local officials that the project must be trimmed if it is to continue to receive his support. The Metropolitan Council is seeking \$140 million in bonding from the state for the Central Corridor this spring. The governor has recommended \$70 million. However, Pawlenty said, even that money “could easily be transferred to projects of equal importance.”

The cost of constructing the Central Corridor is currently estimated at \$990 million, and that is without the two most expensive

options. A tunnel below Washington Avenue on the University of Minnesota’s East Bank campus together with a one-block extension of the tracks from St. Paul’s Union Depot to a proposed transit hub beside the depot concourse would increase the estimated cost to \$1.2 billion.

The \$840 million threshold is based on a federal cost-effectiveness index that takes into consideration projected travel times and ridership. Metropolitan Council chairman Peter Bell told the Central Corridor Management

Committee on January 23 that if a more expensive project is brought forward, state and local governments may have to kick in more money.

Ramsey and Hennepin County taxpayers are already being asked to pay 50 percent of the Central Corridor’s operating costs when and if it is built. Because 70 percent of the project is in Ramsey County, Ramsey County taxpayers would pay 35 percent of the oper-

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Restaurant pulls out of City House renovation project

By JANE MCCLURE

A plan to convert the former St. Paul Municipal Grain Terminal head house and sack house on the Mississippi River near downtown St. Paul into a transportation history interpretive center is moving forward, but without a restaurant—at least for now.

The St. Paul City Council, acting on January 23 as the Housing and Redevelopment Authority, approved an additional \$46,858 in city funds to preserve parking for the buildings, which city officials have renamed City House. Meanwhile, council members learned that ADRZ Development is pulling out as a tenant for the proposed restaurant space.

ADRZ has been unable to obtain financing for its part of the project, according to St. Paul planning director Cecile Bedor. The development partnership included celebrity chef Andrew Zimmern along with Cynthia Anderson, Tim Duggan, Paul Rosenthal and Michael Timmerman.

The city had been working with ADRZ on the restaurant plans since 2003 and approved a development agreement in March 2007. The agreement called for the city to kick in \$1.56 million of the estimated \$9.5 million cost of

redeveloping the structures. Although the city funding can still be applied to the interpretive center, Ward 5 council member Lee Helgen questioned the wisdom of providing such a large subsidy for the project.

"I'm just not sure we should put more public money into this," Helgen said, although he wound up voting for the parking funds. Pat Harris is the only City Council member to have voted against the project, but he was not present on January 23.

Part of the March 2007 development agreement included a long-term lease for parking with Rottlund Homes, one of the developers of the adjacent Upper Landing neighborhood. Forty-eight parking spaces in a Rottlund garage are to be made available for City House. Last December, the city became a member of the condominium association that shares the parking ramp.

That membership means the city is partly responsible for the management, operation and maintenance expenses associated with the parking garage. To offset that cost in the short term, the city will lease the spaces to



ADRZ has dropped its plan to turn part of the St. Paul Municipal Grain Terminal into a riverfront restaurant.

Upper Landing residents and has signed an agreement with O'Keefe Parking Company to manage the leases. The city needed to contribute more money to cover the costs because it is anticipated that revenue from the leases will not cover all of the operating and maintenance expenses.

Bedor and Ward 2 council member Dave Thune defended the additional investment, saying the head house and sack house can still be redeveloped as an interpretive center and bike and pedestrian trail head, but not without off-street parking. "While we're sorry to

lose ADRZ, we're confident that another operator can make a restaurant there a reality," Thune said. "It's a great location."

The city has already heard from another prospective restaurant operator, Thune said, although he would not identify the party. When a new developer is found for City House, that developer will assume the management, operation and maintenance costs for the parking.

The city acquired the old St. Paul Municipal Grain Terminal in 1988. The grain elevators were leveled shortly thereafter, but the six-story head house and smaller sack house were retained. The effort to redevelop the structures, rather than see them demolished as part of the Upper Landing project, got under way in 1999. The head house and sack house were added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2004.

ADRZ had hoped to operate a 150-seat restaurant on the first floor of the two structures. The second floor is being eyed for a public overlook, the interpretive center and public restrooms. A plaza would be developed adjacent to the buildings, connecting bike and pedestrian trails to the Upper Landing and the newly built residential neighborhood to the east.

Met Council committee approves rezoning of Lilydale bluff

By DAVE PAGE

The Community Development Committee of the Metropolitan Council voted unanimously on January 15 to give its blessing to the city of Lilydale's rezoning of an acre of riverbluff property near Lexington Avenue and Highway 13 from park land to multi-family residential.

The Lilydale City Council had voted 4-1 in August to rezone the city-owned parcel as the first step in selling it for future development. The full Met Council is scheduled to vote on the matter on February 13. The approval of the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is also required because the property lies within the state-designated Mississippi River Critical Area.

The problem, according to opponents of the rezoning, is that all but 1,800 square feet of the property has a slope that is greater than 18 percent, and state standards for the Mississippi River Critical Area discourage development on property that is so steep.

Kay Frye, who lives in a condominium

downhill and across Highway 13 from the property, testified on behalf of Lilydale residents opposed to the rezoning. According to her, the portion of the lot that can be developed is not large enough for the size of home typical of the area. Visitor parking could also be a problem, because parking is not permitted on Highway 13, she said, and vehicles entering or exiting the site could pose a traffic hazard on Highway 13.

Stormwater runoff from the development could destabilize the bluff, Frye said. A sewer pipe serving the condominiums above the property is currently sagging, she said, and her condo association is spending \$500,000 to shore up nearby bluff property.

The city of Mendota Heights, which borders the property, is also opposed to the rezoning. Mendota Heights officials would like the Lilydale parcel to remain open space or at most single-family residential.

The property was donated to the city of Lilydale in 1974 by the late John Thompson. According to Ciara Schlichting of DSU Inc., planning consultants for Lilydale, there are no

restrictive covenants on the lot.

The relatively flat portion of the property is located near its center, and Schlichting acknowledged that a driveway into the site would have to contend with the slope. However, she said, that can be worked out between any future developer and the city.

The driveway may require a variance from the city, according to Lilydale Mayor Tom Swain. The city prohibits construction of a permanent roadway on a slope that is steeper than 18 percent. However, requiring a developer to obtain a variance for the driveway would ensure that the city has control over what kind of structure is built, Swain said.

"The City Council thought that perhaps a twinhome could go on the property," Swain said. "But now it's pretty clear that there's room only for a single-family home."

Steven Johnson, director of Natural and Cultural Resources for the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, questioned the wisdom of building a driveway on such a steep slope. Johnson is also concerned about stormwater management. The site is ques-

tionable for a single-family home, he said, "and extremely inappropriate for a multi-family building."

Failing to meet Mississippi Critical Area requirements does not necessarily doom a rezoning, according to Rebecca Wooden, a DNR land use supervisor. "In any case," she said, the DNR "would like to resolve any issues regarding (the Mississippi Critical Area) at this stage of the process," rather than have to oppose in court any variances the city of Lilydale may grant.

"I don't know how the DNR can approve (the rezoning)," said Marilyn Lundberg, the lone Lilydale City Council member to vote against it. "If the DNR wants the Critical Area program, they should administer and enforce the rules with passion."

Mayor Swain and Lilydale City Council members had hoped to raise as much as \$330,000 from the land sale to help offset a city budget deficit. Last fall, the Lilydale officials lowered the sale price to \$279,000. Several people have since looked at the property, but no one has made an offer, Swain said.

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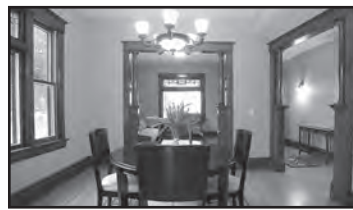
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St. Paul projects face uphill battle in obtaining bonding in '08

By JANE MCCLURE

The rehabilitation of Midway Stadium and the development of new soccer facilities are among the capital improvements on the city of St. Paul's wish list for the 2008 session of the Minnesota Legislature. More money for the National Great River Park, a new Asian-Pacific Cultural Center and improved homes for Como Zoo's gorillas and polar bears will also be requested by the city when state lawmakers convene this month.

Projects in St. Paul totaling more than \$220 million are being proposed by the city, Ramsey County, the Metropolitan Council and Minnesota Historical Society. They range from a Metropolitan Council request for \$140 million for the proposed Central Corridor light-rail transit line to a \$1.5 million snowmaking machine for Battle Creek Regional Park.

Among the city's top priorities are improvements to Como Zoo and Conservatory, including \$10.3 million to build a new gorilla exhibit and \$800,000 to complete the \$9.8 million polar bear exhibit. Private funding is also being raised for those projects. Though Como Zoo is a city facility, close to 1.4 million of its 1.7 million visitors each year live outside

the city.

St. Paul is also seeking \$9.8 million to continue work on the National Great River Park, including \$6 million to purchase land for Bruce Vento and Lilydale parks and \$3.8 million to complete erosion control measures on the Upper Landing.

A total of \$40 million is being sought for the St. Paul Outdoor Recreational and Team Sports Initiative, including \$24.5 million for Midway Stadium to pay for 1,300 additional seats, 18 new suites, new locker rooms, a revamped playing field, an expanded concourse, new restrooms and new concession facilities. New soccer fields would also be developed as part of the initiative. The city's fire training facility near Midway Stadium could be relocated to make way for the fields, or they could be built on the site of Xcel Energy's former coal-fired High Bridge Plant or Ford Motor Company's assembly plant in Highland Park after it shuts down next year. The soccer fields could be shared with field hockey, lacrosse and rugby teams.

More than anything, however, city officials would like to secure an increase in Local Government Aid (LGA) from the state. St. Paul has lost more than \$108 million in LGA

since 2003, according to Ward 5 City Council member Lee Helgen, who chairs the council's Legislative Advisory Committee. Last session, the Legislature was poised to restore \$10 million of LGA to the city, but Pawlenty vetoed the measure as part of the state budget bill.

If the state fails to increase LGA, St. Paul officials plan to ask legislators to provide local governments with other ways to generate revenue, such as a local option sales tax. Last year St. Paul officials considered a legislative appeal for a sales tax increase on the hospitality industry, but the idea was dropped under protests from bar and restaurant owners.

The city is also requesting amendments to the state statute governing the Capital Improvement Budget process. The city is currently allowed to sell up to \$20 million in CIB bonds each year for a maximum term of 10 years. That bonding authority, which was granted by the state in 1971 and expires in 2013, has not been adjusted for inflation. City officials also maintain that the maximum 10-year term could be extended, thereby lowering the annual debt service, since most capital improvements are good for more than 10 years.

The city wants the state to expand the Min-

nesota Investment Fund to promote the development of environmentally friendly manufacturing. It is also seeking increased funding for after-school educational programs.

The city will also ask the Legislature to make it a crime for unauthorized people to enter underground tunnels. St. Paul has about 600 miles of tunnels and sewers and has become a national destination for people who like to explore such places. Under current law, the city has to post signs on every manhole cover and outside every tunnel to make it illegal for people to trespass.

The city would also like the state sales tax removed on public safety equipment and street maintenance materials, equipment and supplies, which would save the city more than \$1 million annually, according to Public Works officials.

Getting any of the city's requests funded may be an uphill battle. None of them are included in the \$965 million bonding bill proposed by Governor Tim Pawlenty in January. According to Wendy Underwood of St. Paul's intergovernmental relations staff, the only city-sponsored initiative included in the governor's bill is \$40 million to complete the Duluth Convention Center.

1◀ LEGISLATIVE SESSION

"Under the governor's bonding bill, the Central Corridor project falls further behind," said Senator Dick Cohen (DFL-District 64), who chairs the Senate Finance Committee. "We need a comprehensive transportation bill at least similar to the one Governor Pawlenty vetoed last May." That bill included a gas tax increase of 7.5 cents per gallon, a half-percent metrowide sales tax, removal of the cap on license tab fees and a \$20 county excise tax, all to help pay for transportation projects.

"The governor is willing to consider an increase in the gas tax as long as it's offset by a tax cut elsewhere," McClung said. "But the governor does not want to see the same bill that was presented to him last year."

The state is projecting a \$374 million deficit in 2008, and Pawlenty and local legislators agree that will limit what they can accomplish during the session. However, several legislators are clearly looking for more than what the governor's bonding bill lays out.

Representative Erin Murphy (DFL-District 64A) called the Central Corridor "absolutely the number-one priority in the 2008 bonding bill. We also need a separate transportation bill that has a 7-cents-a-gallon gas tax increase and a metrowide sales tax to provide ongoing funding for transit.

"Spending on health care reform is unlikely this year," added Murphy, who sits on the House Health Policy, Finance and Ways and Means committees. "But we'll be working on legislation to expand access and models for health care delivery and payment."

The governor's bonding bill "doesn't include virtually anything for Twin Cities priorities," said Representative Jim Davnie (DFL-District 62A). "The Target Center needs debt relief as the new Twins stadium is being built, and the city of Minneapolis needs a new emergency operations center."

Davnie would also like the state to restore local government aid (LGA) to its pre-2003 levels to relieve the pressure on local property taxes. "The entire gain from the state's 2001

takeover of \$2 billion in school property taxes will be lost by 2009," he said. "And given the (projected state) deficit, other school funding will be hard to come by this year."

Davnie, who chairs the House Labor and Consumer Protection Committee, said he has "a package of proposals this session to help homeowners avoid foreclosure. It would also help renters deal with the impact of the mortgage crisis and build on efforts to create green-collar jobs as we move to alleviate global warming."

According to Cohen, debt relief is needed for the Xcel Energy Center in downtown St. Paul along with more LGA. "Without (an increase in LGA), local governments won't be able to put much of anything up for matching funds in the governor's bonding bill," he said.

Senator Patricia Torres Ray (DFL-District 62) would like most of Pawlenty's transportation bonding placed instead in "a separate transportation bill that includes the tax hikes so we don't go further into debt." She is also seeking bonding to upgrade retaining walls

for Minnehaha Creek. "They are falling, and it will be cheaper now than later to fix them," she said.

"Redesigning the education funding formula, even if there's no money this year, is truly needed," said Torres Ray, who sits on the Senate's Education Policy and Finance Committees. "I also want to help the small businesses in my district that have been affected by various construction projects, including Lake Street and the Diamond Lake Road exit off I-35W."

Like Davnie, Representative Rick Hansen (DFL-District 39A) is hoping to see state bonding projects started soon "to provide jobs quickly in this shaky economy." A member of the House Bonding Committee and vice chair of the House Environment Committee, Hansen wants to move forward with legislation dealing with wetlands, flood relief and water quality as well as a proposal to amend the state constitution to dedicate funding for the out-

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Site plan for Trader Joe's project is OK'd with a slew of conditions

By Jane McClure

The St. Paul Planning Commission approved the site plan for a retail development at the southeast corner of Randolph Avenue and Lexington Parkway on January 25, but only if the developers meet close to a dozen conditions.

As of February 1, no one had appealed the site plan approval to the City Council, but opponents have until February 8 to do so, and given local residents' concerns about traffic at the intersection, an appeal is likely. The appellants would have to demonstrate that the Planning Commission or city staff erred in laying out the facts leading up to the decision.

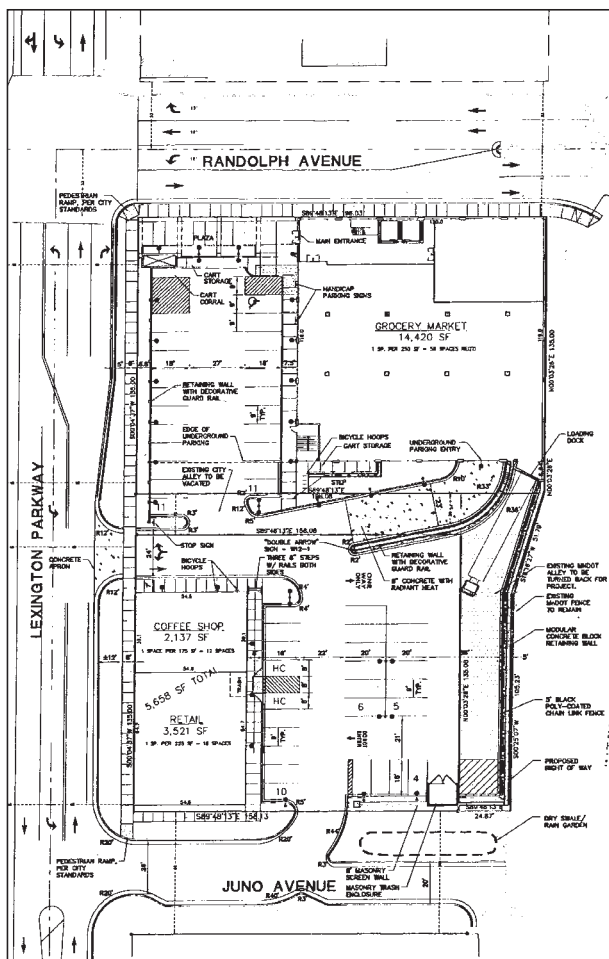
The 1.27-acre site is currently occupied by an automobile accessory business and a triplex on Randolph and four single-family homes on Juno Avenue. Co-developers Meridian Management and TOLD Development want to raze those buildings and replace them with a 14,420-square-foot building to house a Trader Joe's gourmet grocery store and a 5,330-square-foot building for possibly two other retail tenants. The St. Paul City Council recently rezoned the property from residential to traditional neighborhoods, which allows for a mix of commercial and residential uses.

The Planning Commission's Zoning Committee added several conditions to the site plan before recommending it. The full Planning Commission attached yet another condition. That condition, brought forward by commissioner Gaius Nelson, requires the addition of a 4- to 6-foot-wide landscaped boulevard along Randolph between the street and the sidewalk to improve pedestrian safety. A few off-street parking spaces may be lost in the process, but the development as proposed already had more parking than is required.

The city has tried to mitigate the project's impact on the remaining Juno Avenue homeowners, according to Tom Beach, who oversees site plan reviews for the city. That block of Juno, which Beach described as "a sleepy little dead-end street," is expected to get between 1,000 and 1,200 vehicles a day if the project goes through.

According to Beach and city traffic engineer John Maczko, the streets around the development will be able to accommodate the expected increase in traffic if the conditions that have been attached to the site plan are met. Those conditions, many of which would be honored at the developers' expense, include the following:

- Lexington south of Randolph would be widened by 6 feet by narrowing the boulevard



The approved site plan for the Trader Joe's development minus the additional boulevard on Randolph.

on the east side from 12 to 6 feet. A right-turn lane would be added for northbound traffic turning from Lexington onto Randolph, and a left-turn lane would be added for southbound traffic turning from Lexington into the parking lot or onto Juno Avenue.

- A left-turn signal would be added at Randolph for vehicles traveling north on Lexington.
- The existing left-turn lane for westbound traffic on Randolph turning onto southbound Lexington would be extended to accommodate more vehicles.
- Juno Avenue would be repaved to mitigate the impact on the four homes on the south side of the street. The developer would pay 25 percent of the cost of the improvements, and the city would pay the rest. The developers would also be responsible for snow plowing on Juno once it is rebuilt.
- The south facade of the Trader Joe's building, which had been proposed as a solid masonry wall, would be redesigned with windows or other architectural elements.
- Parking lot lights would have to be turned off when the businesses are not open, except for any lighting needed for security.

Final details of the site plan, including stormwater drainage, landscaping and lighting, must be approved by the city before any building permits are issued. The developers also must obtain a permit to connect the project's storm sewer to the Minnesota Department of Transportation's system along I-35E.

4◀ 2008 SESSION PREVIEW

doors and the arts.

Paymar, who chairs the House Public Safety Finance Committee, said he is glad the governor included \$57 million in bonding for public safety projects across the state, including \$16 million for the expansion of the state prison in Faribault, \$8.5 million for public safety training centers at Camp Ripley and in Olmstead County, \$22 million for asset preservation at all state prisons, and \$1 million for planning a new state emergency operations center.

Representative Carlos Mariani (DFL-District 65B) said he is hoping for "a comprehensive transportation bill this session that includes a raise in the gas tax. I've carried gas

tax bills in years past. They didn't pass and everything we warned would happen did, except for the bridge collapse."

Mariani, who chairs the House E-12 Education Policy Committee, agreed that little in the way of increased school funding will be forthcoming this session. However, he said, "we've had groups of legislators working on several things all year long, including redesigning high schools and alternative schools and keeping the state's annual school report cards separate from the federal No Child Left Behind yearly progress reports. The state Education Department had been blending those reports and the results skewed the data beyond usefulness."

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Highland District Council removes Poulos as president

Council leader blamed for recent acrimony on board

BY KEVIN DRISCOLL

A special meeting of the Highland District Council's board of directors on the ongoing effort to address the HDC's \$56,000 debt to the IRS resulted in the removal of Bill Poulos as board president.

Soon after Poulos opened the January 29 meeting, the agenda was amended to include "a discussion of council leadership," including the removal of both Poulos and vice president Georgia Dietz as board officers. Poulos and Dietz were elected officers last May, and according to board member Gary Marx, "things haven't been working out for the past six months. The community has not been served and the district council has not been served, and I believe that's a function of leadership. A lack of trust has developed among council members, the community and city government, and I think we need a break from that for a couple of months."

The HDC board then agreed to hold separate votes on ousting Poulos and Dietz. When a secret ballot was suggested, Dietz demanded to know the names of all of those who vote to oust her. As the HDC's acting community organizer, Dietz had applied last fall for the permanent position. When the HDC board hired somebody else, Dietz filed a complaint with the St. Paul Human Rights Department (see story below). A vote to remove her as vice president is "tantamount to retaliation for my

filing the complaint," she said, "and I plan to submit separate complaints against each and every one of those people."

At the recommendation of HDC secretary Bill Klein, the HDC board agreed not to vote to remove Dietz. "I think Ms. Dietz's (Human Rights) complaint is frivolous and will be found to be so," Klein said, "but I agree that (removing her from office) may look like retaliation."

Klein asked Dietz if she would voluntarily resign as vice president, and Dietz refused. The board then voted 10 to 7 to remove Poulos as president. Poulos will retain his at-large seat on the board. Klein was then elected on a 14-3 vote to replace Poulos as president for the remaining three months of his term.

