

Tis the season Grand Meander heralds the height of holiday shopping. See second section.



Santas & sinners Randy Latimer unwraps her version of a Claus with flaws.



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St. Paul makes certain Y2K message hits home

Efforts include emergency dispatch centers, blanketing city with mailing

by Jane McClure

When St. Paul Mayor Norm Coleman encourages city residents to get ready for New Year's Eve, he is not talking about stocking up on champagne, party hats and noisemakers.

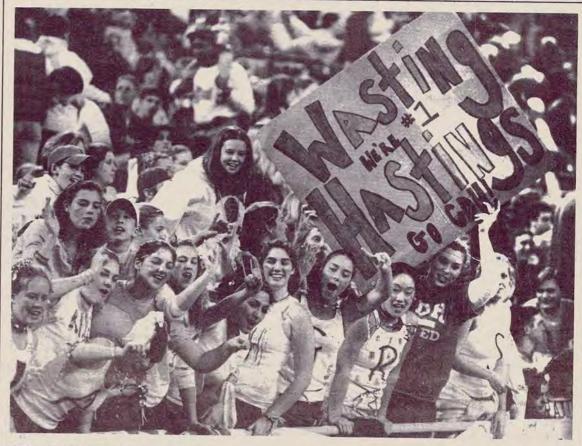
The mayor is publicizing the city's efforts to address the potential loss of services and other problems that may occur as a result of the Y2K computer bug. In mid-November, the city mailed out 125,000 brochures to St. Paul households urging residents to prepare for the year 2000 as if it were an impending natural disaster. The brochures include information on the do's and don'ts of Y2K preparedness, checklists for gathering supplies and where to go for help in an emergency in case the phones are not working.

The city is also publicizing its need for about 40 volunteers to help staff emergency communication sites that will be set up throughout the city from 9:00 p.m. on December 31 to 5:00 a.m. on New Year's Day. The volunteers will be paired with city employees. Training sessions will be conducted on Decem-

A total of 73 sites will be set up, including over a dozen in the Villager's coverage area. The sites are intended to give residents a place to go if they have an emergency and cannot call 911. Each site will be hooked up to the city's emergency dispatch center.

The Y2K problem originated in the 1950s and '60s when early computer system programs were written. Programmers saved costly

Y2K/see page 2



'Go Raiders.' Cretin-Derham Hall fans cheer their team on to the Class AAAAA state high school championship at the Metrodome. It was the first time in tournament history that a St. Paul school has won the state football title. For the complete story, see page 47. Photo by Brad Stauffer.

Museum brings visitors ever closer to world around them

by Catherine Condon

James Peterson stood beneath a replica of the flying reptile Quetzalcoatlus in the lobby of the new Science Museum of Minnesota. "It's the largest living thing that's ever flown," said Peterson of the beast, whose 35-foot wingspan darkened the Earth's skies some 60 million years ago.

The life-size rendition of Quetzalcoatlus is suspended before a 65-foot-high glass wall on the Kellogg Boulevard side of the new museum. "At night, it's lit up so that it casts a shadow," said Peterson, the president of the museum since 1984. "The changing lights ac-

tually make it look like it's moving. It's a neat kind of showcase."

"Showcase" might better describe the 93year-old museum's new building, a 370,000square-foot structure encased in 37,000 square feet of windows. The \$99.6 million museum, which opens on December 11, boasts five exhibit halls, the first convertible dome-screen Omnitheater in the United States, and one of only 10 three-dimensional multimedia laser theaters in the world. Ten acres of outdoor terraces and parks are available for picnics, programs and exhibits.

The new museum, which was designed by the Minneapolis architectural firm Ellerbe

Becket, has not one, but two "front doors," as Peterson likes to refer to them—one off of Kellogg and the other on the lower level facing the river. "Connection was a big criteria in the design of the museum—to make sure that we were connected to downtown and that the riverfront was connected to us," Peterson said. Contributing to that link is the new 145-step glass-enclosed stairway running from Kellogg to the river flats below.

Peterson and his wife, Susan, the senior pastor at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Highland Park, have lived in Summit Hill since 1985. A native of Red Wing, he graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College in 1964

with a degree in biology and earned a Ph.D. in entomology at the University of Nebraska.