Poulos' removal as president can be attributed in part to his alleged attempt to undermine an agreement in December between the HDC board and the city of St. Paul to use unspent city grant money from previous years to help pay off the HDC's debt to the IRS. Poulos cast the lone vote against a board resolution last November to pursue such an agreement.

The HDC owes the IRS \$56,484, including \$12,257 in payroll withholding taxes going back to 1998, \$21,964 in penalties and interest on those back taxes, and \$22,263 in penalties and interest for failing to submit IRS Form 990 during certain periods over the same decade.

As one of the city's 17 district councils, the city reimburses the HDC each year a maximum of \$50,293 in expenses plus \$15,250 for crime prevention efforts. The HDC has not always spent that much in a given year.

Bob Hammer, who manages the city's

district council grants, initially rejected the HDC's request to reopen its contracts with the city from previous years. However, at the urging of Ward 3 City Council member Pat Harris, Hammer asked the City Attorney's Office for an opinion. The City Attorney determined that a previous year's contract could be reopened, although none of the leftover grant money could be used to pay IRS fines or the interest and penalties on back taxes.

Poulos admitted to the board that he had met with Hammer and John Marshall, Harris' legislative aide, "to ask them how the HDC's deal with the city came about. I asked how city policy could change so fast or was it a simple loophole they found in the law. I was only seeking information, and I believe I was acting in the best interest of the HDC and the Highland community."

According to HDC treasurer Tim Puffer, who had attended one of those meetings, Poulos did argue against the agreement with the city and without stating that he was speaking as a private citizen and not as a representative of the HDC board. The HDC's bylaws prohibit board members from speaking on behalf of the board when their statements are in opposition to the board's will. According to Puffer, Poulos' statements were just the latest in a series of actions and statements by Poulos over the past six months that have engendered acrimony among HDC board members.

Poulos said he felt his reputation was being sullied and that as president he had attempted to be fair to every member of the board and to act in "the best interest of the council."

Speaking at the January 29 board meeting,

Highland resident Robert Brandtjen defended Poulos' and Dietz's performance as board officers and criticized past HDC boards for the council's "financial mess, which was only discovered after Mr. Poulos and Ms. Dietz joined this board. Many of you here now, who were on those past boards, are responsible for the current financial troubles. Now you're just trying to cover all that up by removing them."

When Dietz echoed Brandtjen's comments, Klein reminded her that Poulos had been "a member of some of those same previous boards, and he, like the rest of us, just didn't ask the right questions at the time. We were remiss in that."

"This issue has been reported in the newspapers and discussed in public meetings since it came to light," Klein said. "And we're grateful to Mr. Poulos and Ms. Dietz for that. However, Tim Puffer and I have been working hard to resolve (the debt) with the IRS, and Mr. Puffer especially has spent far more volunteer hours on this than anybody should expect, and he has been forthcoming with accurate and truthful information every step of the way."

According to Puffer, the HDC may have spent most if not all of its city grant money for 2007, but there may be more unspent grant money from 2006 that it can draw on.

"We're coming close to completing an offer to compromise with the IRS in the next few weeks," Puffer said. "We believe the IRS will settle for about \$8,000 to \$10,000 of the total and will not come back to us in the future. Hopefully, this problem will be behind us for good."

Dietz accuses HDC of discrimination in hiring of organizer

BY KEVIN DRISCOLL

Georgia Dietz, the Highland District Council's former acting community organizer, has filed an age discrimination complaint with the St. Paul Human Rights Department over the process the HDC used to hire her permanent replacement.

Dietz, 54, took a leave of absence as vice president of the HDC's board of directors while she served as acting community organizer from September through December 2007. Last fall she applied for the permanent position for which Kathy Carruth, 43, was ultimately hired. Dietz has since resumed

her volunteer position as vice president of the HDC.

Following the filing of her complaint, Dietz said that the alleged employment discrimination "was mostly of a political nature, but that isn't one of the grounds you can use, so I said it was age discrimination."

Dietz has been active in the Republican Party for years, seeking the party's endorsement for her St. Paul School Board campaign several years ago and managing the campaigns of other Republican candidates.

Tyrone Terrill, director of the city's Human Rights Department, said he could not comment on Dietz's complaint while it is being reviewed. He did say that "political affili-

ation is not a protected class under St. Paul's Human Rights Ordinance."

HDC treasurer Tim Puffer, who sat on the search committee that was formed to find a new community organizer, acknowledged that "political affiliation was an issue. The entire board discussed it because by law we must act as a nonpartisan body in the best interests of all Highland residents."

Sixteen people applied for the position and eight were initially invited to interview. Eliminated from consideration, according to Dietz, were any job candidates who had performed "any overt political activities."

That was until recently ousted HDC president Bill Poulos informed the search com-

mittee that it was illegal to exclude people with political affiliations. Poulos demanded that the search committee interview Dietz.

Dietz's complaint is "frivolous," said Gary Marx, who also served on the search committee. "Many (of those who were interviewed) were older than (Dietz). She was not among the group of eight because she was not as qualified as they were."

According to Lao Yang, a hearing officer for the Human Rights Department, Terrill will send a letter to the HDC asking for a response to Dietz's complaint. Dietz will then be invited to offer a rebuttal. If she chooses to pursue it further, the department will launch an investigation, Yang said.

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What Happy Couples Do co-authors Anna Kudak and Carol Bruess on the University of St. Thomas campus.

PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

1 ◀ HAPPY COUPLES

reflect the way couples enliven their marriages with a style of private communication that keeps out the rest of the world, including their kids in most cases. Some of the more ribald stories in the book, in fact, came from couples who now have children and can no longer pull off such racy rituals as dining in the nude.

Bruess began studying interpersonal and family relationships as a graduate student at Ohio University. It was there she met Brian, who now works in administration at the College of St. Catherine. While she was still a student, she published a paper on rituals among couples that captured national media attention.

Kudak, a former student of Bruess', is an adjunct faculty member at St. Thomas and a Ph.D. candidate in interpersonal and family communication at North Dakota State University. She is happily married herself to husband Brent.

Both women have published their research in academic journals, and decided to write *What Happy Couples Do* to convey their message to a wider audience. They believe there would be fewer divorces if couples paid more attention to romantic rituals in connecting with their mates.

Not surprisingly, much of the information the two authors gathered for *What Happy Couples Do* came from women, who tend to

talk more freely about interpersonal communication. They said men may just as readily practice romantic rituals with their spouses, but they are less likely to share them with researchers.

The interviews the women conducted required a bit of urging, since a quirky or time-honored ritual to a researcher might not be so obvious to a married couple. The fact that some spouses spend 10 minutes at night discussing their days or always go to bed at the same time might not have struck them as a ritual until Bruess and Kudak pointed it out to them.

What Happy Couples Do is the first in a series of books to be published by Fairview Press, a Minneapolis company devoted to self-help works dealing with children, health and elder care. Bruess and Kudak have already completed a second book scheduled for release in August titled *What Happy Parents Do: Ninety-Nine Cents and a Little Humpty Dumpty—The Loving Little Rituals of a Child-Proof Marriage*. A third volume will look at what happy families do.

A lot of media buzz for the duo has been generated already. Bruess will soon be flying to New York for interviews with 30 satellite television shows and will be featured on the "Oprah & Friends" satellite radio program. Several local bookstores and gift shops, including Patina in Highland Village, are now stocking *What Happy Couples Do*.

1 ◀ CENTRAL CORRIDOR

ating costs and Hennepin County taxpayers would pay 15 percent. If construction costs rise, Ramsey County taxpayers can also expect to pay the lion's share of the local share of those increases.

St. Paul officials have asked that University Avenue be reconstructed as part of the light-rail project. The cost of reconstructing University Avenue from curb to curb was initially estimated at \$55 million. Project engineers are now suggesting that instead of digging up the entire street, University just be resurfaced at a cost of \$28 to \$31 million. However, that figure would include the reconstruction of the University median where the tracks are installed, according to Jim Alexander of the Central Corridor project team.

Another suggestion is to assess property owners along the transit line for the cost of curb and sidewalk replacement. However, that idea will likely face opposition from University Avenue business and property owners who are already being asked to weather the disruptions and a potential loss of customers during construction.

As part of the light-rail project, traffic signals would be installed every quarter-mile on University Avenue. Left turns across the light-rail tracks would be prohibited except where there are signals, according to Alexander. In addition to left-turn arrows, the signals would have walk signs that could be activated by pedestrians. University already has 22 traffic signals between Rice Street and Washington Avenue. Under the plan, seven signals would be added and one would be removed.

Recent studies of the railroad bridge over University between Prior and Cleveland avenues indicate that the bridge will not have to be rebuilt to accommodate the light-rail trains

as originally thought. Replacing the bridge would have cost \$1.5 million. Engineers are now looking at lowering the street beneath the bridge.

To trim the \$16.5 million cost of adding light-rail stations at Hamline Avenue, Victoria Street and Western Avenue, engineers are now looking at installing just the infrastructure for those three stations, leaving open the possibility of adding the stations in the future. That would save about \$11 million, Alexander said.

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners voted on January 22 to eliminate from further consideration the \$57.8 million option for extending the light-rail tracks from the Union Depot on 4th Street to the depot's concourse on Kellogg Boulevard. However, the board is still hoping for either a \$32.2 million or a \$42.1 million extension to the depot concourse, which would connect the light-rail line to the proposed terminus for local and regional bus, commuter rail and high-speed rail service.

The Metropolitan Council has scheduled four public hearings on the Central Corridor light-rail project as it prepares to meet a February 27 deadline for trimming its cost. They will be held as follows:

- Wednesday, February 6, from noon-2:00 p.m. at the Weisman Art Museum, 333 East River Road, Minneapolis.
- Thursday, February 7, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Metro Transit offices, 560 6th Ave. N. in Minneapolis.
- Saturday, February 9, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at Goodwill Easter Seals, 553 N. Fairview Ave.
- Monday, February 11, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Metropolitan Council chambers, 390 N. Robert St.

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Northeast corner of Lexington and Summit Avenues in Saint Paul

Viewpoint

Core cities show strength in weak housing market

By Bob Kessler

For years, the strength of the housing market outside the urban cores across the United States has been in new construction. More open space and more options gave suburban and ex-urban communities a significantly greater base with which to attract new residents with comparatively inexpensive housing.

Now the housing bubble has burst, attracting the attention of economists and civic leaders who point to the decline in new home construction and the rise in foreclosures as harbingers of more dire economic news to come. Every month brings new projections of economic decline, seemingly pinned on the notion that new construction is the key to the viability of the housing market.

That may indeed be the case in many newer communities, but in older cities like St. Paul and Minneapolis new housing construction isn't the primary strength of the housing market, and that could be an advantage that allows the urban cores to maintain and improve their quality of life—for both current and new residents alike.

The comparative lack of new home construction in metro areas across the U.S. is offset in the core cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis by residential additions and remodeling projects. And though less new construction in the suburbs may affect the central cities indirectly, the ongoing stability of the number and value of remodeling projects and additions has insulated the two central cities from experiencing any significant overall decline in construction.

In St. Paul, the annual number of building permits issued for residential remodeling and additions far outstrips the annual number of permits issued for new construction. In 2006, the city issued 6,244 addition/remodel permits compared with 143 permits for new construction. In 2005, the final year of the city's Housing 5000 program, additions and remodeling projects represented more than \$141 million in construction value while new construction was valued at just \$21 million. (The peak year for Housing 5000 was 2004 when the value of new construction was \$45.4 million, compared with \$96 million for additions/remodels.) The total value of additions and remodeling projects in St. Paul has consistently remained the largest portion of the city's housing construction activity by a large margin over the last 15 years.

The concern about the increasing number of vacant residential buildings in St. Paul parallels the concern about the dearth of new housing construction: It doesn't tell the whole story. While the total number of registered vacant buildings is up in St. Paul, the number removed from the list each month is increasing.

The first 11 months of 2007 saw 400 structures reoccupied and 37 demolished, for a total of 437 removed from St. Paul's vacant buildings list. Another 1,028 vacant buildings were added to the list during the same period. However, in November the number added and removed were about equal—a positive sign, indicating that our work in addressing the vacant building problem is starting to pay off.

Furthermore, in St. Paul most registered vacant buildings cannot be removed from the list of vacant buildings and be reoccupied until all building code deficiencies are addressed. That means the houses that are removed and reoccupied are being brought up to code under permits inspected by the city, in many cases achieving a higher quality standard than before they were registered as vacant. While the number of vacant structures in the city still poses a problem, it's a manageable one that is under control.

Though the city is not immune to the housing troubles of the larger metro area and the country as a whole, a closer look at the trends in St. Paul reveals a situation that is not so dire. St. Paul has a strong base of housing that is in a constant state of renewal. And that allows the city to prosper even in difficult economic times.

Editor's note: Bob Kessler is the director of the Department of Safety and Inspections for the city of St. Paul.



A benefit for pedestrians and motorists alike

By Sarah Dirksen

Michael Mischke's editorial, "Snelling medians merit more debate" (*Villager*, January 23), suggests that better traffic flow on Snelling Avenue is incompatible with a higher level of pedestrian safety. The editorial recommends more debate and concludes on a note akin to "if MnDOT's fer it, we oughta be agin' it." None of these assertions makes sense to us.

But first a little history on the project:

Three and a half years ago, several neighbors and community organizations asked Macalester College to help sponsor a series of workshops at Hamline University. The workshops were led by Australian David Engwicht, one of the world's most innovative thinkers about traffic-calming.

Residents of the Macalester-Groveland, Merriam Park and Hamline-Midway neighborhoods, along with traffic engineers and city planners, focused their efforts on the chaos that is Snelling. One of the key takeaways from the workshops was that in order to truly calm a street, a community must reclaim it. And to reclaim a street for pedestrians, a community must invest in the infrastructure that allows pedestrians a safe way to use the street. Another key point from the workshops was that since local governments are strapped, the community must partner with other institutions along Snelling to facilitate change.

Macalester College took the challenge from the community seriously and has facilitated this much-needed change. Though the effort starts with a landscaped median on the half-mile stretch along the Macalester campus, it's our hope that it will someday start at I-94 and continue all the way to Highland Park.

Back to Mr. Mischke's assertions:

Is the effort to create pedestrian refuges inconsistent with MnDOT's goal of smoother traffic flow? No, in fact a median is the only way to do both. As proposed, the 10-foot-wide medians will provide eight pedestrian refuges between Grand and St. Clair avenues where pedestrians can safely cross two lanes of single-direction traffic instead of four lanes of dual-direction traffic. It also provides left-turn lanes where motorists can safely wait without sitting in the middle of a through lane. MnDOT calls it a reduction in "left-turn conflicts."

Mr. Mischke states that a staff person at MnDOT told his reporter, "We don't do traffic calming." MnDOT partners with communities all over the state on highway improvements. Some involve traffic-calming and some do not. In this case, MnDOT is being asked to pay for those parts of the project that make traffic flow more safely.

Macalester, at the request of the community, has agreed to raise the funds for those parts of the project that calm traffic and give pedestrians a fighting chance. This is called a "win/win." It is not an "either/or."

The U.S. Federal Highway Administration has this to say about medians on roads like Snelling: "Medians are most valuable on major, multi-lane roads that present safety problems for bicyclists and pedestrians wishing to cross. The minimum central refuge width for safe use by those with wheelchairs, bicycles, baby buggies, etc., is 1.6 meters (2 meters is desirable)." The proposed Snelling medians are three meters wide. The elimination of parking also allows drivers turning onto Snelling from neighborhood streets to see pedestrians and vehicles more clearly.

Is the effort to create pedestrian refuges inconsistent with MnDOT's goal of smoother traffic flow? No, in fact a median is the only way to do both.

Mr. Mischke is correct that vehicle access to Lincoln Commons needs more attention, but that is true regardless of the medians. Right now there is one very dangerous, very short left-turn lane that does not meet state or city standards. This issue is now being addressed by traffic engineers, the property owner and City Council member Pat Harris' office. We'll leave it to qualified engineers to make sound recommendations on how to most safely deal with that situation.

We only need to look around our own neighborhoods to see what medians can do for a street and its residents. St. Paul's grandest of streets, Summit Avenue, is a national treasure. We don't hear Highland Parkway residents complaining about their beautiful, tree-lined medians (especially when it comes time to sell their houses). Residents on Montreal Avenue west of Fairview aren't complaining either. Neighbors in Merriam Park have spent the last two years working to install medians on Marshall Avenue. Businesses on Ford Parkway are not complaining either. Isn't it obvious that medians benefit the streetscape, motorists, pedestrians and residents? The less Snelling Avenue looks like a freeway, and the more it looks like a parkway, the better.

Inbox

Just another cold day in Hell

Dear editor,

I always assure myself it will be a cold day in Hell before I go to a meeting of the Highland District Council. I have broken that promise three times:

- Once, several years ago to listen to a disjointed discussion of the doom that would be descending on property values in Highland because of the consolidation of St. Gregory's, St. Leo's and St. Therese's parishes;
- Last spring, to vote for new board members;
- This January 29 when I was asked to attend a special meeting of the HDC board by one of its officers, who believed she was going to be removed as an officer at the meeting. Since I had never witnessed a public execution, I went.

For procedural reasons, my friend wasn't hung that night. However, the president of the board was replaced based on the internal and external tension that has been generated as the HDC board tries to correct the tax problems created by the failure of the HDC's former community organizer to pay employee withholding taxes to the IRS.

I know and like some of the HDC board members. However, this meeting emphasized why I choose not to participate. If you put 18 educated and unpaid volunteers in a room each month with an undefined mission, anarchy may be a good outcome.

I fondly remember when former St. Paul Mayor Norm Coleman implied that assigning city employees to initial zoning issues would eliminate a primary need for district councils. I agreed. But the district councils still exist, and meetings like the one I attended on January 29 still happen and end without violence.

I still don't know exactly how cold Hell can get, but that Tuesday night it was 8 degrees below zero with a windchill of 30 below walking west on Ford Parkway.

*Terrance M. Cullen
Highland Park*

Happy days are here again

To the editor:

On January 29, at a special meeting of the Highland District Council's board of directors—called by me, the vice president, to discuss budget matters—10 members of the board took a trip down Memory Lane.

Ah, the good old days on the Highland District Council! Remember when no one argued, when everyone agreed with each other all the time? There were no 9-to-9 votes. It didn't matter that the HDC wasn't paying its taxes or that it was paying for six phone lines when it only had one phone and one computer. Treasurer's reports? Who reads them? Who needs them, when we all have such a nice time together and agree on everything?

On this January night, the HDC board voted 10-7 to remove Bill Poulos as HDC president. They wanted to remove me as vice president, too, but since I have an employment discrimination complaint pending against the HDC, they decided not to go ahead.

The first thing Mr. Poulos did when he took the reins of the HDC last spring was to call for an audit. And you all know the story. We found that the HDC owed \$80,000 in taxes, interest and penalties.

The major criticism against Mr. Poulos at this latest meeting was that he was asking questions in City Hall about the propriety of paying the HDC's back taxes with money that was to be used in the current year to foster citizen participation. District councils in St. Paul receive taxpayer money from the city in the form of citizen participation grants. And that's what the money should be used for—to increase citizen participation in Highland in the year the grants are given, not to bail out a district council whose members didn't check up on their employee and didn't watch their books.

The HDC board voted to ask the city for a bail-out: How dare Mr. Poulos screw it up! After 10 years of shirking our financial responsibilities, how dare Mr. Poulos point that out! His job as board president was to put a good face on the board's decisions, even if its decisions are questionable or downright unethical. Well, the board showed him!

And who did the HDC board put in his place? Bill Klein, who has been on the HDC board since 2002—in the midst of tax problems of which all board members were sweetly oblivious—and most of the time as an officer of the board.

Oh, but Mr. Klein didn't realize there were ongoing financial problems.

Really? I guess that's because he didn't bother to look.

But everything is better now. Oh, those good old days.

*Georgia Dietz
Highland Park*

INBOX ► 10

8◄ SNELLING AVENUE MEDIAN

And, the sooner it happens, the better as well.

As for Mr. Mischke's call for more debate, there has been an extensive public process. Macalester College held focus groups with its neighbors. Neighbors identified potential solutions. Public Works traffic engineers vetted the potential solutions and suggested which would be feasible. The Macalester-Groveland Community Council and Macalester College hosted public meetings on the topic. Over the past two years, 4,800 pieces of mail went out on this topic (four mailings to 1,200 nearby residents). There have been numerous articles and letters in the *Villager*. The Macalester-Groveland Community Council's Transportation Committee has thoroughly studied the issues related to the medians. The committee asked for a

test of the traffic flow, and it was performed. During the test there was a month-long public comment period.

Why kill the momentum of a great project that has already had a thorough public airing? So we don't all agree; we never will. But by a margin of more than 3 to 1, the residents near Snelling spoke loudly and clearly. Their message: YES! Beautify and calm our street! Install landscaped medians on this ugly and dangerous road!

Editor's note: Sarah Dirksen is a resident of Macalester-Groveland. This guest editorial was also signed by Rob and Kate McCready of Merriam Park, Fun Fun Cheng of Snelling-Hamline, and Dennis Gerhardstein, Nancy Wiens, Rick Nelson, Jim Hoppe, Amber Dallman, Maggie Harris, Christopher Leifeld, Dave Barcus, and Deb and Jim Rosenthal of Macalester-Groveland.

VILLAGER

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Maurice F. Mischke, 1920-1991

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9◀ INBOX

Workers feel fortunate to stay

To the editor,

The St. Joseph Worker Program, a ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, is a one-year, full-time volunteer program for young women based in St. Paul and Minneapolis. The 11 women currently in the program live with one another in two houses—one in Minneapolis and one in the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood in St. Paul.

On December 14, the St. Paul Planning Commission issued a resolution determining that the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet's use of the house at 1704 Palace Ave. to house volunteers in the St. Joseph Worker Program is similar to that of a convent, monastery or religious retreat. The resolution was the culmination of an intense review process that spanned nearly four months. During the review process, the sisters submitted a formal application to the St. Paul Department of Planning and Economic Development, worked with PED staff members, met with the Macalester-Groveland Community Council and the St. Paul Planning Commission's Zoning Committee, and answered numerous questions from residents of the neighborhood.

The sisters and members of the St. Joseph Worker Program feel fortunate to be able to remain in the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood and are excited to be part of such a wonderful area where the residents care about each other and the community.

For more information on the St. Joseph Worker Program, contact Sister Suzanne Herder at 651-696-2762 and visit www.stjosephworkers.org.

**Andrea Pearson Tande, Coordinator
St. Joseph Worker Program.**

Editor's note: On February 6, the St. Paul City Council will hear a neighbor's appeal of the Planning Commission's approval of the determination of similar use for 1704 Palace Ave.

Low voter turnout

To the editor:

Low voter turnout is a serious issue in St. Paul as the *Villager* noted on January 23. Of the many ideas offered to improve turnout, the most promising is implementing Instant Runoff Voting. IRV eliminates the need for a primary in nonpartisan races, so voters need to show up at the polls only once. It also offers voters more choice on the general election ballot, which would make going to the polls more appealing. And by allowing reassignment of votes when no candidate wins a majority on the first round of counting, IRV has the added benefit of ensuring that the winner is supported by a majority of voters.

IRV is simple to administer and lets people vote for their first choice without the fear of wasting their vote, while ensuring that only one vote is counted for each voter. It's like the primary process but it happens in one election, when more voters are likely to participate.

The St. Paul Better Ballot Campaign (<http://stpaul.betterballotcampaign.org/>) is working to give St Paul voters the chance to decide in this November's election whether to

implement IRV in future municipal elections. Please take the time to learn about IRV and encourage your City Council member to support it.

**Ellen T. Brown
Summit Hill**

Editor's note: The writer is a board member of FairVote Minnesota.

Property taxes a-Pawlenty

Dear editor,

A new report by the nonpartisan Fiscal Analysis Department in the Minnesota House of Representatives indicates that property taxes will go up another \$596 million this year. The report indicates again that Governor Pawlenty's state budget decisions are directly responsible for yet another year of property tax increases.

We have seen property taxes increase to fund road repairs, education and health care—all funding shifts from the state to local units of government as a result of underfunding at the state level. Since 2003 Minnesota has seen property taxes increase by over \$2.3 billion. It's intellectually dishonest for Governor Pawlenty to ignore the direct correlation to state budget cuts to cities and counties.

Local governments have been forced to make the tough budget decisions to make up for the state funding shortfalls, and I credit those who have made those difficult choices. But we have a responsibility at the state level to look at the broader perspective on how we fund these most important community values in a more equitable manner.

The Legislature passed two property tax bills last year that would have reduced property taxes for 99 percent of Minnesotans and provided valuable relief to cities that have been squeezed by state cuts, but the Governor vetoed both bills. Now his own revenue department shows that middle-class Minnesotans pay the highest percentage of their income in state and local taxes. It's disturbing that our governor often talks about his no-new-taxes pledge when his actions are the chief driver of these massive tax increases.

**State Representative Erin Murphy
District 64A**

Bridges or boondoggles

To the editor:

As it did in 2007, the state legislative session in 2008 will most likely come down to a showdown over how to pay for road and bridge projects. Like last year, Minnesotans will again see proposals to raise any tax that has even the slightest connection to transportation, such as an increase in the gas tax, new wheelage taxes, dedicated sales tax increases and higher license tab fees. Governor Pawlenty and Minnesotans had no appetite for tax increases in 2007, and 2008 should be no different.

Minnesota legislators should look to a source of funding that is routinely misspent on government boondoggles and has gone largely untapped when it comes to long-term capital projects that are clearly of statewide significance. Minnesota needs to start using state G.O. bonds for road and bridge projects.

Why aren't we already doing this? It's simple. Legislators want to pay cash for highway projects in order to use the credit card for local pork-barrel projects. If bonding bills were primarily made up of necessary road and bridge projects, there would be little room left for the pork that legislators bring home to their districts to help with their re-election efforts. Because the Legislature has a self-imposed guideline to limit state debt payments to 3 percent of the state's general fund, the 2008 bonding bill should come in at a maximum of \$965 million. State legislators should allocate a major portion of that bonding bill to road and bridge projects.

If increased transportation spending is really as much of a priority for state legislators as they say it is, then sacrificing Faribault's Paradise Center for the Arts, the Hyland K70 Ski Jump in Bloomington or the St. Louis County Equestrian Facility, just to name a few, shouldn't be a problem."

**Phil Krinkie, President
Taxpayers League of Minnesota**

Saddened by race reference

To the editor:

In the week of celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s life and goals for a world of equality, I was saddened to read the Crime Report in the *Villager* on January 9. The only references made to skin color in more than 30 crimes listed were two pointing out black males. Should we assume all the others were white, or Asian, or Latino, or what?

I understand you are probably reporting as it was given to you, so this points to a wider issue. Why do we point out skin color when it possibly matches stereotypes, but not when it is someone who possibly looks like us? Clearly we have a long way to go when our police reports point out only a specific race, and when we proliferate that by printing it. Subtle racism is harmful to people and communities.

**Joy McElroy
Summit Hill**

Editor's note: The Villager tries to describe suspects as thoroughly as possible given the information it receives. In the crime report that ran in the December 5 issue, for example, the only description of race was that of a white male who was trying to steal copper wiring from a utility pole. The December 19 issue had two such listings: one of a black male who stole cash from a pizza shop, and one of a black male and white female who stole liquor from a liquor store.

Not your daddy's Lake Wobegon

To the editor:

I find it amusing that Garrison Keillor can keep a straight face while claiming an obligation to defend his house and neighborhood against violations of the beauty of Ramsey Hill as was reported in the *Villager* (January 23).

Anyone who looked at the picture could easily see that the 5,168-square-foot Keillor-Nilsson house dwarfs that of the neighboring 2,124-square-foot house of Anderson-Olson, who wanted to construct a 1,900-square-foot addition. In

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David J. Ellers, M.D.
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American Board of Ophthalmology

A less than utopian vision

To the editor:

Letter writer Douglas Allchin seems to take the attitude that we have created this pollution mess, so live with it ("Polluters R Us," *Villager* Inbox, January 9). As a conscientious citizen who cares about our planet as well as the future health of my grandchildren, I can't accept that attitude. I do accept responsibility as a polluter of the environment and work hard at polluting less and less. I'm not looking for utopia. I am just looking for air that is safe to breathe. Is that asking too much?

I'm advocating for using the safest, cleanest fuel available for Rock-Tenn's Midway paper recycling plant. Right now that appears to be natural gas.

**Kevlyn Pastorius
Macalester-Groveland**

Renewable argument

Dear editor,

The writer of the letter "Polluters R Us" (*Villager* "Inbox," January 9) is absolutely right. We are all part of the pollution problem. However, some acknowledgement of each individual's contribution to the pollution must be made. We are not all equal in our level of pollution.

The letter writer is absolutely wrong in his argument that waste produced by organisms is the same as waste produced by human societies. Nature wastes nothing; everything is recycled. Mankind alone has created this trash problem, but



A roll of recycled paper at Rock-Tenn. PHOTO BY ANNE BRANDRUD

throwing up our collective hands and declaring that an idea—zero waste—is utopian, therefore unattainable, therefore unworthy of consideration, is to just push this problem down the road to future societies.

Neighbors Against the Burner is attempting to change the bizarre definition that calls garbage (refuse-derived fuel) a renewable fuel. Apparently, we are in agreement on that. If the letter writer believes there are no renewable fuels, then clearly garbage is not a renewable fuel. Of course, solar and wind energy and tides and geothermal energy are actually renewable, despite the author's contention otherwise. They may be part of a multi-pronged solution, one which more honestly reflects future energy needs.

**Greg Schmidt
Merriam Park**

Solutions R Us

If zero waste is a myth as letter-writer Douglas Allchin asserts (*Villager* Inbox, January 9), he had better inform San Francisco, New York City, Boulder and dozens of others cities worldwide that have initiated laws and programs to make it happen.

I agree that I am a polluter, and that is why I am willing to spend hours on the computer and on the phone looking for the best practices other cities have enacted to deal with this complex problem.

Zero waste is not just another form of recycling; it involves changing things at the production level. Zero waste depends on the redesign of industrial, commercial and consumer goods. Yes, we will have to pass new laws and policies and raise the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's standards on emissions and improve its weak monitoring system. Even the MPCA's new draft policy statement is beginning to realize that zero waste is the best and cheapest way to reduce the hazards created by our waste by making reduce, reuse and recycle its number-one priority.

Incinerators do not eliminate waste, but change the form of waste into hazardous emissions and toxic ash. Incinerators contaminate air, soil and water and spread that hazardous contamination worldwide. I will keep meeting with city and state officials and urge them to take action to stop this insanity that is poisoning our population.

**Beverly Ferguson
Merriam Park**

10◀ INBOX

fact, it could be argued that it is the Keillor-Nilsson house that is impairing the supply of light and air to the Anderson-Olson house.

Why does anyone need a 5,168-square-foot house in the first place, especially when you spout off about global warming as Keillor has done in the Salon.com column "Amish Like Me"? Yeah, Garrison, I'm sure the Amish live in McMansions just like you.

**Walter J. Huemmer
Highland Park**

Put off by off-campus comment

To the editor:

So now I live in a slum north of the University of St. Thomas campus? Some people are just rude. Fortunately, the various students who have lived next to me in the four-unit apartment for the past 40 years aren't among them.

Perhaps if we weren't spending so much money on trees and prairie grasses in the middle of busy streets, on subsidies for \$2.2 million condos, on garbage burners and on trains to nowhere, there might be enough tax dollars left to hire a couple of more police officers for "student calming."

**Terry Bushard
Merriam Park**

You can recycle yogurt cups

To the editor:

The Ramsey County insert in your last edition contained an article titled, "Why can't I recycle my yogurt cups?" It implied that because yogurt cups can't be recycled through the curbside program, they must be thrown in the trash. That isn't necessarily so. The Twin Cities Reptiles store at 2363 University Ave. will reuse clean, lidded yogurt cups as packaging for the live reptile food it sells. By doing so, the store reduces its costs and passes those savings on to its customers. This practice also reduces the store's own carbon footprint.

**Debra J. Teuchert
Macalester-Groveland**

Life will go on after plant closes

To the editor:

In response to the letter "Public ownership can save plant" (*Villager*, January 23), the Ford Motor Company produces a product and consumers can purchase that product or not. The company's product became obsolete and Ford would not make the timely adjustments to redesign the efficiency of its automobiles. Unfortunately, the tactics of Ford's CEOs are synonymous with corporate corruption and unethical behavior worldwide. Is it possible their salaries could be rolled into employee sustainability based on the context of Michael Wood's letter? I think not.

For what purpose would we want a government-owned-and-operated Ford Plant when clearly there is little to no demand to purchase its product? There is no guarantee a publicly owned company would generate the money to sustain job security. If the product is not selling, you either adjust or discontinue manufacturing it.

I can appreciate contributions the government has made to sustain the plant, yet the consumer has made an informed decision that ultimately has dictated the plant's survival. It is up to Ford to make the adjustments for sustainability or not. I am in the working middle class and I do not want my tax dollars subsidizing a corporation's bottom line.

Ford will close the plant, people will lose their jobs and life will go on. It is unfortunate that so many lives will be affected.

**Tom McCormick
Merriam Park**

Do write, won't you?

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

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Community's service

St. Joseph program invites young women to work for a year toward changing society and themselves

BY CAROLYN WILL

Wendy Schneider looks forward to getting home for dinner on Monday nights. She lives with four other women, all in their early 20s, who are enrolled in the St. Joseph Worker Program. On Monday evenings, they prepare dinner together in the Macalester-Groveland home that they share. Following the meal, they have a conversation called "sharing of the heart." It's a tradition started by the Sisters of St. Joseph dating back to their founding in France in 1650. For Schneider and her fellow volunteers, it's a weekly ritual they happily perform.

"We have an intentional conversation that is usually spiritually based, but can cover a wide range of topics," said Schneider, 23, formerly of Menominee, Michigan.

The time set aside each week is just one of the differences between a group of housemates sharing rent and a community that these women have agreed to belong to for a year while doing volunteer work, according to program coordinator Andrea Pearson Tande. Over the year, friendships deepen, not only with current SJWs but with past ones.

"One of the former workers is getting married this weekend and I don't think there's an SJW volunteer out there who isn't going," Pearson Tande said.

The St. Joseph Worker Program was started in 2002 to train, support and mentor women in the development of leadership skills. The women come from various religious backgrounds and regions of the country, and are grounded in the values of spirituality, social justice, leadership and living in community.

"We teach them about sustaining the earth by teaching them how to live simply," said SJW director Sister Susan Herder. "We teach them to love God and neighbor with no distinction. They grow so much during this time, and after a year of living this way, it's in their hearts and becomes part of them for the rest of their lives."

Following the year of service, the volunteers are eligible for an AmeriCorps Education Award to pay for student loans or future schooling. The Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet (CSJ) provide the financial support for the program. It costs approximately \$12,000 per volunteer annually, which includes room and board, health insurance, transportation, a \$100 monthly stipend and the opportunity to take two classes for credit at the College of St. Catherine.



Katy Brandes stirs while Anna Gizzi samples what's on the menu for their weekly communal dinner.



Wendy Schneider cleans out leftovers while fellow St. Joseph Workers Katy Brandes and Krista Senden enjoy a laugh at their Macalester-Groveland home. PHOTOS BY ANNE BRANDRUD

The program is limited to women ages 21-35, though most of the volunteers are in their early 20s. "We find the program works best for younger women," Herder said. "It's more difficult for older women after they've become accustomed to living a different lifestyle."

Volunteers receive weekly training in leadership in addition to opportunities to travel outside the Twin Cities.

All SJWs commit to spend 36 hours each week in such service areas as education, health care, social service and community organizing. Service location include such places as Casa de Esperanza, Sarah's...an Oasis for Women, Cretin-Derham Hall, Good Ground Press, St. Mary's Health Clinics and St. Joseph's Hospital. All of the experiences are intended to help the women grow in their awareness of their role as global citizens.

Schneider's service project has been working as a supervisor for the America Reads program based at St. Catherine. "After my experiences here at St. Kate's, I want a career in student affairs and have applied to go to graduate school (at the University of Vermont) next year," Scheider said. "I've also been involved in peace issues for a long time. It's always been a part of who I am."

Schneider also values living "green." "Most

of us either bike to work or walk," she said. "We buy our food locally and in bulk to save on packaging."

The five St. Paul housemates stick to a weekly household food budget of \$550. Schneider said they are also given money that is pooled to cover toiletries and group outings. "We plan a weekly community night on Thursdays where we'll go ice skating, go out for coffee or attend a lecture," she said.

Pearson Tande served as an SJW the first year of the program and went on to graduate school. "But I never really left the community," she said. "I was so attracted by the charisma of the sisters. They have an incredible mission of women coming together to do this work for social justice. They seem to understand the needs of the times."

"This program is not about trying to get women to join the CSJ community, though they're certainly welcome," Pearson Tande said. "It's a way of extending the community in new ways. It's an outreach to younger women to help them build leadership skills to become change agents for the next generation."

Applications for next year's group of SJW volunteers are now being accepted, with a March 15 deadline for preferred placement. For details, visit www.stjosephworkers.com.

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St. Thomas ramp, rezoning plans move on with only few objections

By JANE MCCLURE

The St. Paul Planning Commission is scheduled to vote on February 8 on the site plan for a 700-space parking ramp on the University of St. Thomas' south campus, as well as a request to rezone a maintenance garage at 2076 Grand Ave. The decision on the site plan will be final unless it is appealed. The rezoning requires City Council approval.

No residents attended public hearings on the requests before the Planning Commission's Zoning Committee on January 31—a marked departure from past meetings on campus construction plans where neighbors have turned out in force to battle St. Thomas. However, both requests faced unexpected resistance from some committee members. The site plan for the parking ramp met with objections from commissioner Carole Faricy, who disliked its size and appearance. She was on the short end of a 5-1 vote to approve the site plan. The rezoning request won unanimous approval, but also met objections from some committee members.

The objections surprised university officials, who have worked hard to gain neighborhood support for the plans. Both projects are needed to fulfill the stipulations of a conditional use permit amendment that St. Thomas needed to expand its campus onto two blocks south of Summit Avenue, between Cleveland and Cretin avenues. The City Council approved the amendment in 2004 with numerous conditions, including that the university provide more on-campus parking and that it sell properties it owns outside its campus boundaries, including 2076 Grand Ave.

The parking ramp has met few objections during periodic reviews over the last year, as has the rezoning request. The Macalester-Groveland Community Council did not make a recommendation on 2076 Grand, though its board joined the District 13 Council and the West Summit Neighborhood Advisory Council in recommending approval of the site plan for the parking ramp. All three groups had a say in the ramp's exterior appearance.

Though Zoning Committee members questioned whether the ramp would help get UST student and staff cars off of neighborhood



An artist's rendering of the new University of St. Thomas ramp proposed for Grand and Cretin avenues.

streets, most of their objections centered on its appearance.

"This is going to be right in the heart of a neighborhood," said Faricy, a Macalester-Groveland resident. "This huge parking ramp should be constructed of limestone."

Doug Hennes, vice president of university relations, said it would be cost-prohibitive to use limestone for the ramp, which already has a \$15 million price tag. Its exterior will be of precast concrete panels colored to match the Kasota stone on other campus buildings as well as the darker brown brick buildings across the street on Cretin.

The parking ramp will be located at the intersection of Grand and Cretin avenues. It will have one level below grade and four levels above, with the capability to add two more stories in the future. Construction is expected to start after graduation in May and be complete by the fall of 2009. The ramp must be built before St. Thomas can construct a new student center on its 275-space parking lot at the northeast corner of Summit and Cretin avenues.

St. Thomas officials believe rezoning 2076 Grand Ave. and selling it with two adjacent homes to the west will be more attractive to future residential developers. Any development there could not house students, another stipulation of the 2004 agreement.

Zoning Committee member Brian Alton suggested that rezoning 2076 Grand would create a nonconforming use. Fellow committee member Richard Kramer said it would make more sense to rezone the property once a specific project is on the table. However, other committee members said they saw no reason to wait on the rezoning.

Neighbor appeals use of Mac-Grove residence by religious program

By JANE MCCLURE

A decision by the St. Paul Planning Commission to allow a communal house of volunteers to continue operating in a Macalester-Groveland residential area has been appealed to the St. Paul City Council. A public hearing on the appeal will be held at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 6, at City Hall.

Neighborhood resident Winston Kaehler is appealing December's decision that the house for St. Joseph Worker Program volunteers is similar to a convent, monastery or religious retreat center and that the property at 1704 Palace Ave. may legally be occupied by up to six unrelated women. He and others argue that the program should not have been determined to be a similar use and that the house is too small for six occupants and lacks adequate parking.

The commission's Zoning Committee had recommended approving the determination of similar use, as had city staff and the

Macalester-Groveland Community Council.

City zoning regulations only allow up to four unrelated people to live in a single dwelling.

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet are in their sixth year of operating the St. Joseph Worker program, which has been housed on Palace Avenue since February 2007. The sisters and their landlord reportedly were unaware of the limit on unrelated people living together. The issue came up during a city building code inspection.

Though the Planning Commission approved the determination of similar use, it attached several conditions to the property: that the existing four off-street parking spaces be maintained, that the house not be used for any events that are open to the general public, that only six vehicles be allowed at the residence and that the determination of similar use be revoked if the property is cited for more than four code violations in a 12-month period.

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HDC hires longtime community activist as new organizer

By KEVIN DRISCOLL

Kathy Carruth has hit the ground running as the new community organizer for the Highland District Council. A graduate of the former St. Gregory's Grade School and Derham Hall High School in Highland Park, she has been involved in a variety of neighborhood organizations since her graduation in 1987 with a degree in management and economics from the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management.

Carruth, 43, who lives with her husband Paul and their four children, ages 8 to 16, in Highland Park, worked as a cashier, then buyer and eventually store manager for West St. Paul-based MGM Liquor Warehouse for eight years. In 1995 she opted to stay at home to raise her growing family. However, she continued to volunteer at Highland Catholic School as a tutor, kitchen assistant, chess club supervisor and chair of the school's annual auction.

Carruth has coordinated several pancake breakfasts for Lumen Christi Catholic Church, coached soccer at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, served as a Cub Scout den leader and managed several Highland-Central Hockey Association teams. She is currently co-manager and treasurer of the Bantam B1 hockey team on which her son plays.

Carruth also plays hockey with the Women's Hockey Association, a group that was formed several years ago by "a group of hockey moms who didn't really know the game and wanted to," she said. "Now we play about 20 games a year, and we've moved up in the leagues be-



New Highland District Council community organizer Kathy Carruth met last week with new Highland Village beat cops Mike Lenarz and Jeff Gilsrud. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

cause we've gotten so good."

Until recently, Carruth also competed with the Mother Tuckers, a downhill skiing team that is currently ranked 107th out of 2,522 teams under the aegis of the National Standard Race (NASTAR).

Carruth succeeds Georgia Dietz, who had served as the HDC's acting community organizer since last May when Gayle Summers resigned after 16 years in the position.

In addition to a benefits allowance, Carruth will be receiving a salary based on 32 hours of work each week at between \$17 and \$19 per hour, according to Shawn Bartsh, the HDC board member who chairs its Employment Oversight Committee.

In addition to administering the services offered by the district council, Carruth will staff the HDC office in the Hillcrest Recreation Center from 9:00 a.m. to noon Mon-

day through Friday, staff all HDC board and committee meetings, and work on the annual home improvement fair and biannual neighborhood cleanup that it sponsors in conjunction with the Macalester-Groveland Community Council.

"We were really impressed with (Carruth's) business administrative background, her long and strong experience as a nonprofit volunteer in the church, school and community, and her strong community connections," said Tim Puffer, the HDC treasurer who served on the committee that searched for a new community organizer.

Unlike Summers, Carruth has not been given any financial responsibilities. Instead, the HDC will be contracting with outside payroll and bookkeeping services, Puffer said. The HDC board decided that the qualities it was looking for in a new community organizer "shouldn't necessarily include ones we'd want in a bookkeeper," Puffer said.