Peterson taught high school, worked as a research associate and ecologist and served as director and vice president of the Academy of Natural Sciences' Division of Limnology and Ecology before taking over the helm of the Science Museum. Under his leadership, the museum added a paleontology hall, played host to numerous notable traveling exhibits and has come to be recognized as the most popular museum attraction in the Upper

Science Museum/see page 5

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tradition of giving small businesses their start20 **SNELLING-HAMLINE HOPES** to join the ranks

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of St. Paul neighborhoods banning new billboards ... 22

PREP COACHES SIZE UP their teams' respective strengths in girls basketball and boys hockey

Shepard-Davern's guiding hand

Hearing does little to settle dispute over building heights, setbacks

by Jane McClure

Acrimonious disputes continue over new building heights and setback restrictions in the Shepard-Davern area of Highland Park.

The St. Paul Planning Commission held a public hearing on a new zoning overlay district and design guidelines for that area on November 19. The guidelines address building heights, setbacks, landscaping, building materials, signs and other design features. They

are meant to supplement the larger Shepard-Davern Gateway Small Area Plan, which the City Council adopted

The new zoning and design guidelines will go back to the commission for approval on December 3. The City Council will hold a hearing on the matter on December 8 and expects to adopt the guidelines by year's end.

One of the main points of contention involves building heights. Much of the Shepard-Davern area lies within the

Mississippi River Corridor, where building heights have been restricted to 40 feet since the 1980s. The Highland District Council, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff and Friends of the Parks and Trails want to see the height restrictions remain and are using city, state and federal restrictions on redevelopment along the Mississippi River to press their case.

"This is a protected area," said High-

Shepard-Davern/see page 2

Y2K battle plan includes combating delays in phone service/from page 1

computer memory by abbreviating years in two digits, such as "99" for 1999. Some of that computer programming has continued to this day. When the year 2000 starts, systems using a two-digit date will record the year as "00," which could cause computers to fail or malfunction.

St. Paul has spent about \$2.2 million in planning and simulation testing of equipment to get ready for and detect any potential problems as the result of Y2K. A full contingent of police and firefighters will be ready and waiting to deal with any potential problems on New Year's Eve. All staff vacations have been canceled for New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

The city also has urged district councils and block clubs to make plans for their own neighborhoods and to encourage people to look out for one another in case any problems arise. Many volunteer organizations also are

seeking individuals to help staff shelters, deliver supplies and provide other support. Information is available by calling the Red Cross at 651-291-6707 or the Salvation Army at 651-771-0015.

City officials said they are not hearing overwhelming worries about Y2K. According to Sean Kershaw of the St. Paul Department of Planning and Economic Development, those who seem to be the most concerned are senior citizens and members of the Southeast Asian community. The city has been working to get additional information out to those groups.

City meetings also have been held with utilities and the local business community. At a November 17 press conference, Coleman stressed that the city needs to be prepared, but residents have no need to fear. "The water will run and the power will be on," he said.

Still, he said the city may experience some

problems, especially with the telephone system. Coleman, St. Paul public safety officials and US West are asking everyone to refrain from using their phones unless absolutely necessary between 11:00 p.m. on December 31 and 1:00 p.m. on January 1.

The concern is that many people will want to wish a friend or family member a happy New Year or will simply be picking up the phone to see if there is still a dial tone. Such innocent acts could overwhelm the phone system, which would create life-threatening situations in the event of a real emergency.

The brochure that was sent to St. Paul homes suggests that residents make copies of important documents and personal family records, and that they know what assets they have in banks. The city is not recommending that anyone withdraw large amounts of money from banks, but that they make sure they have some cash on hand over the New

Year's weekend. A check with area banks shows that they have all completed their Y2K preparations.

Residents also are being encouraged to have at least a three-day surplus of food, water and household supplies on hand. They should select nonperishable foods that require no refrigeration, preparation or cooking, and little or no water. Water should be stored in plastic bottles. Figure on about 1 gallon of water per person per day.

Residents also should have first aid kits and emergency supplies ready such as paper cups and plates, plastic utensils, toilet paper, flashlights, portable radios, batteries, fire extinguishers and battery-operated smoke detectors.

For information on Y2K preparedness or to volunteer at one of the emergency communication sites, call 651-266-6925 or visit the city's Web site at www.stpaul.gov/y2k.

Shepard-Davern factions at odds over development guidelines/from page 1

Allowing taller

buildings in the

Shepard-Davern

area may force

residents to leave.

"This is probably

going to drive me

out of there," said

Delroy Spray.

land District Council member John Grzybek. He noted that any height variances would need DNR as well as city approval.

City staff and consultants have proposed raising the height restriction to 65 feet in return for developers' agreements on site design, landscaping and other issues. Otherwise, they say, it would not be practical for developers to construct housing or commercial buildings because of high land costs and the underlying bedrock in the area.