The HDC currently owes more than \$56,000 to the IRS in taxes, penalties and interest arising out of a failure to file the proper tax forms and to pay employee withholding taxes during certain periods within the past decade.

"I think Kathy will do a great job," Bartsh said. "She knows what it's about and is eager to get into it."

"This job is just right for me," Carruth said. "I've always been active in the neighborhood, and it's nice to have something to give that activity a strong focus. I'm really looking forward to meeting and working with as many Highland Park residents as possible."

Council puts off plan to rebuild Cleveland-St. Paul intersection

By JANE MCCLURE

After years of discussion, a plan to redesign the intersection of Cleveland and St. Paul avenues in Highland Park has been curbed. The St. Paul City Council voted on January 23 to drop a proposal to purchase a small parcel of land from Park Manor Apartment, 885 St. Paul Ave., that was needed to make the redesign work.

The owner of Park Manor, Wolkowicz Re-

alty, objected to the loss of its side yard. Other area business and property owners also had reservations about rebuilding the intersection. "So we decided to put the project on hold for a while," said Ward 3 City Council member Pat Harris. "It doesn't make sense to go ahead with this project if people don't want it or can't agree on it."

Cleveland and St. Paul avenues meet at an angle and the intersection has long been considered a traffic safety hazard. Various plans to

rebuild the intersection have been proposed over the years, including the idea of turning it into the city's first roundabout, which is a larger version of a traffic circle. Between 9,000 and 11,000 vehicles a day travel on St. Paul Avenue.

The Highland District Council had sought city funding to rebuild the intersection for more than a decade and \$513,000 was finally awarded for the project from the city's biennial Capital Improvement Budget for 2007-

2008. That money will now be freed up for other projects.

Harris said it may make more sense to put off rebuilding the Cleveland-St. Paul intersection until plans are firmed up for future of Ford Motor Company's Twin Cities Assembly Plant. After the plant shuts down in 2009, the property will be sold and most likely redeveloped for a variety of uses. That will likely mean extending some streets in the vicinity into the Ford property.

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The conceptual design for a new Eleanor Graham Community Garden and Ashland Park in the area bounded by Ayd Mill Road and Hamline and Ashland avenues.

Snell-Ham group has designs on unified green space near Ayd Mill

By JANE MCCLURE

Snelling-Hamline residents seemed to like what they saw on January 17 when they were presented with the final redesign for linking the Eleanor Graham Community Garden and Ashland Park playground off of Ayd Mill Road. Plans call for creating a larger park and recreation area if Ayd Mill Road is rebuilt and the access ramps to and from Hamline Avenue are removed.

Plans for the project, which was initiated by the Gardens Committee of the former Snelling-Hamline Community Council, are now being shared with Mayor Chris Coleman's office, Ward 1 City Council member Melvin Carter III, and St. Paul Public Works and Parks and Recreation staff. Snelling-Hamline residents say they want to have the plans ready to go if reconstruction of the often-called "road to nowhere" finally goes somewhere.

"There are parts of the plan that can be implemented now," said Merle Green, a Snelling-Hamline resident and member of the Gardens Committee. Those parts include improvements to the community garden and possibly to a patch of green space on the north side of Summit Avenue at Syndicate Street that could be connected to the enlarged park via bike and pedestrian trails.

The community garden, which currently has a waiting list for its plots, is owned by the city and leased to the District 13 Community Council. Across the Hamline access ramps is Ashland Park, a vacant lot that is also owned by the city. City-owned play equipment was in place there for decades, but deteriorated over the years and was recently removed.

"Our plan's scale grew when we saw the potential for a unified green space," said Kate Skelton, a University of Minnesota graduate student in landscape architecture who helped develop the green space plans with funds from the U of M's Humphrey Institute and Center for Urban and Regional Affairs.

The nearby green space on Summit Avenue is owned by the city and maintained by St. Paul Parks and Recreation. Several years ago the Summit Avenue Residential Preservation Association proposed creating a formal garden there complete with a fountain, benches and plantings. Those plans were dropped after residents protested, saying the area should

remain recreation space. The current plan would scale back the formal garden while preserving green space for recreation.

Several neighborhood meetings were held last fall to discuss ideas for the redesign. Area residents who lease the garden plots also met. The plans will also be shared with residents on Summit and Ashland avenues who would be living next to the park and trail.

No cost estimate is available for the plans, Skelton said. The work could be paid for through the city's Capital Improvement Budget process, although the soonest proponents could seek city funding would be in 2009 for the 2010-2011 cycle. Neighborhood Sales Tax Revitalization and other grants could pay for smaller parts of the plan.

The plan shows the community gardens remaining in place, but with more plots and more plants to buffer the noise from Ayd Mill Road. Playground equipment, a fire pit and additional trees would be added south of the garden. A small parking lot for gardeners would be built between the plots and the Hamline Avenue bridge. The garden and play area would be fenced.

The community garden has undergone many improvements in recent years. Buckthorn and rocks were removed, fruit trees were planted and water spigots were installed in cooperation with the city. A sign honoring the late Eleanor Graham, an avid neighborhood gardener, was added, along with garden bed improvements and compost bins.

The Summit Avenue green space could include a gazebo. There is already a small footpath from the green space to Ashland Park and across the Hamline ramps to the community garden, and it would be expanded. Plants would be added to buffer residents on Summit and Ashland avenues from the park spaces and trails.

Another idea suggested at neighborhood meetings involves a bicycle bridge at Portland Avenue to get to the new park, since the planned Ayd Mill Road bicycle paths would be on the east side of the road, not the west.

Skelton left the group a detailed list of recommended plant species and the results of recent soil tests. The soil tests indicated low levels of lead—a pleasant surprise for those who had questioned the health effects of gardening next to busy city streets.

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District Council News

Highland Park

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Community Services Committee—The Highland District Council's Community Services Committee will hold its next monthly meeting at 7:00 p.m. Monday, February 11, in the Activity Room of the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. The agenda includes a discussion of block clubs and an update on the operation of the Magnolia Blossom riverboat at Watergate Marina.

Board of directors—The HDC's board of directors will hold its next monthly meeting at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, February 7, in the Community Room of the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. All Highland Park residents and business people are welcome to attend. A time will be set aside for them to share their concerns with the council.

Highland Village beat officers—St. Paul police officers Mike Lenarz, Jeff Gilsrud, Salim Omari and Jason Whitney have been appointed as the new beat cops for Highland Village and its surrounding environs. Officers Lenarz and Gilsrud will be working the morning and afternoon shift. Officers Omari and Whitney will be working the evening and night shift.

Dates to remember—

- Home Improvement Fair, Saturday, March 29, at Cretin-Derham Hall, 550 S. Albert St.
- Eighth annual Art at Highland juried art fair, Saturday, March 29, in the field house of Highland Park High School, 1015 S. Snelling Ave.
- City of St. Paul Spring Parks Cleanup, 8:30-11:00 am. Saturday, April 12.

Macalester-Groveland

www.macgrove.org • 651-695-4000

Board vacancy—There is an opening on the Macalester-Groveland Community Council's board of directors for a representative from Grid 5, the area bounded by Summit, Snelling, St. Clair and Fairview avenues. An election to fill the vacant seat will be held at the next board meeting at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, February 14, at the Edgumbe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St. For more information about being a board member and running for the open seat, call executive director Melissa Martinez-Sones at the council office or e-mail her at melissa@macgrove.org.

Organize your block—The Macalester-Groveland neighborhood will hold its first training session on Tuesday, February 19, for neighbors who are interested in organizing common garbage hauling for their block. The training session will take place from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Edgumbe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St. Neighbors who have already organized their blocks will tell how others the best way to do it. For information, call the council office.

KidsPark Gala—The fifth annual KidsPark Gala will be held at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, February 23, in Weyerhaeuser Hall at Macalester College. The event will feature a silent auction, a wine tasting hosted by The Wine Thief and food catered by Whole Foods. Proceeds will benefit KidsPark, the community council's drop-in child-care center. For more information, visit www.kidsparkchildcare.org.

Graffiti sweep—Street maintenance crews from the St. Paul Department of Public Works will be conducting a citywide graffiti cleanup this month. Those who see graffiti on city property, including light posts, signs, electric boxes, etc., are asked to call the Citizens Service Office at 651-266-8989.

Mac-Grove Seniors—Macalester-Groveland Seniors, a Living at Home/Block Nurse Program, is seeking candidates for its board of directors. Members are responsible for realizing the program's mission of helping neighborhood seniors stay healthy and independent in their own homes as long as safely possible. Board terms are from one to three years. Additional committee positions are also available. For information, call Kathleen Arnesen at 651-696-6882.

Report copper thefts—There have been nine burglaries in St. Paul this year in which copper piping was stolen. Eight of the burglaries were vacant properties, and the ninth was a construction site. In several cases, neighbors reported seeing someone they thought was a construction worker, so they did not pay attention to the person or vehicle and did not call the police. The police department is asking residents to call 911 if they witness suspicious activity like this, especially around vacant properties.

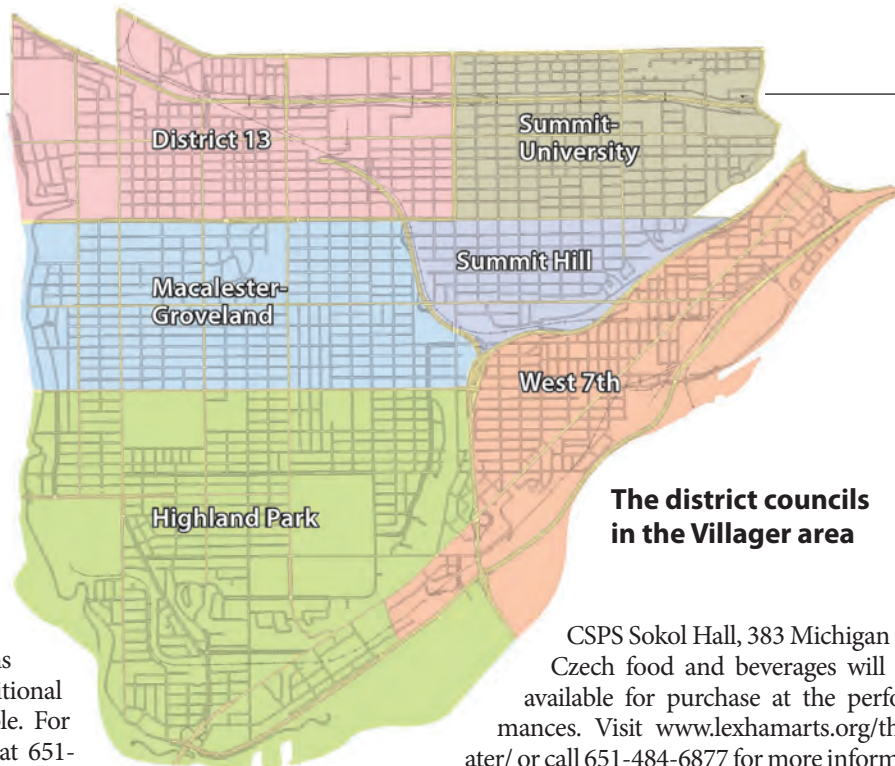
Mark your calendar—Dog Park Task Force meeting at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 12, at the Edgumbe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St.; board of directors meeting at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, February 14, at Edgumbe; Community Outreach Committee meeting at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 19, at Edgumbe; KidsPark Advisory Committee meeting at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 19, at KidsPark, 1961 St. Clair Ave.; and garbage hauler organizing session at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 19, at Edgumbe.

District 13

www.district13stpaul.blogspot.com • 651-645-6877

Central Corridor planning—Drafts of seven light-rail station area plans on University Avenue will be presented by the Urban Strategies consulting team from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 19, at the Central Corridor Resource Center, 1080 University Ave. Dinner will be provided. The draft plans will then be revised as appropriate to prepare for a March 29 open house. The Station Area Steering Committee is scheduled to review the final drafts in April. Review by the St. Paul Planning Commission and final adoption by the St. Paul City Council will take place from May through July. For more information, call senior city planner Donna Drummond at 651-266-6556 or e-mail donna.drummond@ci.stpaul.mn.us.

Memo on The Memorandum—The Lex-Ham Community Theater will present *The Memorandum*, Václav Havel's comedy about bureaucracy at its funniest, at 7:30 p.m. on February 29 and March 1, 7-8 and at 2:00 p.m. on March 2 and 9 at the



The district councils in the Villager area

CSPS Sokol Hall, 383 Michigan St. Czech food and beverages will be available for purchase at the performances. Visit www.lexhamarts.org/theater/ or call 651-484-6877 for more information or ticket reservations.

Recycling bin pickup—Residents in the Merriam Park, Snelling-Hamline and Lexington-Hamline neighborhoods may pick up recycling bins from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 20, at the Dunning Recreation Center, 1221 Marshall Ave.

Keep in touch—District 13 residents may sign up to receive a monthly electronic newsletter about neighborhood issues, meetings and activities by e-mailing theresa@d13stpaul.org. To receive regular District 13 crime statistics, e-mail julie@d13stpaul.org.

District 13 meetings—Board of directors at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 6, at the Merriam Park Recreation Center, 2000 St. Anthony Ave.; and Land Use Committee at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 19, at the Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave.

Summit Hill

www.summithillassociation.org • 651-222-1222

Wild Onion meeting—Summit Hill residents living in the vicinity of the Wild Onion bar and restaurant at 788 Grand Ave. will meet with Wild Onion management on Thursday, February 7, to discuss issues of concern. For more information, contact the SHA office.

SHA House Tour tickets—Tickets for the Summit Hill Association's 2008 House Tour on September 14 are now available by visiting the SHA's website at www.summithillassociation.org. The house tour is a major fundraiser for the SHA, and house tour tickets can make great Valentine's Day, birthday and anniversary gifts. House tour gift cards are also available in the SHA office. Call 651-222-1222.

Resolve to volunteer in 2008—Summit Hill residents are invited to take advantage of the many volunteer opportunities offered by the Summit Hill Association, including joining a block club or building club or an SHA committee to address neighborhood concerns. Committee projects include improv-

DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS ► 17

Scott: "What's great about St. Paul?"

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Senior News

The West 7th Community Center has made arrangements with Hearts & Hammers-Twin Cities Inc. to offer free exterior home improvement services to senior citizens living on the West End. Applications are being sought from residents with homes that need painting or other exterior work, such as moderate repair of windows, trim and porches, and weatherproofing and security improvements. To qualify, applicants must be over 55 or physically disabled, live in their own single-family home, be planning to remain in the home for at least two years, be unable to maintain the exterior on their own and be able to meet low-income guidelines. If chosen, there is no cost to the homeowner to have the work done. The application deadline is February 15. Call Paul Sweeney at the West 7th Community Center 651-298-5493, ext. 206 or Betty Moran at the Fort Road Federation at 651-298-5599.

The Thompson Park Activity Center in West St. Paul is offering the following: a "Know Your Muslim Neighbor" program at 1:00 p.m. Monday, February 11; information on prescription drugs in layman's terms at 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, February 12; a trip to see the Valentine show at Chaska's River City Event Center on Thursday, February 14; gentle yoga by tape at 8:30 a.m. Fridays, February 15-March 14 (\$9.00); "Italian Discovery" program from 10:30 a.m. to noon Tuesday, February 19; a trip to see *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor*

Dreamcoat at the Chanhassen Dinner Theater on Thursday, February 21; and an AARP driver education refresher course from noon to 4:00 p.m. Thursday, February 21. Call 651-450-8291.

Immanuel Lutheran Church, 104 S. Snelling Ave., is offering an Aging Splendidly program on the second Thursday of every month now through May. The February 14 program will be on "Aging Splendidly: an MD-geriatrician's Perspective" with Dr. Dave Klevan of Health Partners. Lunch will be served at noon and the talk will begin at 12:30 p.m. The cost is \$6.00. Call 651-699-5560.

AARP tax counselors will help seniors, low-income people and those with disabilities file their 2007 taxes on Mondays and Fridays from now through April 14 at the Thompson Park Activity Center in West St. Paul (register at 651-450-8291) and from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Lyngblomsten Care Center, 1415 Almond Ave. (register at 651-632-5320).

A senior defensive driving course will be offered from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, February 18-19, by the 551 Club at the Lyngblomsten Care Center, 1415 Almond Ave. Those who pass the eight-hour course may qualify for a 10 percent discount on their auto insurance for three years. Call 651-291-9150.

Names in the News

Sarah Sprayberry of Highland Park has been crowned Miss Minnesota Teen USA 2008. She will now advance to compete in the national pageant. The daughter of Stan and Lynn Sprayberry, she attends Inver Hills Community College as a student in the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options program.



Bill Foussard, 54, of Highland Park was named King Boreas LXXII during a St. Paul Winter Carnival coronation ceremony on January 24 at St. Paul RiverCentre. Foussard runs Foussard Hospitality Inc. and is the co-founder of Thanksgiving Meals on Wheels. He chairs Explore White Bear and serves on the boards of the White Bear Lake Marketfest and Manitou Days organizations, the St. Paul

Area Chamber of Commerce and St. Thomas Academy.

The Winter Carnival Junior Royalty were crowned on January 18. The Junior Court includes Queen of the Snowflakes Ze Thao, an 8th-grader at Ramsey Junior High; Lady-in-Waiting Julia Roberts, a 9th-grader at St. Bernard's; Princess of the North Wind Kaujah Iverson, a 9th-grader at the St. Paul Conservatory of Performing Arts; Princess of the South Wind Charlotte Edminster, an 8th-grader at Friends School; Princess of the East Wind Nicole Kapaun, an 8th-grader at St. Bernard's; and Princess of the West Wind Abbie Speller, a 7th-grader at Crosswinds School.

Michael Jansen, 17, of Highland Park has received the Eagle Award, the highest advancement rank in Scouting. Jansen is a member of Boy Scout Troop 82, which is sponsored by Holy Spirit Church. He is the son of Michelle and Joe Jansen, and is a senior at St. Thomas Academy.

with organizing for the Better Roads and Transit Campaign and the SEIU Childcare Workers Campaign, and political organizing for candidates for office. She holds a master's degree in advocacy and political leadership from the University of Minnesota-Duluth.

Desktop computer sought—The Summit-University Planning Council is still in need of a replacement desktop computer with a good amount of memory that can operate Windows XP or Vista. For information, contact the SUPC office.

STAR loans and grants—Applications are now being accepted for small grants and loans through the city of St. Paul's Neighborhood Sales Tax Revitalization program. Small grant and loan requests are limited to a maximum of \$25,000 and applications are due by 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 20. For information, visit www.stpaul.gov/depts/ped/star or call 651-266-7827.

Upcoming meetings—Community Improvement and Safety Committee at 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 19, at the Martin Luther King Center, 270 Kent St.; Neighborhood Issues Committee at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 19, at the MLK Center; and board of directors at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 26, at the MLK Center.

16◀ DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS

ing parking and pedestrian safety, helping the SHA communicate more effectively, promoting environmental awareness and serving as a house tour volunteer. The SHA is also seeking volunteers to help out a couple of hours each week with various office tasks, including copying, data entry and neighborhood mailings. Call or stop by the SHA office for more information.

Upcoming SHA meetings—Pedestrian Safety and Traffic Calming Committee, 7:00 p.m. Monday, February 11; board of directors, 7:00 p.m., Thursday, February 14; Development Committee, 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 19; House Tour Committee, 6:30 p.m., Thursday, February 21; Communications Committee, 7:00 p.m., Monday, February 25.

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Executive director hired—On January 22 the board of directors of the Summit-University Planning Council approved the promotion of community organizer Irna Landrum to the position of executive director. Before joining the SUPC, Landrum was involved

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Sun., Feb 10th
St. Paul Noon
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Sat., Feb 23rd
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Sun., Feb 24th
St Paul Noon
Woodbury 2pm
Maple Grove 4pm

March Events:

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St. Paul-Print Making

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Galleria-Magical Masks and Hats
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Eritreans to build Mendota Hts. church

BY KEVIN DRISCOLL

For more than a year and a half, members of the St. Gabriel Eritrean Orthodox Community have gathered to worship in the cafeteria of Highland Catholic School, 2017 Bohland Ave. That could change soon.

St. Gabriel's plans to start construction on its own church this spring or summer on land that it has purchased on Wagon Wheel Trail near Lexington Avenue in Mendota Heights.

"The cost of building the church is expected to be about \$850,000," said Asefaw Berhane, chair of the St. Gabriel Church Council. "Our goal is to have more than half of the money in hand before we start building. That way, we'll have a smaller mortgage to pay off after we move in. We currently have about \$175,000, including \$135,000 cash in hand and the rest in pledges."

A recent fundraiser brought in \$12,000 earmarked for the construction of the church, Berhane said, and more events are expected to be held this year. Fundraising committee member Ruta Embaye said church members anticipate moving into the new church in 2009. St. Gabriel's purchased the site last May for \$225,000.

St. Gabriel's is one of two Catholic churches that the Lumen Christi Catholic Community has helped nurture since Lumen Christie's creation in 2004 by the merger of the parishes of St. Therese, St. Leo and St. Gregory. The other, the Church of St. Andrew Kim, bought the



St. Gabriel representatives Asefaw Berhane, left, the Reverend Hailemariam Mirach, Arefaine Brhe and daughter Selim, and Alemnberhan Ghirmal stand on the Mendota Heights lot where they plan to build a church. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

former St. Therese Church and its convent at 1928 Norfolk Ave. in early 2006 for \$2.4 million and moved in last summer. The former St. Gregory's church and school building is now being leased by Nova Classical Academy. Masses were consolidated in early 2005 at St. Leo's, which underwent a \$6 million expansion and was rechristened Lumen Christi.

St. Gabriel's used St. Therese's for a short time and had hoped to purchase its facilities, but was unable to raise the money in time. "When St. Therese's closed, St. Gabriel's moved into the Highland Catholic cafeteria and they've been conducting liturgies there since,"

said Jackie Mosio, a parishioner at Lumen Christi who serves as a liaison with St. Gabriel's.

According to Berhane and Embaye, St. Gabriel's has more than 300 members, with about 150 of them showing up for weekly services. St. Gabriel's pastor, the Reverend Hailemariam Mirach, who arrived in May 2006, was staying at the priests' residence in St. Peter Claver parish in the Summit-University neighborhood.