"I can tell you it makes all of the difference in the world," said St. Paul developer Jerry Trooien about the height restrictions. He suggested allowing buildings as high as 85 feet in the river corridor area.

Land in the area will be "very expensive" to acquire, said veteran housing developer Stewart Nolan, which means developers will have to build taller, denser buildings.

"If the height limits on buildings are too severe, there's no way a developer could pay the prices needed to purchase property and redevelop it," said Nolan, who added that he has no plans to develop more housing in the area. "I think if we don't do this, St. Paul is burying its head in the sand."

At the November 19 public hearing, some Shepard-Davern residents said restricting building heights ensures that their neighborhood will remain home to large, airport-related parking lots and that their property values would remain stagnant.

"We who live in the area feel somewhat overlooked," said Rockwood Avenue resident Wayne Silberg. He favors taller buildings as a way to promote redevelopment.

"The parking lots are the biggest blights in the area," said Stewart Avenue resident Pete Pietruszewski. He added that if the building

height limit is not raised, "You're not going to be able to do anything down there."

Others said allowing taller buildings in the Shepard-Davern area will force existing residents to leave. "This is probably going to drive me out of there," said West 7th Street resident Delroy Spray.

Benson Avenue resident Steve Prokop said he and his wife consider themselves fortunate to live in such a beautiful place with a view of the

river valley. "Why do you want to build big buildings to destroy that?" he asked.

In written comments to the Planning Commission, Sandy Fecht of the DNR said her agency would have the final say on any height variances. She said the DNR was "disappointed that the city has not worked with us on these amendments prior to any public hearings" and recommended that the City Council submit any proposed amendments to her agency for review.

City planner Jim Zdon said the city is aware of the DNR requirements, but added that the agency will only receive the new zoning and design guidelines after they are approved by the City Council.

"We feel that in this case the DNR has overstepped its boundaries," Zdon said.

Along with building heights, the Highland District Council disagrees with the city over building setbacks being proposed along West 7th Street. City staff want limited setbacks and buildings closer to the street. Most district council members want bigger setbacks so trees and shrubs can be planted along the street.

The district council wants any setback decisions

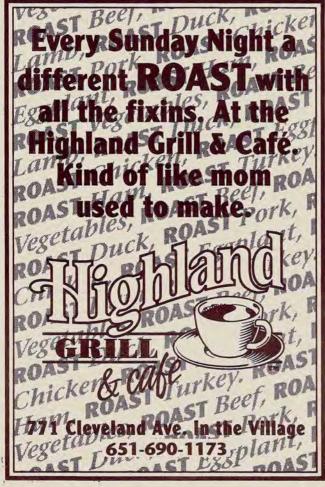
delayed until the final plans are complete for the Gateway Project, a plan to beautify the entrance into the city along West 7th Street with new landscaping, lights and signage. The project already has about \$2 million in public funding set aside. A request for an additional \$1 million is pending before the 2000 Minnesota Legislature.

Zdon said it is "totally inappropriate" to have landscaping plans drive setback requirements. He added that the landscaping requirements would put too many conditions on private property owners.

Little was said at the public hearing about the planned redevelopment for the triangular area bounded by Davern and West 7th streets and Norfolk Avenue. Gateway West, a partnership led by Minneapolis developer Ron Christenson, wants to remove 44 single-family homes, a restaurant and a strip joint in order to construct a \$50 million development of commercial and residential buildings there, including a Walgreen's and a multiscreen movie theater.

About two-thirds of the homeowners in the area have signed options to sell their houses and negotiations continue with the two affected businesses, the Manor and Casey's. Most of the area is outside of the river corridor zoning district. Land there would have to be rezoned through the overlay district to allow mixed commercial and residential use.

Trooien of JLT Group also is offering to buy out property owners in the triangular area in order to expand his land holdings in the Shepard-Davern neighborhood. In the last two years, JLT Group has redeveloped the former Unisys plant as RiverBank Business Center, which is now home to almost 2,000 US Bank employees. JLT has also built a parking ramp next to the business center and plans to construct an additional four-story commercial building on the site.







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Publisher Michael Mischke
Editors John Wadell
Dale Mischke
Copy Editor Pat Iverson
Production Artists Shirley Heyer
Craig Schuster
Advertising Manager Dennis W. Stern
Advertising Sales Tim Carroll
Bob Stjern
Classified Ad Manager Suzanne Glidden
Classified Ad Sales Mary Helen Pates
General Manager John Rauch
Contributors Tom Cody, Dick Gordon, Janet Lunder Hanafin,

Mike Long, Jane McClure, Bob Gilbert, Bill Wagner, Brad Stauffer, Steve Michaels, Dave Page, Cathy Condon, Chris Smith, Terry Faust, Leslie Walters, Iric Nathanson, Tom Surowicz, Michael Werner, Jeff Mores, Paul Preimesberger.