More information about St. Gabriel's is available by calling Asefaw Berhane at 651-231-2866 or writing to St. Gabriel Eritrean Orthodox Church, P.O. Box 40429, St. Paul, MN 55104.

Religious Notes

Kenwood High School's 70-member choir will perform during the 10:00 a.m. workshop service on Sunday, February 10, at Dayton Avenue Presbyterian Church, 217 Mackubin St. The appearance is the first in a series celebrating Black History Month. Call Robert Morris at 651-227-7389.

"The Father and Spiritual Childhood" will be addressed by John F. Boyle, PhD, at 7:30 p.m. Friday, February 8, in the first of six weekly Lenten talks at the Church of St. Helena, 3204 E. 43rd St. in Minneapolis. Admission is \$4.00, although complimentary tickets are available. Stations of the Cross will precede the programs at 7:00. Call 612-729-7321.

"The First Jewish Family: What We Can Learn from Abraham and Sarah" will be the topic for "12:30 Torah" now through spring. Upcoming classes are from 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. Wednesdays, February 6 and 20, at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. Admission is free. Participants are invited to bring lunch. Call Sean Herstein at 651-255-4739.

Jim Klobuchar, a former *Star Tribune* columnist, will be the guest speaker during Holden Evening Prayer services at 6:46 p.m. on Wednesdays during February and March. The schedule begins with "Coming to Grips with the Truth of Who We Are" on February 13 at Macalester-Plymouth United Church, 1658 Lincoln Ave. Call Immanuel Lutheran at 651-699-5560.

"Basic Teachings of the Catholic Faith" will be revealed by the Reverend James Reidy during an eight-session series from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. on Mondays, February 11-March 31, at the Church of St. Helena, 3204 E. 43rd St., Minneapolis. The series is for all adults who want to learn more about the faith and for

adult Catholics who have not received the sacraments of penance, confirmation and Holy Eucharist. The cost is \$14.95 for a textbook. Call 612-729-7321.

The Gregorian Singers with present "Meditations for the First Sunday in Lent" at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, February 10, at St. Paul's Church on the Hill, 1524 Summit Ave. The free program will feature music, poetry and readings on God's love. Call 612-823-1688.

"A New Look at Lent" will be led by spiritual director Mary Lou Logsdon from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, February 9, at the Loyola Spirituality Center, 389 N. Oxford St. Registration is due by February 6. The cost is \$25. Call 651-641-0008.

The Loyola Spirituality Center, 389 N. Oxford St., is offering a six-week Lenten series, "Come and Play in Wisdom's House," from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, February 12 through March 18. The cost is \$125 in advance or \$25 per session. Call 651-641-0008.

"Judaism on the University Campus" will be presented by Ken Fox of Hamline University during a Lunch and Learn program following Shabbat services on Saturday, February 9, at the Temple of Aaron Synagogue, 616 S. Mississippi River Blvd. Call 651-698-8874.

Krista Tippet, host of American Public Media's weekly radio show "Speaking of Faith" and author of *Speaking of Faith: Why Religion Matters and How to Talk About It*, will be the guest speaker in a WomenSpirit program at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, February 17, at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis. Admission is \$12. Call 612-202-1200.

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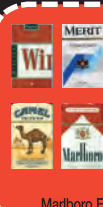
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Food



Home Fires

By Jo Marshall

Out of Africa: A story of soul food survival

According to legend, African slaves smuggled the seeds of okra and watermelon into America by stuffing them in their ears.

The story seems doubtful. Given the brutality with which slaves were captured, it's unlikely their thoughts would have turned to anything but an overwhelming urge to flee. The legend is nonetheless evocative, because it suggests an undeniable truth about what we now know as soul food: Despite adversity and oppression, African-American cooks developed a cuisine with the power to nourish and sustain—one that is reminiscent of their African homeland but firmly rooted in America.

The first African slaves in what is now the U.S. arrived in Jamestown colony, Virginia, in 1619. By the 1700s slave cooks had made their way into the kitchens of plantations across the South.

One of those who feasted on the labor of blacks was our third president, Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826), a Virginia gentleman farmer who called slavery an "abominable crime" and penned the phrase "all men are created equal" yet owned scores of slaves. Years before his alleged affair with his young slave Sally Hemings, Jefferson took her brother Jamie Hemmings to France to study under the tutelage of French chefs.

The sophisticated repasts that Jamie Hemmings prepared for Jefferson upon their return to Monticello are stark evidence of the disparities that existed between slaves and their masters. For the most part, slaves dined on the scrap heaps of their owners. As their masters tucked into a plate of roasted turnips, slave families were left to subsist on boiled turnip greens. The slaves also foraged for wild greens like poke salad, which is poisonous if not properly cooked, as well as collard and mustard greens. Meat in the slave diet was generally limited to castoff cuts—beef tongue and tail; the ears, jowls and hocks of the pig; and pig entrails, which they used to make chitlins, a meat so leathery it requires a full day of boiling.

There was no waste to speak of in the slave kitchen. Fish scraps became croquettes. Stale bread was turned into pudding. Even the liquid used to boil greens was a coveted source



Sweet potatoes, collard greens and okra—all raw ingredients of soul food—are rooted in the African heritage of American blacks. PHOTOS BY JANET HOSTETTER

of nourishment known as potlikker, served as a gravy or sipped from the pot. Slaves developed recipes that are remarkable for what they did without, such as hot water corn bread—a corn pancake made without milk or egg and similar to the hoe cake, so called because it was often cooked in the field on the blade of a hoe.

After long days of labor, slaves enjoyed communal meals replete with songs and prayers. Recipes were swapped over the table along with stories.

The slaves who were in charge of their masters' kitchens introduced the tastes for which the American South is now famous. Barbecue was perfected under the patient eyes of the

slaves who tended the grills. Fried chicken soon began to grace Southern tables. Sweet potatoes, reminiscent of the yams indigenous to Africa, took their place alongside the white potatoes native to America. And the African love of spices entered the American mainstream with the peppers and herbs slave cooks used to enliven their masters' dishes.

Tracking African-American culinary traditions is no easy task for historians, since it was handed down from generation to generation almost entirely orally. Teaching a slave to read and write was a crime in the old South, and the oldest acknowledged book of African-American recipes, *What Mrs. Fisher Knows About Old Southern Cooking*, wasn't published until 1881. It had been dictated by Abby Fisher, a former slave who was herself illiterate.

Southern food was so often cooked by African-Americans, that "soul food and down-home Southern cooking are really one and the same," according to St. Paul chef Jackie Williams, proprietor of Abundant Catering and the Rondo Coffee Cafe on the corner of University Avenue and Dale Street. "Blacks cooked for wealthy whites and taught their recipes to poor ones. If you walked into any restaurant kitchen in the South at the turn of the 20th century, chances are you would've found blacks in the kitchen. The same was true in the North."

Despite the sketchy history, there's no doubt that African-Americans have left an indelible mark on our national cuisine. Foods indigenous to Africa that found a home in the U.S. include okra, sorghum and sesame. Historians speculate that slave cooks were also responsible for angel food cake, noting that the hard-working slaves were likely the only bakers with the muscle to whip all those egg whites by hand. And the Southern classic Hoppin' John (rice with black-eyed peas) bears a striking resemblance to the *thiebou niebe* beloved in Senegal.

February, as any school kid can tell you, is Black History Month. No matter what your race, it's a time for reflection and a celebration of the many cultural gifts bestowed by African-Americans—blues, jazz and rock 'n' roll music to be sure, a rich and distinctive body of literature and, of course, soul food, the kind of history lesson that brings everyone to the table.

Nourishing body and mind: Legacy of Booker T. Washington and George Washington Carver

By JO MARSHALL

In 1881, when Booker T. Washington arrived in Tuskegee, Alabama, to build a new vocational school for blacks, food was a primary concern. The school's industries, wrote Washington, "started in natural and logical order," beginning with farming because "we wanted something to eat."

Washington's concern with food extended to the surrounding countryside when he observed that the diet of the typical sharecropper in the area consisted largely of fatty pork, corn bread and, occasionally, molasses. The landowners in the area insisted that their tenant-workers plant cotton right up to their doorsteps, forcing the sharecroppers to buy their food in overpriced plantation commissaries.

Washington urged the sharecroppers to ask for small plots on which to grow food, and he, along with his hire, George Washington Carver, went to work showing their students as well as their neighbors how best to feed themselves.

The following recipe is reprinted from *The African-American Heritage Cookbook* by Carolyn Quick Tillery, and is written as it was penned by Carver.

Dr. Carver's Sweet Potato Muffins

1 sweet potato, weighing about ¾ pound
1 heaping tablespoon butter
pinch of salt
2 well-beaten eggs
½ cup milk
1 teaspoon baking powder
2 cups flour

Boil sweet potato until thoroughly done. Mash very fine and pass through a colander to remove any lumps. Add butter, a little salt, and whip well. Add eggs and ½ cup of milk, sift in baking powder and enough flour to make a soft batter. Bake in muffin or gem pans at 400 degrees for about 30 minutes. Makes about a dozen.



A bowl of Dr. Carver's Sweet Potato Muffins.

Business Briefs

John Francis, a longtime Highland Park resident, has opened a PostNet center in the space formerly occupied by the UPS Store, 2136 Ford Pkwy. The center offers printing, packaging, shipping, copying and other services for the small office/home office market. Francis is the son of Joe Francis, whose one-chair barber shop in Highland Village grew into a family-owned franchised system of more than 1,000 hair salons, including the Cost Cutters, City Looks and We Care Hair chains. After operating his own Cost Cutters in Highland Village, John Francis branched out with PostNet, a Denver-based franchiser. He opened his first PostNet in 2001 at The Village in Blaine and has since helped develop 16 stores in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Francis said he plans to open between three and five new stores a year over the next 10 years.

R.F. Moeller Jeweler, with stores in Highland Village, 50th and France and downtown Minneapolis, was named a Jewelry Leader in *Harper's Bazaar's* December issue. It also received the honor in May 2007. The distinction is given to the top 124 jewelry stores in the country selected by the magazine's editors and industry leaders.

Press Law Office, 1421 Park Ave. S., Minneapolis, has been formed by the husband and wife team of Steven Press and Jody Cohen Press of Highland Park. The firm's principal practice areas are estate and business planning, probate, guardianship and commercial collections. In addition to his law practice, Steven Press is a Ramsey County Conciliation Court referee.

Seventh Street Storage has opened at West 7th and Homer streets. General manager Larry Kaiser said the facility has nearly 1,000 indoor storage units as well as outdoor storage space for vehicles. The facility also rents U-Haul trucks and trailers, and stocks boxes, tape and other packing supplies.

The Grand Avenue Business Association will celebrate its 35th annual Grand Old Day on Sunday, June 1. Applications for the 2008 event are now available to download from the "How to Participate" section at www.grandave.com/grandoldday. Applications received after February 29 will be assessed an additional fee. Call the GABA office at 651-699-0029.

"Doctors With a Heart," a free health fair, will be held from 8:00 to 10:30 a.m. and 3:00 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 13, at Aspire Chiropractic, 333 Grand Ave. The fair will feature free blood pressure and glucose

With liquor license in hand, Salut set to open on Grand

Salut Bar Américain has been granted an on-sale liquor license for its proposed 200-seat restaurant in Milton Mall on Grand Avenue. Last month the St. Paul City Council unanimously approved the request for on-sale liquor, on-sale liquor on Sunday and on-sale outdoor liquor licenses.

Salut is expected to open in May in the space formerly occupied by Sidney's at 917 Grand Ave. Salut's parent company, Minneapolis-based Parasole Restaurant Holdings, has spent months working on its plans with property manager Exeter Realty. Parasole representatives have also met with Summit Hill residents and business owners to discuss plans for the French American-style bistro, which would be Salut's second Twin Cities location. Parasole also operates Manny's Steakhouse, Figlio, the Good Earth and Chino Latino.

The license request had the support of the Summit Hill Association's Zoning and Land Use Committee. Nearby property owners also signed a petition in support of the license.

Because St. Paul's United Church of Christ is right across the alley, the church had to sign a waiver of a city requirement that on-sale liquor licenses be at least 350 feet from places of worship.

checks, massage, spinal checks, nutrition information and snacks. Call 651-294-2332.

Regina Healers & Artists will hold a Valentine's Day event and sale from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. Sunday, February 10, at 385 Portland Ave. Attendees will be able to learn about holistic healing, reflexology, energy work, gourmet cooking and treatments designed to improve the quality of life and beautify. They also will be able to meet female artists and see the photographs, hand-blown glass, textiles and handmade fashion accessories they create. Admission is free. Call 612-823-3146 or visit www.reginahealersandartists.com.

The Highland Business Association will have its first committee meeting to discuss Highland Fest 2008 at 8:00 a.m. Thursday, February 7, in Suite 225 of 790 S. Cleveland Ave. This year's festival will be held on July 18-20. Call Shelly Harris at 651-699-9042.

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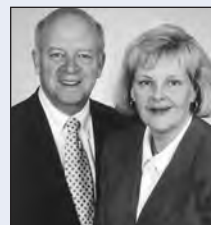
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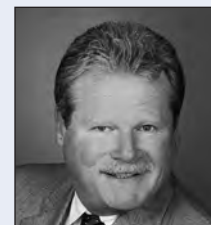
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Crime Report

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

Highland Park

Robbery—The Movie Station, 2236 W. 7th Street, was robbed at gunpoint at about 2:30 p.m. Thursday, January 10.

Burglary—Miscellaneous items were stolen from a home on the 2000 block of Bordner Place between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 8. Entry was forced through a rear window.

Weapons—A bomb threat was called in to Horace Mann School, 2001 Eleanor Ave., at about 7:00 p.m. Monday, January 7.

Theft—A purse and a bag were stolen from a vehicle while a mother was bringing her children to Expo Elementary School, 540 S. Warwick St., at about 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, January 8. A 42-year-old Dayton's Bluff man and a 40-year-old Highland Park man were arrested for possession of stolen property and for forgery about half an hour later at the Holiday station on the 600 block of Rice Street. They were trying to use the woman's stolen credit card to pump gas for customers in exchange for cash.

—Numerous thefts from autos occurred at O'Halloran & Murphy Funeral Home, 575 S. Snelling Ave., between 6:30 and 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 15.

Miscellaneous—Police executed a search warrant and arrested a juvenile for graffiti vandalism on the 1900 block of Wordsworth Avenue at 12:30 p.m. Friday, January 11.

Lexington-Hamline

Robbery—Shane Nathaniel Townsend, 35, of St. Paul was indicted on January 7 on two counts of bank robbery in connection with the December 5 and 11 robberies of TCF Bank on Lexington Parkway and University Avenue. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Townsend was seen boarding a Metro Transit bus on University following the second robbery. St. Paul police stopped the bus and arrested him after he attempted to flee out the back. Townsend's indictment alleges that he used force to steal \$3,065 from TCF Bank on December 5 and \$450 from the same bank on December 11. If convicted, he faces a maximum penalty of 20 years on each count.

Macalester-Groveland

Burglary—An empty cash drawer was taken from Roxy Dry Cleaners, 235 S. Cleveland Ave., at about 2:00 a.m. Friday, January 4.

—The office at Randolph Heights Presbyterian Church, 435 S. Hamline Ave., was broken into between 6:00 and 11:00 p.m. Friday, January 4.

—A home on the 1200 block of Niles Avenue was burglarized between 7:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 16.

Merriam Park

Burglary—Two laptop computers and a Nintendo video game player were stolen from a home on the 1700 block of Iglehart Avenue between 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 9.

Theft—A middle-aged woman stole four CDs and a DVD off the counter at the Starbucks on Snelling and Selby Avenues at about 8:00 p.m. Sunday, January 6.

Miscellaneous—A 19-year-old Prior Lake man was cited for underage consumption after he was found intoxicated in a University of St. Thomas dormitory at about 1:30 a.m. Saturday, January 5.

Summit Hill

Robbery—A man robbed a woman of her purse at the bus stop at Grand Avenue and

Coordinated effort results in arrest of Village shoplifter

Employees at TeaSource helped take a bite out of crime with the help of other Highland Village businesses recently. After a female shoplifter ran out of the store with an expensive pot and tea glass on January 5, TeaSource circulated a description of the suspect with the help of the Highland Business Association.

The woman was apprehended on January 17 after EmbroidMe owner Sylvia Lee called TeaSource manager Lisa Hyatt and said that a customer in her store matched the description of the suspect. Lee said the woman wanted to get her name with an "M.D." after it stitched on a white lab coat. The woman became agitated when Lee questioned her credentials, since on a previous occasion the woman had presented herself as an author.

Lee said she tried to keep the suspect occupied until Hyatt arrived, but the woman left the store. Hyatt spotted the woman outside, confirmed it was the same shoplifter and called police, who arrested the woman after she boarded a bus. Police Sergeant Denise Gilbertson said the woman was cited for misdemeanor theft.

Avon Street at about 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, January 15.

Theft—A shotgun was stolen from a vehicle at Grand Avenue and Victoria Street between 8:00 p.m. and midnight Thursday, January 10.

Summit-University

Assault—Michelle Rae Wilson was arrested for murder after shooting her ex-boyfriend, Carl Kevin Jackson, 33, on the 600 block of Iglehart Avenue at about 6:30 p.m. Sunday, January 13. Wilson, 45, was later charged with second-degree murder. It was the first homicide of the year in St. Paul.

Burglary—Two apartments on the 700 block of Laurel Avenue were broken into between 8:00 a.m. and noon Tuesday, January 8. A Macintosh computer was stolen from one apartment and numerous pieces of jewelry were stolen from the other.

Robbery—A pizza delivery driver was robbed at gunpoint on the 700 block of Selby Avenue at about 8:00 p.m. Friday, January 4.

—Two suspects robbed a man of his wallet at gunpoint at Selby Avenue and Dale Street at about 11:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 9.

—A juvenile was arrested for robbing a Domino's Pizza delivery driver of \$35 at gunpoint on the 600 block of Selby Avenue at about 7:30 p.m. Friday, January 11. The 17-year-old male suspect fled on foot behind an apartment complex, but he was soon tracked down and arrested by police and K-9 partners.

Weapons—Shots were fired on the 700 block of Dayton Avenue at about 6:30 p.m. Friday, January 4.

West End

Burglary—A house on the 200 block of Eagle Parkway was burglarized between 2:30 and 3:30 p.m. Sunday, January 6. The side door was forced open and tools were stolen.

—Monroe School, 810 Palace Ave., was broken into between 7:00 and 7:30 a.m. Wednesday, January 9.

Theft—A cash machine was stolen from the lobby of Children's Hospital at about 3:30 a.m. Wednesday, January 9. Video surveillance showed two men wheeling the machine away on a dolly.

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Summer in the Cities



Dustin Handrich and Ashley Brabec follow the lead of dance instructor Joy Davina during a recent Freetopia day camp at the Jewish Community Center's Camp Butwin.

Power of play

Freetopia camps give grownups a place where they can be kids again

BY LARRY ENGLUND

Day camp for adults—that's the concept behind Freetopia Camps Unlimited, the brainchild of Andy Halper and Jon Rappaport.

Halper, Rappaport and their staff are dedicated to creating a day camp experience for adults that is playful, educational and rejuvenating. The day camps take place at Camp Butwin in Eagan, which is owned by the Jewish Community Center in Highland Park. The main building is a classic lodge with exposed timbers and stone fireplaces overlooking privately owned O'Brien Lake.

Camp activities include walks in the woods, campfires, thought-provoking discussions, physical activities, singing and meals that are a far cry from the camp fare for kids. Though the day is structured, participants at a recent camp remarked that it is "not over-organized." The day's structure allows for "planned spontaneity," as Halper put it.

The power of play to energize and rejuvenate comes up a lot in discussions with Halper, an educator whose has spent almost 30 years developing learning methodologies. "As a young camp director, and in my later work, I've seen how (people) change by sharing fun," he said. "Outside of the workday environment, people are more relaxed and can be inspired."

At a recent day camp, it was obvious that

participants were relaxed. Halper described the camp's goal at the beginning of the day thusly: "We start out by helping get people to know each other in a short time. We help even the most inhibited to share stuff."

A Highland Park camper said he was surprised at how quickly people started to open up, which he called "distinctly un-Minnesotan." Brought together during a mid-morning lull in activities, several women noted that the morning's events spawned a good deal of discussion. When asked why they came, the women responded with remarks like "just plain fun," "I need to play," "I can be a kid again" and "to connect with people with a sense of adventure."

Halper's idea to offer a playful adult day camp had its beginnings on a serious note. "I had a heart attack," said Halper, a 1968 graduate of Highland Park Senior High "It shakes your life. It made me ask what I wanted to do with the rest of my life."

Drawing on his life and work experience, Halper said he realized he wanted to create an environment for people to have fun and be inspired. The path he chose was inspired by focus groups he had conducted for Best Buy, which was trying to find new ways to engage baby boomers. He discovered that camp was a significant and positive experience for many people. He pitched the adult day camp idea to Best Buy, but it chose not to pursue it. However,



Deb Paley roasts marshmallows while talking with Tyler Eckels around the campfire at the end of their Freetopia day camp in Eagan. PHOTOS BY ANNE BRANDRUD

er, Rappaport, a focus group participant and successful businessman, was interested. "Let's do it," he told Halper.

Two camp sessions have been held to date. The camps run from 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and cost \$169. So far, participants have either known Halper or other staff member or stumbled upon the website (www.freetopiacamps.com).

"At first we thought that seekers would be our campers—introspective people wondering about their place in the universe—but we've had lots of people who just wanted to play," Halper said. "Office workers and such. And they *were* having fun."

Halper recruited Stefan Ronchetti, a financial analyst from Macalester-Groveland, to play guitar and lead sing-alongs around the campfire during the most recent camp.

"This group is very gregarious," Ronchetti said. "In fact, the whole day seems to be one of playing, and who doesn't like to play?"

Though the camp is aimed at baby boomers, participants in the first two camps have

ranged in age from 20 to 72. Halper thinks that's a good thing. "Different generations can learn from each other," he said.

That point was driven home during a discussion on what it means to be wealthy. Twenty- and sixty-somethings offered differing perspectives on personal savings and spending.

Later, during the wine and cheese segment of the day, Harvey Feldman, who teaches parks and recreation management at the University of Minnesota, reflected on the discussion. "Some of these young people are a breath of fresh air," he said. "If they have a chance, they could change the world."

The younger participants were equally pleased. Jon Beutler, a student from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, noted, "I'm impressed with how open everyone is. All ages are talking with each other."

The part of the day that elicited the most outward delight was the dance lesson led

FREETOPIA CAMPS ► 28

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Head of the class

Newly built Gordon Parks High gives struggling teens the tools to succeed

BY LARRY ENGLUND

A new alternative high school in St. Paul's Lexington-Hamline neighborhood is proving to be a source of pride and inspiration for students who have had a hard time of it in more traditional school settings.

Gordon Parks High School opened its doors this winter in a new \$7.5 million, 34,000-square-foot building at 1212 University Ave. Compared to its previously leased space in the Unidale Mall, the school's new building is modern, spacious, energy-efficient and bright. It also has a gym and cafeteria, which the University and Dale site lacked, along with a computer lab, on-site health and social services, a fully equipped art and industrial technology area, and a modern science lab.

"We really couldn't do chemistry before," said science teacher Joel Abdella. "Now, with a full lab, the kids are excited. In the long run, this building will have a powerful impact on their lives."

Gordon Parks High is one of several alternative learning programs offered by the St.

Paul Public Schools. The year-round school currently serves about 280 students ages 16-20 who need to make up credits in order to earn their high school diplomas. Principal Steve Lindberg said students enrolled in the school have fallen behind in their studies for a variety of reasons. "They may have dropped out or been in treatment," he said. "They may have had a poor 9th grade or have had to take care of young siblings or even have been homeless."

The school provides a wide range of resources to help its students, including social workers, counselors, on-the-job training, a special education teacher and educational assistants. "The goal is for each student to graduate," Lindberg said. "Their learning plan lays out the credits they have and the credits they need."

Before the new building opened, Lindberg said he sat down with students to look



Teacher Heidi Kelbel helps senior Sparkle Kinnel with algebra at Gordon Parks High. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

at school policies and together they came up with three significant changes.

The first addressed the need for a cafeteria. "With no cafeteria in the old place, we sometimes lost kids when they went out for lunch," Lindberg said. "Now we have a closed campus and a hot lunch program and breakfast."

A second change is that students agreed to arrive at school by 9:30 a.m. and remain there all day. At its previous location, the school had an open campus and students came and went as they pleased. "That's helped attendance," Lindberg said about moving to a closed campus. "Students can still ask to leave if they have to go home and care for siblings or go to a job interview."

The third change is the focus on another set of three R's—rigor, relationships and relevancy. "We need a rigorous curriculum, students have to build relationships and learn to trust adults, and their education has to be relevant to completing credits," Lindberg said.

Students and staff came up with the idea of naming the school for the late Gordon Parks, a St. Paul resident who dropped out of high school after getting kicked out of his house. Parks went on to become a highly accom-

plished photographer for *Life* magazine, as well as a filmmaker, writer and composer.

"We have a focus for the school that revolves around Parks," Lindberg said. "We look at how we can incorporate his ideas and accomplishments into our curriculum."

Parks' inspiration may have accounted for three of the school's students winning a recent statewide Martin Luther King essay contest. Richard Gamez and Mom Lee took first and second place, respectively, for 12th-graders, and Stephanie Snguan won first place for 11th-graders.

Gamez, who is taking police academy preparation classes through one of the special programs available at the school, read his essay at the Martin Luther King Day youth rally at Central High School.

Paul Creager, who has been teaching English at the school for three years, helped Gamez practice his presentation skills. Creager encouraged Gamez and the other students to be direct and honest in their essays.

Gamez took Creager's advice to heart, as reflected in his essay: "Some employers and

GORDON PARKS HIGH ► 27



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School Notes

An ACT preparatory class will be offered from 5:45 to 8:45 p.m. on Thursdays, February 14-March 6, by the Continuing Education Department at St. Paul College, 317 Marshall Ave. The fee is \$120. Call 651-846-1800.

"Movies That Grab You" is being offered from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on three consecutive Mondays starting February 25 through Roosevelt Community Education, 4029 28th Ave. S., Minneapolis. Film historian Rich Landry will use clips from the silent era onward to illustrate the best of moviemaking. The cost is \$25. Call 612-668-4828.

A perspective drawing class will be offered from 9:30 a.m. to noon Saturdays, February 23-March 15, by the Continuing Education Department at St. Paul College, 317 Marshall Ave. The fee is \$74 for the four-session class. Call 651-846-1800.

A symposium for a unified education will be held at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 20, in the campus center at Macalester College. The event will feature educators, policy makers, organization leaders and parents sharing ideas for improving education. Admission is free. Call 651-696-6249.

The Rondo Education Center, 560 Concordia Ave., will hold its second annual adults-only gala on Saturday, February 23, to raise money for Phase II of its playground project. The gala will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Minnesota Children's Museum, 10 W. 7th St. It will feature a Mardi Gras theme (masks optional), live and silent auctions, a keynote address by St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman, hors d'oeuvres, desserts, live music with a Latin flair and a cash bar. The new playground will benefit approximately 2,300 students and families from the Benjamin E. Mays, Capitol Hill and Museum magnet schools, as well as students from the Rondo

UST business school receives \$50M gift

An anonymous donor has given \$50 million—one of the three largest gifts to an institute of higher education in Minnesota history—to the University of St. Thomas' Opus College of Business as part of the university's "Opening Doors" capital campaign. The gift will be used to increase the college's endowment, and interest income will be used to support academic programs, student scholarships and business faculty research.

The gift equals the one made to St. Thomas in 2000 by Best Buy founder and chairman Richard Schulze and his late wife, Sandra. A \$60 million gift to support a new student center and improve athletic facilities was given to St. Thomas last fall by Lee and Penny Anderson. Lee Anderson is the owner and chairman of St. Paul-based API Group Inc.

Opening Doors is an eight-year, \$500 million campaign that was announced by St. Thomas in October. To date it has raised \$317 million in gifts and pledges. With the exception of contributions earmarked for construction projects, most of the campaign funds will build the endowment for scholarships, endowed faculty positions and educational programs.

The Opus College of Business currently enrolls 4,569 graduate and undergraduate students, which is just over 40 percent of the university's total enrollment. The business college offers 12 undergraduate and eight graduate degrees, including day and evening MBA programs. The college's Center for Business Excellence enrolls another 7,800 participants annually in its continuing executive education classes, and provides custom programs for 150 businesses and nonprofit organizations each year.

Discovery Club, Learning Center, early childhood and community education programs. For reservations, call 651-325-2414 by February 15.

District 197 preschool has openings this fall for classes that will be held at Mendota and Moreland elementary schools. "Threeschool" is offered on Tuesday and Thursday mornings for children who are 3 years old by September 1. Prekindergarten for 4- and 5-year-olds is held three mornings or three afternoons a week. Call Dolly O'Rourke at 651-405-2638.

St. Paul Open School, 90 S. Western Ave., will hold an open house for prospective students from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Thursday, February 7. Call 651-293-8670.

Como Zoo hosts summer camp fair

The 2008 edition of the Minnesota Parents Camp Fair will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 8, at the Como Park Zoo and Conservatory. The event offers a one-stop opportunity for hundreds of families to go to learn more about summer camp options in the state.

Exhibitors will range from traditional

summer camps to sports camps, arts camps, science camps, music camps and more. Entertainment will be provided for children while their parents tour the exhibits.

Admission is free. The camp fair is sponsored by Minnesota Parent magazine, Como Park Zoo and Conservatory and the YMCA. For more information, call 612-436-4389 or visit mnparent.com.

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teachers will not hire or educate certain students because they may feel that some students just won't amount to much in life."

Nevertheless, the pride that Gamez feels for his school is evident in another passage: "My school, Gordon Parks High School, named after a man who was a nobody and became a somebody, is a place to give these students the tools to succeed."

Creager echoed that

sentiment when he talked about the new building and its impact on students. "It tells them, 'you're valuable,'" he said.

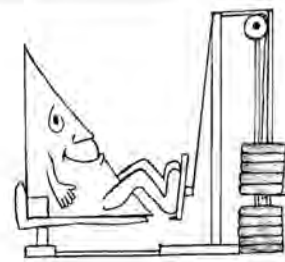
Lindberg said it took four years to acquire the land and build the school, which was recently named University United's 2007 Project of the Year. The public, students and staff will celebrate the new building at a dedication ceremony on March 3.



Principal Steve Lindbergh.

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Sports Shorts

Glenn Caruso, the head football coach at Macalester College for the last two seasons, has been named the new head football coach at the University of St. Thomas. He succeeds Don Roney, who resigned last November after 10 seasons. Caruso, 33, has been part of three impressive rebuilding jobs during his 12-year coaching career. In 2006 he inherited just 24 players as head coach of a Macalester program that had won only two games from 2003-2005. Caruso doubled the roster and took the Scots to a 2-7 record in 2006 and a 4-5 mark in 2007. He previously was the offensive coordinator at Division II South Dakota and a coordinator at North Dakota State. He and his wife, Rachael, live in Highland Park with their three young children. St. Thomas is coming off a 2-8 finish in 2007 in a season where several freshmen and sophomores started. As many as 100 players, including 18 with starting experience, are expected to return for the Tommies in 2008. Their first game is September 6 at home against Macalester.



Local recreation centers are offering new classes this winter. Youth classes include guitar lessons, Okinawan Shuri-TE karate, paper crafting, and tumbling at Merriam Park; Abakadoodle art at Groveland; kids' and girls' karate at Edgumbe; Safe on My Own, and Yu-Gi-Oh at Palace; and tap, ballet, creative movement, tumbling, yoga and Abakadoodle art at Hillcrest. Adult classes include aerobics, women's self defense and women's weightlifting at Edgumbe; body conditioning through

HGRA sets registration nights

The Highland-Groveland Recreation Association will hold in-person registration for its 2008 summer baseball and soccer programs at the following times and places:

- February 26, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., Groveland Recreation Center, 2045 St. Clair Ave.
- March 1, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy.
- March 6, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., Hillcrest.
- March 15, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Groveland.

Registration forms are also available at by stopping by Groveland or Hillcrest before the March 15 registration deadline. The cost is \$45 per activity. For information, call 651-699-9898 or visit www.hgra.org.

dance, Soo Bahk Do and yoga at Hillcrest; beginning guitar at Merriam Park; and strength and stretch Pilates at Palace. Family activities include African drumming at Merriam Park. Register at local centers or at www.stpaul.gov/depts/parks.

The Minneapolis Hiking Club will take in as much of the 50-mile Grand Rounds National Scenic Byway as it can this year in honor of the Minneapolis Park Board's 125th anniversary. Upcoming Grand Rounds hikes are scheduled for February 6, 17, 20 and 27. Hiking club membership is \$15 per year. Call 612-230-6402 or visit www.minneapolis-parks.org.

Jordan Eaton, a 6-foot-5, 245-pound senior defensive end at Highland Park Senior High School, recently signed a letter of intent to play for the University of South Dakota. Eaton was the St. Paul City Conference defensive player of the year.

The Highland-Groveland Recreation Association will hold its annual meeting from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Monday, February 11, at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. The meeting will include a discussion of possible changes in the soccer and baseball programs offered by the HGRA. Call 651-699-9898 or visit www.hgra.org.

The Minnesota Boat Show will be held from February 7-10 at St. Paul RiverCentre. The 10th annual boat and marine products show will feature a wide variety of watercraft, along with daily seminars by angling experts and a 5,000-gallon bass tub. Hours are noon to 9:00 p.m. Thursday and Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Saturday and 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$2.50-\$9.00. Call 763-755-8111.

The St. Paul College Continuing Education Department is offering the following one-session health and fitness classes: "Introduction to Kettlebells" from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Saturday, February 23 (\$39); and "Posture and Osteoporosis" from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. Thursday, February 28 (\$29). Both classes will meet at the UAW-Ford-MnSCU Training Center on Ford Parkway in Highland Village. Students are asked to wear loose, comfortable clothing. Call 651-846-1800.

Minnesota NHL alumni will face off against Highland Central Hockey Association coaches in a game at 2:15 p.m. Saturday, February 9, at the Charles M. Schulz Arena, 800 S. Snelling Ave. Spectators will have a chance to get autographs from and have pictures taken with such players as Craig Norwich, Don Beaupre, Brian Bellows, Jack Carlson, Joe Dziedzic, Jim Korn, Reed Larson, Dwight Bialowas, Tim Young, Tom Chorske, Chris McAlpine and Brian Bonin. Those who attend will also get chances to win prizes during the game. Admission is \$5.00. Visit www.hchockey.org.

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by Joy Davina of the Social Dance Studio in Minneapolis, who soon had the entire group dancing the merengue.

The day ended with a walk down a dark, snowy path to a point overlooking the lake, where a roaring campfire crackled and coun-

selors handed out marshmallows for roasting. The stars were shining and the frozen lake reflected the light, but few seemed to notice. They were either talking animatedly with newfound friends or staring into the fire, deep in reflection. Soon the singing started.

Halper's goals for the day had been met. As he stated earlier, "We want to be playful, to get

people to do things they might not have done before, to have strangers share intimacies, break bread, sing and play."

Seven more day camps are scheduled through this spring. Then Halper and the staff will take a break and interview campers to assess what worked and what didn't.

"We hope to have 35-40 camps by the end

of the year," Halper said, adding that he also is looking at creating overnight camping experiences. "Overnight is when camp shenanigans occur," he said.

Halper also spoke of bringing together people of different faiths and ethnic backgrounds to camp. "When you break bread together," he said, "you begin to break down barriers."

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The Kiosk

Thursday/February 7

THE SUMMIT HILL Association will hold a meeting at 6:30 this evening at the Linwood Recreation Center, 860 St. Clair Ave., to discuss neighborhood concerns regarding safety, nuisance noise, traffic and litter at the Wild Onion. Call 651-222-1222.

NA'IM AKBAR of Florida State University will talk about "The Complexities of the Black Community: Reclaiming Our Shared Histories" during a lecture at 4:30 this afternoon in the Weyerhaeuser Memorial Chapel at Macalester College. Admission is free. Call 651-696-6243.

AN ANXIETY SUPPORT GROUP will meet at 6:30 this evening, and on the first and third Thursday of each month, at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 S. Snelling Ave. The group is sponsored by the National Alliance of Mental Illness of Minnesota. Admission is free. Call 763-772-2379.

Saturday/February 9

A SOCK HOP for preschool children, their siblings and families will be held by the District 197 Early Learning Advisory Council from 10:00 to 11:30 this morning at Garlough Environmental Magnet School, 1740 Charlton St., West St. Paul. The cost is \$5.00 per family, and includes games, prizes and live music by Wendy's Wiggle Jiggle and Jam. Call Dolly O'Rourke at 651-405-2638.

THE DODGE NATURE CENTER in West St. Paul will host a winter picnic at 10:00 this morning and a maple syrup and bannock (stick bread) class at 1:00 this afternoon. The picnic will include a hike with snowshoes and hot drinks and treats around a campfire. The class will include information about the native people of Minnesota while hiking through the center, followed by stories and snacks around a campfire. The cost is \$5.00-\$7.00, or \$15 for families per program. Call 651-455-4531.

MINNESOTA STATE SACRED Harp Winter Singing will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. today at Virginia Street Swedenborgian Church, 170 Virginia St. The ninth annual event will feature songs from the 2006 Cooper revision "blue book" of the Sacred Harp. A potluck lunch will be held at noon. Visit freude.com/mnfasola/ or call Bill Waddington at 612-782-0821 or Paul Wyatt at 651-698-1525).

ŠIBŘINKY, the Czech Mardi Gras, will be celebrated from 7:00 to 11:00 this evening at the CSPA Sokol Hall, 383 Michigan St. The Dale Pexa band from New Prague will play and costumed Czech and Slovak dancers will perform during the band breaks. Czech and Slovak foods and beverages will be available from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. The children's folk groups of Sokol Minnesota will dance during the dinner hour. Admission is \$10.

Sunday/February 10

MICHAEL EPPEL, a senior lecturer in Middle Eastern studies at Haifa University, will discuss "Understanding Israel's Arab Neighbors," the first of six lectures on Israel's relationship with its neighbors, from 10:30 a.m. to noon today at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. The lectures will be given on two Sundays a month. The cost is \$30 for the series. Call 651-698-0751.



Juniors Renee Kargleder, left, and Roberta Perry will help spread the word about lupus during a rally on February 12 at Highland Senior High. PHOTO BY ANNE BRANDRUD

Highland to host lupus rally

A lupus awareness rally will be held from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 12, in the auditorium at Highland Park Senior High School, 1015 S. Snelling Ave. The event is being organized by Highland junior Renee Kargleder to raise money for the Lupus Foundation and public awareness about the disease. Kargleder's best friend, classmate Roberta Perry, was diagnosed with lupus, an autoimmune disease that can cause severe pain and swelling in various parts of the body.

The rally will feature guest speakers and

plenty of information on lupus. Attendees may purchase a "Fight Lupus" scarf for \$10-\$15, with proceeds to benefit the Lupus Foundation. Funding for the scarves was donated by area churches and embroidery was provided by EmbroidMe in Highland Village. The scarves come with a poem that will be read at the rally.

For more information on the lupus awareness rally, call Highland Senior High at 651-293-8940. For information on the disease, call the Lupus Foundation of Minnesota at 952-746-5151.

VALENTINE'S SOIRÉE will live music and candlelit gardens will be offered from 5:00 to 9:00 this evening in the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory at Como Park Zoo. Animal encounters, education stations and an old-fashioned cake walk make it a Valentine's Day celebration for any age. Admission is \$3.00. Call 651-487-8201.

THE ST. PAUL HIKING CLUB will meet at 2:30 this afternoon in the large O'Shaughnessy parking lot at the College of St. Catherine. Call 651-646-6421.

A VALENTINE'S FREE ICE SKATE will be held from 12:45 to 2:15 this afternoon in Drake Arena at St. Paul Academy and Summit School, 1712 Randolph Ave. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served. Call 651-698-2451.

AN ICE FISHING CLINIC for parents and children will be offered at 10:00 this morning at Fort Snelling State Park. All equipment and bait will be provided. Participants will gather in the visitor center and then head out to Lake Snelling. The clinic is free, but a state parking permit is required. Call 612-725-2724.

Tuesday/February 12

A LECTURE SERIES for teenage girls and their parents will continue with "You're On Stage! Wardrobe Planning and Organization" at 7:00 this evening in the Village View Room at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. The series is hosted by Yolanda McIntosh, contributing author to *The Young Woman's*

Guide for Personal Success and Self Esteem and Empowerment for Women. Call the St. Paul Public Library at 651-266-7000.

THE COMO-MIDWAY LA LECHE League will meet at 7:00 this evening to discuss "Baby Arrives: The Family and the Breastfed Baby." Current and expectant mothers are invited to attend with their babies and toddlers. Call 651-659-9527.

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

A HISTORY LOUNGE presentation on "Fighting Fear" will be offered at 7:00 this evening at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. Author Annette Atkins and Minnesota Historical Society curator Patrick Coleman will offer a revealing look at how Minnesota responded to the state of fear in 1910-20. The program is free with museum admission of \$4.00-\$8.00. Call 651-259-3000.

"GREAT DECISIONS: Talking to Our Enemies," a four-part series on how the United States deals with international challenges, will kick off from 7:00 to 9:00 this evening in Room 361 of the Coeur de Catherine student center at the College of St. Catherine. The series will be led by Frank Wright, former *Star Tribune* journalist who served as bureau chief and managing editor, Washington correspondent and foreign correspondent. The cost is \$27, which

includes a Great Decisions foreign policy book. Call 651-690-6666.

Wednesday/February 13

THE LONGFELLOW GARDEN CLUB will meet from 7:00 to 9:00 this evening at Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37th Ave. S., Minneapolis. Jason Fischer from Orchids Limited will speak on his family's business and on breeding orchids. Orchids will be for sale after the meeting.

ANGELA DAVIS, a social activist for more than 30 years, will kick off the Macalester College Lealtad-Suzuki Center "SPEAK!" series at 5:00 this evening in the college's Kagin Commons. Admission is free, but tickets are required and may be picked up at the campus center information desk beginning February 8. Call 651-696-6243.

A LUNCHEON FORUM FACE-OFF between DFLer Roger Moe and Republican Steve Sviggum will be held by the Center of the American Experiment and Minnesota Chamber of Commerce from noon to 1:30 p.m. today at the St. Paul Hotel, 350 Market St. The cost is \$25-\$30. Call 612-338-3605 of visit www.AmericanExperiment.org.

"FROM POLITICS TO HOCKEY Sticks," an Our Northern Stars leadership breakfast series will be held from 7:30 to 9:00 this morning at the College of St. Catherine. Special guest will be Pamela Wheelock, executive vice president and CFO of Minnesota Sports and Entertainment and the Minnesota Wild, who spent four years as the state's finance commissioner for Jesse Ventura. Radio personality Ruth Koscielak will be the emcee. The cost is \$15-\$24. Call 651-690-6819.

Thursday/February 14

ENCHANTED EVENING dining events for Valentine's Day will be offered at 5:30 and 8:00 this evening in the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory at Como Park Zoo. The evening will include a gourmet dinner for two among the candlelit gardens. The cost is \$165 per couple. Call 651-487-8250.

A WORLD WAR II HISTORY Round Table on "The Norwegian Resistance Movement in WWII" will be held at 7:00 this evening at historic Fort Snelling. Chris Skejervold, an author who has been knighted by the King of Norway, and members of the country's resistance movement will discuss the invasion of Norway by German troops from 1940 until the end of the war. Admission is \$5.00. Call 612-726-1171.

A VICTORIAN POETRY SLAM for Valentine's Day will be held at 7:00 this evening at the James J. Hill House, 240 Summit Ave. Sweethearts, poetry lovers and romantics alike will enjoy dramatic and often hilarious readings of classic poems of the 19th century by actors wearing 1890s eveningwear. Refreshments and tours will follow. The cost is \$4.00-\$8.00. Call 651-297-2555.