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Waterfowl migrate through the museum leading to an exhibit on the history of St. Paul. Photo by Brad Stauffer.

Science Museum by the numbers

10 - The total area, in acres, of outdoor parks that the new Science Museum offers along the Mississippi River.

11 - The number of public elevators in the new museum. 30 - The number of restrooms in the new museum. The

old museum had four, two each for men and women. 89 - The width, in feet, of the museum's convertible

IMAX Dome Omnitheater screen. The first of its kind in the country, the screen is 7 stories tall and weighs 176 tons. 93 - The age, in years, of the Science Museum, which was founded in 1907 as the St. Paul Institute of Science and Let-

ters and was originally located in the St. Paul Auditorium. 145 - The number of steps in the new museum's glassenclosed stairway, which scales the 90 vertical feet from Kellogg Boulevard to the river flats below.

415 - The number of seats in the new museum's Omnitheater, up from 330 at the old Omnitheater.

12,000 - The power, in lumens, of the Omnitheater's video projector, the most powerful in North America.

14,400 - The power, in watts, of the Omnitheater's sixchannel surround-sound audio system.

37,000 - The square footage of the new museum's windows, offering dramatic views of the Mississippi and downtown St. Paul.

370,000 - The square footage of the new museum, which is 150,000 square feet larger than the old museum.

1.75 million - The number of artifacts in the museum's collection.

99.6 million - The total cost, in dollars, for constructing the new museum, including \$31.2 million from the state of Minnesota and \$9 million from the city of St. Paul. The city also provided the 11-acre site.

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Science Museum/from page 1

Peterson downplayed his role in the 5-year planning and construction process for the new museum, which he described as remarkably free of problems. "My biggest job is to hire and retain great people, make sure we're all going in the same direction, and then get out of the way," he said. "Those people have done just phenomenal, phenomenal work to get this place ready. That includes the project manager, the staff here, the architects, construction people and many community advisory committees. We've been incredibly gratified by community support. It's been a huge part of making this thing work?

The state of Minnesota provided \$31.2 million for the new museum. The city of St. Paul contributed the 11-acre site and an additional \$9 million for public improvements. St. Paul Companies and the Andersen, McKnight and 3M foundations all donated \$2 million or more to the project.

The new museum has nearly 70 percent more space than the old museum at 10th and Wabasha streets. "So often we were completely overcrowded at the old site," Peterson said. Designed to accommodate a half million guests annually, the old museum typically handled twice that. "That's a nice problem to have," Peterson said, "but if the visitor isn't having a good experience because there are too many people, then we're not doing our job."

The new museum has a restaurant, two cafes, a large gift shop and 24,000 square feet of special-event space. Its education floor contains seven classrooms, and an entire wing off the lobby is devoted to computer education. "We have a huge number of classes and activities and summer camps planned," Peterson said. "(Previously), those were severely restricted.

"This is going to be a much easier building for visitors to use," he said. "They'll find it easy to get to. There are more amenities, more restrooms, good food service, good signage. It's easier to find your way around, to plan your visit. As you come in the front door, you'll know

where the restrooms are, where you put your coat, where you go to get to the Omnitheater and the exhibits."

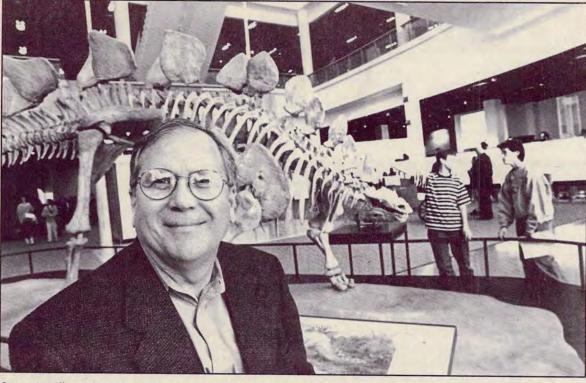
The same applies to the lowerlevel entrance, which will be used primarily by large school groups. "The school kids will have what they need," Peterson said. "Restrooms, a place to put their coats and lunches, a place where teachers can get their tickets. It's then a straight shot down to the elevators, up to the lobby, and they can start their visit."

The new 410-seat Omnitheater features two screens—one domed, the other flat. "It gives us more flexibility so that we can show not only large-format films on the dome, but everything from slides to videos to all kinds of other media that you can't use on the dome," Peterson said.