Saturday/February 16

ST. MARK'S PARISH will play host to its annual card party beginning at 1:00 this afternoon in Carolyn Hall, Dayton Avenue and Moore Street. All are invited to join

29◀ KIOSK

in games of 500, bridge and cribbage. No partners are necessary. Awards, door prizes and refreshments will be available. For reservations, call 651-645-5142.

A CANDLELIGHT SKI AND WALK will be held from 5:00 to 8:00 this evening at Fort Snelling State Park. Cross country ski loops of 1, 2 and 3 miles and a 1-mile walking trail around and through Pike Island will be lit with luminaries. Enjoy roasting marshmallows at an outdoor fire, or have a cup of hot chocolate or cider around the fireplace in the Visitor Center. Call 612-725-2724.

A STATE CAPITOL TOUR with a focus on Minnesota's role in the Civil War will be offered from 1:00 to 2:30 this afternoon. Admission is \$4.00-\$7.00. Call 651-296-2881.

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPERS will be the topic of discussion during a program from 6:00 to 7:30 this evening at the Minnesota Historical Society library, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. The library holds the largest collection of the state's newspapers, going back to 1849. Librarian Bridgid Shields will review

the variety of newspapers and how to use them for research. The cost is \$8.00-\$10. Call 651-259-3300.

"HOPE FOR RECOVERY," a workshop for families who have a relative with mental illness, will be offered by the National Alliance of Mental Illness of Minnesota from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. today in the Teeter Library at Regions Hospital. Call 651-645-2948.

CHEMISTS WILL BE LEADING hands-on science activities from 1:30 to 3:30 this afternoon at the Rondo Library, 461 N. Dale St. Activities are geared for all ages and include finding vitamin C in beverages, candy chemicals, memory wire and magic messages. Call 651-266-7400.

Sunday/February 17

THE ST. PAUL HIKING CLUB will meet at 2:30 this afternoon by George's restaurant on Plato Avenue. Call 651-646-6421.

MERRIAM PARK NEIGHBORS for Peace will present retired Colonel Ann Wright, co-author of *Dissent: Voices of Conscience*, at 6:30 this evening in the campus center at Macalester College. Wright tells the stories

of the men and women who risked their careers to speak out against the war in Iraq. A book signing will follow. Admission is free. Donations will be accepted to cover costs. Call Krista Menzel at 651-641-7592 or Anne Benson at 651-647-0580.

Tuesday/February 19

THE MAD HATTER'S TEA HOUSE, 943 W. 7th St., will hold an open poetry night during a conversational salon from 6:30 to 8:30 this evening. Participants are invited to bring their own poetry or a favorite poet's work, or just come to listen. The salon is free, but donations are encouraged for the program and treats. Call 651-227-3228.

TIM TUMBERG of the Minnesota Historical Society will speak on "Digging up Whiskey Row: 2007 Excavations at the Historic Townsite of Agate Bay" during the Minnesota Archaeological Society's spring 2008 lecture at 7:00 this evening at historic Fort Snelling. Admission is free. Call Debbie Pommer at 651-430-0137.

A LECTURE SERIES for teenage girls and their parents will continue with "Money Management: Watch How You Spend It" at 7:00 this evening in the Village View Room

at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. The series is hosted by Yolanda McIntosh, contributing author to *The Young Woman's Guide for Personal Success and Self Esteem and Empowerment for Women*. Call the St. Paul Public Library at 651-266-7000.

AN IN-DEPTH LOOK at the press coverage of presidential candidate Barack Obama will be presented at 6:00 this evening in the Klas Center at Hamline University. Guest speaker will be Catherine Squires, the inaugural John and Elizabeth Bates Cowles Professor of Journalism, Diversity and Equality at the University of Minnesota. Admission is free. Call 651-523-2423.

Wednesday/February 20

THE HAMLINE-MIDWAY HISTORY Corps Speaker Series will focus on the findings of a local archaeological dig at 7:00 this evening at the Hamline-Midway Library, 1558 Minnehaha Ave. Hamline University professor Brian Hoffman will share artifacts that were found last fall while unearthing the remains of the first Hamline United Methodist Church, which burned to the ground in a fire on Christmas Eve in 1925. Admission is free. Visit www.hamlinemidwayhistory.org.

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On the Town

Grand jeté

St. Paul Chamber Ballet makes the leap from school to company

BY JANET LUNDER HANAFIN

Despite the success of several small professional troupes, dance is arguably the rarest of art forms in the Twin Cities. The metro area has a host of highly regarded dance schools, but performance opportunities are limited and many of the region's most talented dancers find that they must leave the state to secure regular work and advance their careers.

The new Chamber Ballet of St. Paul aims to remedy that situation. An outgrowth of the St. Paul City Ballet school, the company's mission is to give dancers another reason to remain in Minnesota and, in the words of artistic director Phillip Carman, present local audiences with "ballet that leaves you invigorated."

"With St. Paul City Ballet's rapid growth and incredible talent pool, we were ready to take the next step—to form a company," said executive director Georgia Finnegan Amdahl.

"We have a strong school and a strong outreach program," she said. "The next step was to have a strong company of professional dancers that is not student-based. A chamber ballet is small, like a chamber orchestra. I thought the timing was appropriate for where we were as an organization."

St. Paul City Ballet is only seven years old, but it is a direct descendant of two venerable dance schools in St. Paul—the former St. Anthony Park School of Dance, founded in 1982, and the former Andahazy Ballet, founded in 1947.

Amdahl and Carman first discussed the possibility of creating a professional dance company last March. Auditions were held in the summer of 2007 and eight dancers were

selected for the troupe. The two men and six women will perform February 14-16 in the Chamber Ballet's debut program at the Fitzgerald Theater in downtown St. Paul.

Three of the dancers live in the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood—Claire Lane, Ross Edwards and Jennifer Rockwell.

Laine, a Central High School senior, is one of the most talented dancers to come out of St. Paul City Ballet's school at 1680 Grand Ave., where she has been studying since the age of 7. Laine has worked with Carman on other productions and has also attended summer programs at the Royal Ballet School in London as well as the Louisville Ballet of Kentucky.

"What I love about dance is that it's a physically demanding art form," said Laine, who plans to move on to a professional internship with the Louisville Ballet following her graduation from Central. "Dance is one of the purest art forms because your only instrument is your body."

Husband and wife Edwards and Rockwell met while they were students at the University of Massachusetts. Both had studied dance as youngsters and were cast as the leads in two ballets at U-Mass. "We spent all that time rehearsing together, got to know each other and fell in love," Edwards said. "It was very Hollywood."

Rather than pursue a career in dance, Edwards enrolled in 2004 in the doctoral program in political science at the University of Minnesota. They both teach ballet in the Twin Cities today, and Edwards also teaches choreography. When a fire destroyed their Minneapolis home, they moved to St. Paul, where at a local dance store they saw an advertisement for St. Paul City Ballet. Rockwell began taking classes at the school



St. Paul Chamber Ballet dancer Jennifer Rockwell rehearses for the company's debut.

and after she was offered a position with the new Chamber Ballet, Edwards was given a tryout as well.

The Chamber Ballet "helped to keep me going as we dealt with the tremendous emotional loss (of the house fire) and the hardship we had to go through," Rockwell said.

For the Chamber Ballet's debut, Carman has choreographed a diverse program ranging from the classical to the modern. Among its four numbers are "Nightmusic," a world premiere set to the music of Mozart; "Apres-midi d'un Faune," which is set to Debussy's impressionistic "Afternoon of a Faun"; "Coeur d'Amour," in which a trio of dancers explores passion and longing to a composition by Carl Orff; and "In the Moment," a contemporary work set to a medley of old film scores.

"The show doesn't conform to the idea of traditional ballet," Edwards said. "It explores ballet in a more robust sense. The choreography is very adventurous, very dynamic."

"We're trying to make it more theatrical,

so that the audience has the feeling of diversion," Carman said. "Two pieces have a bit of drama in the middle and a more contemporary flare, though it's still ballet. I think people will be pleased and maybe even a little surprised."

"These eight dancers are fabulous people," Finnegan Amdahl said, "beautiful dancers, beautiful inside. We're not dealing with divas."

"The dancers have worked extremely hard in every way," Carman added. "I feel there's a giant momentum going on. People don't think we're crazy for trying this."

Show times are 8:00 p.m. on Thursday and Friday and 2:00 and 8:00 p.m. Saturday at the Fitzgerald, 10 E. Exchange St. Tickets, priced at \$37.50 and \$47.50 for adults and \$27.50 for students and seniors, are available at the Fitzgerald box office (651-290-1221).

A group rate of \$22.50 is available for the evening show on February 16. The Chamber Ballet will also play host to a black-tie dinner on February 14 at the St. Paul Hotel. Dinner tickets are \$145 per person and include the performance at the Fitzgerald.



Dancer Andrew Lester (right) follows the lead of St. Paul Chamber Ballet artistic director Phillip Carman. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

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On the Town Briefly

Theater

Forty 7th through 12th-graders will perform the Broadway musical *Mama Mia!* February 7-10 at the Temple of Aaron, 616 S. Mississippi River Blvd. The curtain will rise at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, 6:30 p.m. Saturday and 12:30 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$7.00, \$5.00 for seniors and children. Call 651-698-8874.

Lisa Kron's 2006 Broadway hit *Well* is playing through February 10 at Park Square Theatre, 20 W. 7th Place. The hilarious, touching and utterly original comedy about a mother-daughter relationship stars Barbara June Patterson, Heidi Bakke, Faye Price, Edwin Strout and Emil Herrera. For show times and tickets, call 651-291-7005.

Imagine a meeting between Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X. Jeffrey P. Stetson's drama *The Meeting* does. Set in 1965, the play is running through February 15 at the History Theatre, 30 E. 10th St. Terry Bellamy, Darien Johnson, and Ashford J. Thomas star in this story about two giants of the civil rights movement, one who believes there will never be peace without justice and the other who believes there will never be justice without peace. The curtain rises at 10:00 a.m. February 5-8 and 12-15 and at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, February 7. Tickets are \$15. Call 651-292-4323.

Same Difference, the 2007 Fringe Festival hit by Samuel G. Roberson Jr. about two black men from very different backgrounds who share a college dorm room, will be performed February 8 through March 1 by the Illusion Theater in collaboration with Pillsbury House Theatre. Show times are 8:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 7:00 p.m. Sunday, and 7:30 p.m. Thursday from February 8 to 17 at the Illusion on the 8th floor at 528 Hennepin Ave. in Minneapolis. For tickets, priced at \$15-\$25, call 612-339-4944. The play then moves to

Pillsbury House at 3501 Chicago Ave. S. in Minneapolis for shows at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and 2:00 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, February 20 through March 1. For tickets, priced at \$13-\$18, call 612-825-0459.

Shakespeare's tragedy *Timon of Athens* will be read by all comers on Friday, February 8, in a free program sponsored by the Lex-Ham Community Theater. The reading will begin at 7:00 p.m. at 1184 Portland Ave. It will be preceded at 6:30 by a potluck supper. No registration is necessary; just bring a copy of the play and some food to share. Call 651-644-3366 for more information.

Music

The music of minimalist masters Glass, Adams and Reich will be performed February 7 and 9 by the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra. The program will feature Glass's Quartet No. 2, Adams' "Road Movies" and Reich's "Different Trains." The music begins at 8:00 p.m. Thursday and Saturday in the Music Room of the SPCO Center in the Hamm Building at 7th Place and St. Peter St. Tickets are \$10. Call 651-291-1144.

Italian composers and wanna-be composers of the Baroque era will be featured on Saturday, February 9, in a free concert sponsored by the Society for the Doctrinal Affection of Baroque Music. All teachers at the University of St. Thomas or the St. Paul Seminary, the performers include Christopher Kachian on mandolin and guitar, David Jenkins on organ and harpsichord, Paul Berget on viola da gamba and theorbo and historian Michelle Nordtorp-Madson. The music begins at 7:30 p.m. in St. Mary's Chapel at the seminary, 2260 Summit Ave.

Grammy Award-winning violinist Joshua Bell will be joined by pianist



Ian Miller portrays the charismatic young king in Theater in the Round's production of *Henry V*. Shakespeare's historical drama about loyalty, leadership, and the motives for war opens February 8 on the stage at 245 Cedar Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Show times are 8:00 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2:00 p.m. Sundays through March 2. Tickets are \$20. For reservations, call 612-333-3010. PHOTO BY ACT ONE, TOO

Jeremy Denk in a Schubert Club concert at 8:00 p.m. Saturday, February 9, at the Ordway. The program includes Tartini's Sonata for violin and continuo in G minor ("The Devil's Trill"), Prokofiev's Violin Sonata No. 1 in F minor, Dvorak's Four Romantic Pieces for Violin And Piano, and Saint-Saens' Sonata No. 1 for Violin and Piano in D minor. Call 651-224-4222.

The trumpet-piano duo of Charles Lazarus and Timothy Lovelace will perform classical chamber music in a free concert at 4:00 p.m. Sunday,

February 10, at Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 3045 Chicago Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Call 612-827-5919.

The Hill House Chamber Players will perform at 7:30 p.m. on Mondays, February 11 and 25, in the art gallery of the James J. Hill House, 240 Summit Ave. The quintet will play Bach's Sonata N. 1 in G Major for viola de gamba, Beethoven's String Trio in E-flat Major and B. Johanson's Two Cats Fugue for guitar and harpsichord. Tickets are \$16. Call 651-297-2555.

The JCC Symphony Orchestra,

under the baton of Joseph Schlefke, will present a free concert at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 13, at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. Opera singer Bryan Boyce will join the orchestra in a program that includes Mozart's Overture to *La Clemenza di Tito*, selections from Mendelssohn's "Elijah" and Schubert's Symphony No. 4 in C Minor ("Tragic"). Call 651-698-0751.

Conductor Christian Zacharias has thrown Chopin's Romanticism into relief with Stravinsky's sharp wit and Bizet's irresistible symphony in a program he has planned February 14-16 with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra. Zacharias will also play piano in the 8:00 p.m. concerts at the Ordway, which will include Stravinsky's Dances Concertantes, Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 2 in F Minor and Bizet's Symphony No. 1 in C. For ticket information, call 651-291-1144.

"Hammers, Pipes, and Bells," compositions by Macalester College visiting professor Christopher Gable performed by Gable, fellow Professor Mark Mazullo and the Sax Ladies, will be featured at 8:00 p.m. Friday, February 15, in the Concert Hall of Macalester's Fine Arts Center. The free recital will also present St. Paul's Zeitgeist ensemble in the world premiere of "Treble Bob Marley." Call 651-696-6808.

The Minnesota Sinfonia will present a free concert at 7:00 p.m. Friday, February 15, in the auditorium of Metropolitan State University, 700 E. 7th St. The program includes "Meditation" from *Thais* by Jules Massenet, "Passione Amorosa" by Giovanni Bottesini and "Prayer" by Ernest Bloch.

Works by Richard Strauss, Max Reger and Johannes Brahms will be performed by the Musical Offering on Sunday, February 17, in Sundin Hall at Hamline University, 1531

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Hewitt Ave. The 3:00 p.m. program will feature Strauss' Sextet from Capriccio for Strings, Reger's Quintet for Clarinet and Strings and Brahms' Sextet for Strings. Tickets are \$15, \$12 for seniors, \$5.00 for students. Call 651-523-2459.

Duke Ellington's music and the impact it had on jazz in general will be explored in VocalEssence's annual Witness concert on Sunday, February 17. Philip Brunelle will conduct a program that features a big-band orchestra, the VocalEssence Chorus and Ensemble Singers, baritone Dennis Spears, pianist Sanford Moore and sound-effects master Tom Keith helping to re-enact the radio program that made Ellington famous. A concert preview will be offered at 3:00 p.m. The show will follow at 4:00. For tickets, priced at \$20-\$35, call 651-224-4222.

Sing along to music of the Renaissance in a free program presented by the local Rose Ensemble at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 19, at the St. Anthony Park Library, 2245 Como Ave. Call 651-222-3242.

Dance

Garth Fagan Dance, *The Lion King* choreographer Garth Fagan's troupe from Rochester, New York, known for its precision, versatility and originality, will perform at 7:30 p.m. Friday February 8, in the Main Hall of the Ordway. A World Party will precede the show at 5:00 p.m. Tickets are \$14 to \$20, half that for children age 17 and under. Call 651-224-4222.

"Dance Revolutions," dance that pushes the limits by celebrated postmodern choreographers Bebe Miller, Morgan Thorson, Karen Sherman, Nathan Trice and Trisha Brown, will be performed February 8-10 by the University of Minnesota Dance Theatre. Show times are 8:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday in Whiting Proscenium Theatre at Rarig Center, 330 21st Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Tickets are \$8.00 to \$16. Call 612-624-2345.

Exhibits

Come in out of the out of the cold and stroll among vibrant azaleas, cyclamen, veltheimia and amaryllis during the Winter Flower Show now through mid-March in the Sunken Garden of the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory in Como Park. Admission is by donation from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily. Artists and photographers are invited to set up tripods and easels and work between 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, February 10, at a cost of \$5.00 per person.

Pages from the St. John's Bible, a recent project of St. John's Abbey in Collegeville and the first handwritten and illuminated Bible produced since the Middle Ages, are on view through March 7 at Central Presbyterian Church, 500 Cedar St. 651-224-4728.

"A Lens on the World," featuring 46 photographs taken by University of St. Thomas students studying abroad over the past 25 years, is on view through March 21 in the Lobby Gallery of the O'Shaughnessy Educational Center on campus. A reception will be held at 4:00 p.m. Thursday, February 14. Call 651-962-5560.

"The Enemy Within," an examination of the events in 232 years of U.S. history when Americans were threatened within their borders, is on view through May 4 at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. Revolution, sabotage, assassination, ethnic and racial hatred, subversion, violent protests and political extremism are all studied along with the government's response. Historian Annette Atkins and curator Patrick Coleman will discuss the times Minnesotans lived in a state of fear at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 12. Admission

is \$8.00, \$6.00 for seniors and students, \$4.00 for children ages 6-17. Call 651-250-3000.

Paintings by Mary Hark and screen prints by Karl Bethke influenced by their travels in Ghana and South Africa, respectively, are featured in an exhibit opening February 8 in the gallery of the Fine Arts Center at Macalester College. A reception will be held from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on that Friday.

"Living with Good Design," an exploration of influential 20th century designer Russell Wright's prolific output in housewares, furniture and fabric, will open with a reception from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Friday, February 8, at the University of Minnesota's Goldstein Museum of Design, 1985 Buford Ave. Curator Robert Stearns will speak. The exhibit will remain on view through April 20. Carol Franklin of the architectural firm of Andropogon Associates of Philadelphia will speak on the landscape architecture of Manitoga, Wright's home in upstate New York, at 5:45 p.m. Monday, February 11, in Room 100 of Rapson Hall, 89 Church St. SE. in Minneapolis. Call 612-624-7434.

The science of cartoons, from concept to finished product, is explored in "Animation," a 6,000-square-foot exhibit that opens February 9 at the Science Museum of Minnesota. Large displays, a video screening room and a cartoon museum will tell of the evolution of cartoons. Hands-on activities will convey the related principles of physics, geometry, perception and illusion. Visitors can try out a praxinoscope or an old-fashioned mutoscope, develop their own storyboard, enlarge their drawings using a pantograph, create scenes with layered cels and moving backgrounds, and experiment with time-lapse videos and audio recordings. Call 651-221-9444.

"Paradise Lost," an exhibit on the effect that global warming could have on the north woods of Minnesota, will be displayed February 16 through April 11 in the Bell Museum of Natural History, 17th and University avenues in Southeast Minneapolis. An opening reception from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 16, will include a presentation by Dolly Ledin and David Mladenoff. Fore tickets, call 612-624-9050.

Rare American Indian art and crafts will be displayed February 15 through April 13 at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. The exhibit includes 40 of the nearly 500 pieces included in the collection of 19th-century Episcopal missionary Bishop Henry Whipple. It highlights the extraordinary range and beauty of the objects as well as Whipple's role as religious leader, government representative and collector. Admission is \$8.00, \$6.00 for seniors and students, \$4.00 for children ages 6-17. Call 651-259-3000.

Books

The Fireside Literary Series, featuring free readings by Minnesota authors, has returned to the Hamline-Midway Library, 1558 Minnehaha Ave. The series includes American Indian author Lise Erdrich and her first collection of stories, *Night Train*, on Thursday, February 7; photographer Wing Young Huie and his new book, *Looking for Asian America: An Ethnocentric Tour*, Thursday, February 14; and poet Sun Yung Shin and *Skirt Full of Black*, Thursday, February 21. All programs begin at 7:00 p.m. and include free coffee and cookies.

Chew on This: Everything You Don't Want to Know about Fast Food by Eric Schlosser and Charles Wilson will be discussed on February 9 by Teens and Tweens, a reading group for youths that meets at 2:00 p.m. every other Saturday at the Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy. The young readers will discuss *The Uglies* by Scott Westerfeld on February 23. Call 651-266-7029.



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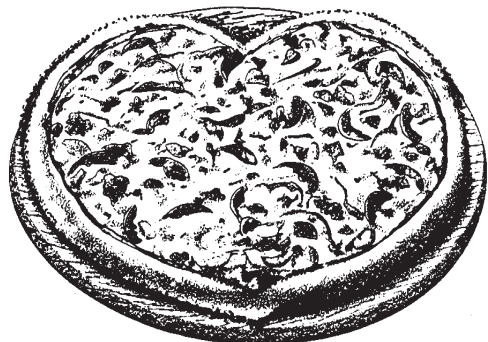
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From Stone to Living Word, a new book that revisits the Bible with wonder, curiosity and imagination, will be discussed by local author and Pastor Debbie Blue at the Virginia Street Swedenborgian Church, 170 Virginia St. Sponsored by Common Good Books, the event is free.

Poets Susan Deborah King and Leslie Adrienne Miller will read from their work at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 19, at the University Club, 420 Summit Ave. King has published three collections of poetry, including *One-Breasted Woman*. Miller's fifth book of poems is *The Resurrection Trade*, about the misunderstanding of women's bodies through history. Ramsey Hill author Carol Connolly emcees the free program. An optional dinner is served at 5:00 p.m. Call 651-222-1751.

Film

Operation Thunderbolt, a 1977 film based on the true story of a hijacked Air France jet and Israeli commandos rescue of Jewish hostages in Uganda, will be shown at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 12, at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. Admission is \$6.00. Call 651-698-0751.

Not for Sale and *So Deep a Violence*, two short films that shatter myths about prostitution and the sex trade, will be shown at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 13, at the Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy. Angela Bortel, an attorney for Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights, will lead a discussion after the free screening. Call 651-222-3242.

Family

Preschool children can learn what it's like to live in the Arctic from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. Thursday, February 7, at the Bell Museum of Natural History, 17th and University avenues in Southeast Minneapolis. From 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Saturday, February 9, at the Bell, kids will make a multi-sensory animal habitat that they can take home. Both programs are free with museum admission (\$5.00, \$3.00 for seniors and children ages 3-16). Registration is required for the Thursday program. Call 612-624-9050.

Almost to Freedom, a play about the life of a slave in the American South and the escape offered by the Underground Railroad to the North, will open February 8 at SteppingStone Theatre, 55 N. Victoria St. Adapted from the book by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson, the story is told through the eyes of the rag doll of an African-American girl. Show times are 7:00 p.m. Friday, 2:00 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, and 10:00 a.m. and noon Tuesdays through Thursdays through March 2. Tickets are \$11.00, \$9.00 for seniors and children ages 2-17. Call 651-225-9265.

Winter Ice Follies, featuring horse-drawn hayrides, outdoor games and art activities, prizes and free hot dogs and cider, will be served up on Saturday, February 9, by the Minneapolis Public Schools and Park and Recreation Board. The free event will run from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at Matthews Park, 2318 28th Ave. S. in Minneapolis.

"MN150 Family Matinee," a variety show celebrating the 150th anniversary of Minnesota, will run from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, February 9, at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. Singer Bruce A. Henry, ageless St. Paul saxophonist Irv Williams, guitarist Dean McGraw and the teenage band Road Crew from the School of Rock will perform. Comedienne Beth Gilleland will tell of growing up in Minnesota. Admission is \$15, \$12 for children. For information, call 651-259-3015.

A free Young Person's Concert will be presented on Sunday, February 10, by the St. Paul Civic Symphony under the direction of Jeffrey Stirling. The music begins at 3:00 p.m. in the Concert Hall of the Fine Arts Center at Macalester College. Staff from the local ArtStart store will lead arts and crafts activities beginning at 2:00 p.m.

Red Balloon Bookshop, 891 Grand Ave., will play host to a Valentine card workshop with artist Mary Holland at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, February 9; an Animal Ark program on critters in need at 3:00 p.m. and *Hug Time* author-illustrator Patrick McDonnell at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, February 10; William Durbin and his teen novel *The Winter War*, 6:30 p.m. Friday, February 15; and African-American music by bassist Rolf Erdahl and oboist Carrie Vecchione, 10:30 a.m. Saturday, February 16.

Lap-Sit Storytime, a free 20-minute program of stories, flannel boards, songs and puppet and finger plays for young listeners infant to 18 months of age, is offered at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesdays at the Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy. Call 651-266-7029.

Como Park Zoo and Conservatory will present a three-day Kid's Fest February 16-18 with crafts, scavenger hunts and interactive stations staffed by Como zookeepers and gardeners. Also, the baby giraffe born at Como last fall will be named in a ceremony. The event runs from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturday through Monday. Call 651-487-8200.

"Mysteries in the Mud," an interactive exhibit on how climate change helped form Minnesota's Big Woods and the effect it could have in the future, will open on February 16 at the Bell Museum of Natural History, 17th and University avenues in Southeast Minneapolis. Admission is \$5.00, \$3.00 for seniors and children ages 3-16, free for children under age 3 and everyone else on Sundays. Call 612-624-7083.

Etc.

Lectures in art history will be offered from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. on upcoming Sundays at the College of Visual Arts, 344 Summit Ave. "Julie L'Enfant: The Impressionist Circle" will be addressed February 10. "Doryun Chong: Political Responsibility in Contemporary Art" will be discussed February 17. Admission is \$10. Call 651-224-3416.

Music, poetry and theater in honor of the icons in African-American history will be presented at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, February 16, in Sundin Hall at Hamline University, 1531 Hewitt Ave. Performers include Trena Bolden Fields and Yolanda Williams and Hamline students and staff. Admission is free. Call 651-523-2423.

"Scottish Ramble," two days of music, dancing, history, literature, crafts and refreshment from the bonny hills of Scotland, will be offered February 16 and 17 at Landmark Center. The festival will run from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturday and noon to 4:00 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$5.00, \$3.00 for seniors and children ages 5 and older. Call 651-292-3276.

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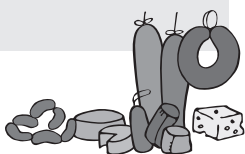
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Sports



The Wright Call

By Dave Wright

A genius for marketing, if not trading, players

New Minnesota Twins general manager Bill Smith has a knack for marketing—a rarity for a Major League Baseball GM. But then, Smith used to be a minor league GM, and a minor league GM is a marketer more than anything else. He or she has to be able to sell the off-field product first, because for many minor league teams, the on-field product is secondary. Selling advertisers on the team is often more important than selling fans.

So perhaps it shouldn't be a surprise that Smith would pick a cold day in late January to announce that Justin Morneau and Mike Cuddyer had signed multi-year contracts and will likely be around when the team moves into its new stadium in downtown Minneapolis in 2010. If the Twins wanted to market their top sluggers, they couldn't have done better than to sign them to long contracts the day before the annual Twinsfest. The twin signing not only dominated the news cycle, it gave people another reason to get out of the house and go down to the Metrodome and pay 12 bucks to get a few autographs. By coincidence, I'm sure, that weekend was also the first chance Twins fans had to buy single-game tickets.

Accordingly, on what normally would have been a bleak and barren Saturday afternoon, the corner of 4th and Chicago was buzzing. Before the weekend was over, more than 31,000 fans had streamed through the Metrodome's turnstiles. Without the contract signings, the number might have been closer to 20,000.

A young man who was giving tours of the Twins' locker room was asked if there was suddenly more interest in seeing Morneau's and Cuddyer's summer "home."

"Quite a bit," he replied.

How about Johan Santana's?

"Didn't come up much," he said.

The news about Santana came a few days later. Smith, who has been wheeling and dealing like the reincarnation of Frank Lane, shipped Santana to the Mets for four young faces, only one of whom is expected to be a regular member of the Twins' lineup this summer. As a result, it'll be a few years before we know if this deal works out. Meanwhile, the signing of Morneau and Cuddyer should sell plenty of tickets this season.

A trade like Santana's, when the Twins' hand has been forced by the economics of small-market baseball, has worked out before. In fact, the Twins have been one of the best teams at that kind of trading. But when you deal away a two-time Cy Young Award winner for four relative unknowns—no matter what their potential—it can be a marketing wet blanket. Smith appears to be more aware of that fact than his predecessor, Terry Ryan, and succeeded in spinning the news to his advantage. There has been some disappointment over the Santana deal, but many more fans appear relieved that the team has signed some stars. And with Santana headed to the National League, the loss won't be

WRIGHT CALL ► 35

Balanced attack

Solem's all-around skills give Sibley gymnastics a lift

BY BILL WAGNER

For such an outstanding high school gymnast, Cecily "Cece" Solem's career didn't have what you'd call an auspicious beginning. When she was 3 years old, her mother and aunt took her to a beginning gymnastics class at a private club.

"I didn't want to go," said Solem, who is currently ranked as the metro area's best high school gymnast on the balance beam. "They had to bribe me to go in. They finally dragged me in, but they had to tell me I could go to McDonald's after practice. But you know what? I really enjoyed myself."

Solem has come a long way since then. By the time she was 12, she had won the all-around and all four events at Gleason's Gymnastic School in Eagan. Two years later, she won the club's all-around as a Level 8 gymnast.

This year, the Henry Sibley High junior joined her school's gymnastics team for the first time. "I was a little concerned at first," Solem said, "but it's been a great season and a lot of fun."

Sibley co-coach Janelle Borgen said Solem has fit in well this year for the Warriors, who finished the season undefeated in Classic Suburban Conference competition and are now feeling good about their chances for post-season success. "All the girls have accepted Cecily very well and she's been a good teammate," Borgen said. "Cecily is a great gymnast and she's fun to watch. In her floor routine, she smiles the whole time."

Solem has carved out an impressive list of personal bests in her first year of prep gymnastics. She has set school records in the vault (9.725) and balance beam (9.875). Her all-around mark of 38.65 was ranked third best in the metro area as of last week. And she owns a 9.65 in the floor exercise and a 9.55 in the uneven parallel bars, just shy of the school record set by Samantha Howard two years ago.

Despite her high scores, Solem said she has to overcome extreme nervousness before competing. She said she works through her jitters with a first bold move—for example, a back flip on the beam.

"It's just something that I have to work around," she said. "My coaches are really good about helping me with my ner-



Sibley junior CeCe Solem shows the form that has made her one of the top-scoring prep gymnasts in the metro area this winter. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

vousness. They (Borgen and co-coach Melanie Poach) have very positive attitudes."

Borgen is optimistic about Solem's continued improvement and Solem agrees with her coach. "I've made a few changes since I started in high school," Solem said. "I feel more confident now."

Still, she is looking to upgrade her performances and talks of bettering her floor exercise "with better tumbling runs," she said.

Not surprisingly, her favorite event is the beam, an event she has a good chance of winning at state. "I was a little scared of the beam when I was younger, but not anymore," she said.

Borgen said she could watch Solem's

beam routine anytime. "It's gorgeous," she said.

Despite her sterling numbers, Solem knows she is just part of a team. "The ones I look up to are the captains (seniors Mari Bennett, Jamie Peterson and Ali Vandercook)," she said. "We all pull for each other."

Sibley will host the Classic Suburban Conference meet at 6:00 p.m. Thursday, February 7. The Section 3AA meet will be held on Friday, February 15, at Apple Valley High School. The state gymnastics meet will be held on Friday and Saturday, February 22-23, at Roy Wilkins Auditorium. The last time the Warriors were there was in 1989. They hope to be there again this year.

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500 wins and counting, UST's Fritz has a 'nose for the game'

BY BRIAN JOHNSON

It's safe to say that Steve Fritz has left his mark on the University of St. Thomas men's basketball program. The Tommies have won 1,426 games since the school began keeping track of such things in 1904. Fritz had a hand in more than half of those wins as a player, assistant coach or head coach.

One of the most memorable wins came on January 21 when the Tommies defeated arch-rival St. John's 71-58 to give Fritz his 500th career victory as head coach. He is only the 12th active Division III men's coach to reach that milestone.

For St. Thomas fans and alumni, it was a reason to celebrate. But for Fritz, it was a time to reflect.

"What you're most thankful for is to be able to be in a profession you like and be able to accomplish things like this in one place, and with a great institution like St. Thomas," he said. "It really makes it special."

Fritz's association with St. Thomas dates to 1967, when he arrived on campus as a freshman student athlete. Four years later, he closed out his playing days with 1,944 career points (second all-time in the UST's history) and 915 rebounds (third all-time).

He went on to serve as an assistant to legendary UST head coach Tom Feely, and took over after Feely retired in 1980.

Fritz has also held several administrative positions at St. Thomas, including director of admissions, and became athletic director in 1992. However, he continues to be best known as the Tommies' men's basketball coach.



Steve Fritz holds a commemorative ball and absorbs applause from the home crowd on January 21 after earning his 500th career victory as the University of St. Thomas men's basketball coach. PHOTO BY MIKE EKERN/UST

Fritz took a 503-236 career coaching record into the Tommies' February 2 game at Carleton. Along with those 503 wins, he has logged 12 MIAC Conference championships, two NCAA Division III Sweet Sixteen appearances (1990 and 1993) and one Final Four berth (1994).

A 12-time MIAC and three-time NCAA West Region coach of the year, Fritz is the third-winningest MIAC men's basketball coach of all time, trailing only Jim Smith of St. John's and Joe Hutton of Hamline.

What is his secret to longevity and success on the hard court? It certainly helps to know a thing or two about coaching, but Fritz said a lot of good things have to happen to reach 500 wins.

"You have to have good players and we've had a lot of good players," he said. "And you have to have good coaches. I've been lucky enough to have a lot of good assistant coaches, too. If you have good people doing good things, you're going to get good results."

St. Thomas baseball coach Dennis Denning said Fritz is a fixture at UST sporting events, whether it's a basketball game, a hockey game or a swim meet.

"He knows his stuff," said Denning, who was hired by Fritz and has known him since the two were college classmates. "He has a passion for basketball and is real good with the players and his coaches. He has a great sense of humor and he's a great guy to work for. St. Thomas is lucky to have him."

Terry McMahon, a longtime friend and former college teammate of Fritz's, recalled playing against Fritz's Rochester Lourdes team in a Catholic school state championship game in the 1960s. McMahon played for Cretin.

"They beat us in the state championship game by one point, and I didn't care too much for him then," McMahon said with a laugh. "He was an unbelievable competitor. In college, you knew if you got the ball to Steve he was going to score. He worked so hard and was so effective. He was an incredible center."

As a coach, Fritz has "a good nose for the game," McMahon added. "He knows what it takes to win. He has a memory like an elephant. He can watch a film on an opponent and design a good defense against it. And during the game, if he takes a time out, he'll remember what they did on that film and will be able to adjust. He was a math major in college and I can see why."

Fritz, whose team was 15-3 overall and 11-2 in the MIAC after a win over Hamline on January 30, said he isn't sure how much longer he'll coach. He still enjoys it, but admits that thoughts of hanging it up enter his mind more often than they did 10 years ago.

Chances are, when he does pass the torch, he will have few if any regrets.

"You go in hoping that maybe you can do this for five years," he said. "It really grows on you, but it goes by pretty quickly when you get to this point. Now you look back and wonder what else you could've done and got that kind of enjoyment out of life."

Little League fields given clean bill of environmental health

BY JANE MCCLURE

Play ball!" will once again be heard this spring at the Highland Little League fields—and not just because of the returning warmth. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has proclaimed the ball fields clean following a battery of environmental tests by the MPCA and Arcadis, an environmental consulting firm hired by Ford Motor Company.

The ball fields at Cleveland and Montreal avenues were laid out in 1954 on land that

Ford continues to own adjacent to its Twin Cities Assembly Plant. The fields were closed last August after low levels of arsenic, copper and iron were found in soil tests that are being carried out as Ford proceeds with its plan to shut down the plant and sell the property. That forced the Little League to relocate its autumn baseball and softball programs.

"Ford took a cautious and proactive step in closing down the Little League fields," said Mike Maierle of Arcadis.

Over the past few months, dozens of surface and subsurface soil borings were taken

and analyzed. Two temporary groundwater wells were also dug and the water was analyzed. The test results showed that the low levels of arsenic, copper and iron are similar to the levels that occur naturally in soil and are safe for recreational use.

"Ford will restore the fields and reopen them in the spring," Maierle said.

More than 750 children on close to 60 Highland Little League and Hi-Tower Babe Ruth teams used the fields last spring and summer.

St. Paul City Council member Pat Harris,

who played on the fields as a boy, praised Ford for its quick response to the pollution concerns.

The good news about the fields was presented at a January 28 meeting at Lumen Christi Catholic Church that was held to review the progress of the ongoing environmental testing that is taking place at the Ford plant. Much of the testing will have to wait until 2009 when the plant is scheduled to close and the buildings themselves and the ground beneath them can be investigated for contamination.

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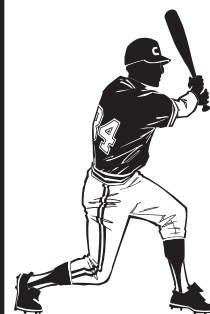
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Kelly Wild has returned to the Raider lineup after a gold-medal run last month with the U.S. Women's National Under-18 Team. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Team USA play puts CDH senior defender Kelly Wild on new level

BY BILL WAGNER

At 5-foot-2, Cretin-Derham Hall senior defender Kelly Wild looks as if she might have trouble standing up against a stiff wind. Opposing hockey players know differently. Wild, a starter for the Raiders' girls' hockey team since she was a freshman, is magic on skates with a stick in her hand and she knows what's going on all over the ice.

"All of her skills—her skating speed, her puck control, her passing, her vision of the rink—are tremendous," said CDH co-coach Steve Williams. "For sure, she's one of the best defenders in the state and one of the fastest skaters I've ever seen."

One of the things that impresses Williams the most is the way Wild secures the puck. "If you were to put Kelly and another player in a closet, the other player would never get the puck from her," he said. "She knows how to protect the puck with her body, and she does it very well."

Wild, a Mendota Heights resident who has committed to play for Ohio State University next year, missed the early part of the season with her CDH teammates to compete in international play. She was a member of the U.S. Women's National Under-18 Team that captured the gold medal at the inaugural International Ice Hockey Federation World Women's U18 Championships on January 12 in Calgary, Alberta. Team USA was a major surprise, taking the title with a 5-2 victory over heavily favored Canada and going undefeated in five games during the tournament.

Wild loved the international competition, which she feels will prepare her well for college play. She also loved being part of a scrappy team that overachieved. "That (title) game was crazy," she said. "There were 3,000 fans there, mostly Canadian. I think we caught them by surprise. Our speed was the key for us. We forced a couple of turnovers, and before we knew it, we were up 4-0."

Wild returned to the CDH lineup just a few days after Team USA's championship victory,

and Williams couldn't help but notice that the international play had put her on another level. "She just gets better and better," he said.

Wild's accurate shot, along with her speed and ability to set up her teammates, has made her a natural backliner, even though as a forward her scoring numbers might have been greater. She has averaged about 30 points a season for the Raiders, who were 9-10-3 overall and 5-7-2 in the Suburban East Conference as of January 29.

Williams said he needs Wild back on the blue line to set the team's forwards in motion coming out of the defensive zone. "She's the key to our power play," he said, adding that Wild is rarely caught out of position on defense. "She doesn't get beat because she's so quick," he said.

Wild said she decided to attend Ohio State after visiting the campus last fall and meeting her future teammates and coach Jackie Barto. She will also have some local company with the Buckeyes. Brittany Carlson, a fellow CDH defender, will be joining her in Columbus next season.

Wild comes from a family of athletes. Her father Bill, a Mendota Heights dentist, used to play hockey at St. Thomas Academy. Sister Laura is a former CDH hockey player who is now a senior player for St. Olaf College. Sister Katie also went to CDH, was a gymnast at the University of Illinois and now attends dental school. Sister Chrissy was a gymnast and hockey player for Henry Sibley and is now a law student. And brother Dan played hockey and is now a sophomore at the University of Minnesota-Duluth. Kelly is also considering studying dentistry at Ohio.

Though she is looking forward to her future college career, Wild said there is still some unfinished business to attend to at CDH, where she is a three-time all-conference selection and was the team's most valuable player last season.

"We made it to state when I was a freshman, but we haven't been back since," she said. "It would be good to go out on a high note."

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quite as painful. Out of sight, out of mind.

The Morneau-Cuddyer signing managed to keep one other unsavory news item in the background: The new Twins stadium is already \$10 million over its budget of \$390 million. "It's because of a lot of different items, not any one thing," Twins president Jerry Bell told the Associated Press. "But we're committed to this design, and we don't want to change it. So it means we'll pay a little more."

Perhaps.

At this point, it doesn't appear the Twins' 2008 lineup will be able to contend with Detroit's and Cleveland's for the Central Division title. That doesn't mean the team won't be interesting. But what transpired in the days before and after Twinsfest might give us a hint as to why a respected veteran baseball man like Ryan retired as the Twins' GM last fall.

By his own admission, Ryan was a lousy marketer. And the way Major League Baseball is headed, marketing is taking precedence more and more over the on-field product.

Farewell, Dr. C, and thanks

Joe Connors was 93 years old and probably more than ready to leave us when he died on January 26. The professor emeritus of English at the University of St. Thomas, author and historian had given us all the lessons he had to teach, or so I thought.

To those of us who attended St. Thomas in the 1950s, '60s, '70s and '80s, he was Dr. Connors, the professor who demanded—and got—much more from us than we knew we were capable of giving. Dr. Connors' never talked down to his students. When you sat with him in his office, he would listen to you and then suggest working together to solve the problem.

Dr. Connors did more than inspire good writing from his students. He insisted that we consider the consequences of what we write. "You can't say you were misquoted or misunderstood when it's on paper," he'd say. "Think before you write."

Dr. Connors had a passion for history, Sherlock Holmes and proper English. When I told him one day that I wanted to be a sportswriter, he told me to head to the library. "You need to start reading Red Smith in the *New York Times*," he said. "Red Smith does more with 800 words than most people do who write twice as long."

Another day, Dr. Connors brought in a Don Riley sports column from the *St. Paul*



Dr. Joe Connors

Pioneer Press. It was vintage Riley, full of invective intended to needle Packer fans. "I have no idea if anything he writes is true," Dr. Connors said with a grin, "but this is a good example of how to be provocative and entertaining at the same time."

Dr. Connors' biggest vice was probably golf. One day at the Highland 18-hole course, I ran into him. He had hit into the rough on my hole and I had done the same on his.

"Still swinging wildly I see, Mr. Wright," he said. "It's a habit of yours, isn't it?"

He was smiling as he spoke, and I appreciated the attention.

I once asked him why he had been so hard on me and the other journalism majors in his class.

"I knew where your passions lay, so I never minded our little disagreements," he replied. "It wasn't my job to be your friend. You wanted to make writing your career, and it was my job to get you ready for it. A lot of those other students were in my class because they had to be. Still, I gave them the respect they gave me."

I don't remember if I ever thanked Dr. Connors for his efforts. Better late than never, I suppose. Come to think of it, I just remembered a few other former teachers I haven't talked to for quite a while.

Good teachers never stop teaching.

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

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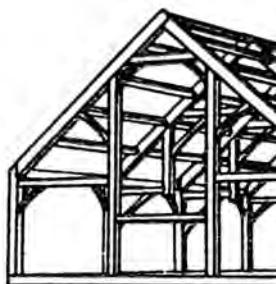
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