Minnesota's is one of just five science museums in the nation to house a three-dimensional multimedia laser theater. Viewers of the 15-minute laser presentations will wear special 3D glasses to learn about such phenomena as flight, ecosystems and the brain.

From the Mississippi River Gallery, museum visitors will have a panoramic view of the river. Near the gallery entrance, a multi-paneled mural will show the river valley as it appears today and as it looked 100 years ago and 10,000 years ago when an immense waterfall stood where the Robert Street Bridge now stands. One of the gallery's most striking artifacts is a tugboat—once a working vessel on the Mississippi, but now resting on a 75-foot-high balcony overlooking Shepard Road. "We hoisted it up on the terrace on the fifth floor, and it's integrated into the river exhibit," Peterson said. "You can go right from the exhibit through a vestibule into the boat."

One level down, the Human Body Gallery offers a hands-on look at "how the body works, how it breaks, how we fix it, how different cultures look at it," Peterson said. "The gallery offers a little bit of the humanities, biology and physiology." It even includes a cellular biology lab where visitors, wearing lab coats, gloves and goggles, can follow in-



Summit Hill resident James Peterson, president of the Science Museum of Minnesota, poses in front of a stegosaur skeleton in the museum's new digs. Below, multi-story windows illuminate the museum's interior, showcasing a musical sculpture that translates seismic activity into sound. *Photos by Brad Stauffer*.

structions for extracting DNA, discover a mystery microbe or examine their own cheek cells through a microscope.

The new building retains the museum's collection of 1.75 million artifacts. Some of them are displayed in the new Dinosaurs and Fossils Gallery, which at 10,000 square feet is twice as large as the old one. The 7,000-square-foot Collections Gallery contains the museum's "greatest hits," including the Egyptian mummy, the authentic Hmong house and the 7-foot-diameter Douglas fir tree trunk. The expanded Experiment Gallery features more of the hands-on exhibits in physical science and math that have made it a Science Museum favorite since 1991.

And "Iggy," the large iguana made of railroad spikes that prowled the old museum's entrance, "is now outside the large-group entrance where all the school kids will come," Peterson said.

"We'll be glad when the building is open and we can move on to the programs," he said. "We've been closed since Labor Day, so we're anxious to be open and accessible. And we'll be ready."



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VIEWPOINT

MISCH-MASCH

MICHAEL MISCHKE

Not seeing the forest for the trees

ell-intentioned if misguided idealism is running smack into cold, hard facts in a protracted dispute between St. Paul city officials and the Highland District Council. The dispute revolves around plans for the future redevelopment of 40 acres of prime real estate at the southern end of Highland Park.

Though property values in the Shepard-Davern area have soared in the past few years with the inflated purchase price of land for displaced airport rental car operations, the Shepard-Davern area remains the most under-appreciated real estate in Highland Park. Its primary advantages, for both residential and commercial redevelopment, are its easy access to and from nearly anywhere in the Twin Cities, its proximity to Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (without the attendant airplane noise that other airport neighborhoods must suffer from) and its location at the confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers with the panoramic vistas that those two river valleys afford.

Shepard-Davern also happens to be situated adjacent to Hidden Falls and Crosby Farm parks on the Mississippi, some of the most pristine urban parkland you can find in the Twin Cities.

Shepard-Davern's primary drawbacks for redevelopment are the high cost of acquiring land and the high cost of building on bedrock that lies only a couple of feet below ground level. Both factors threaten to thwart any redevelopment project that is limited to 40 feet in height, as much of the Shepard-Davern area is because of its location within the Mississippi River Corridor. A developer simply cannot get a sufficient return on investment under those conditions

Recognizing that fact, city officials are now pushing to amend the river corridor restrictions, allow buildings of up to 65 feet and relax building density standards. In return, developers would be asked to make certain concessions. Those might include everything from higher levels of landscaping, to higher-quality building design and materials, to provisions for outdoor open space.

The Highland District Council—most prominently council president Shawn Bartsh and her merry band of tree-huggers—will have none of it. The council's board of directors voted unanimously on November 18 to reaffirm its

directors voted unanimously on November 18 to reaffirm its support for maintaining the 40-foot height restriction. They are supported by Friends of the Parks and Trails in their belief that Mississippi River Corridor height restrictions should be inviolate, primarily to preserve river valley views.

Well, that depends.

It depends on whether you believe that redevelopment of Shepard-Davern would be good for the neighborhood and good for the city. Or whether the status quo is quite sufficient.

It depends on whether you believe that the existing rental car and park-and-fly lots are a blight on the neighborhood and ought to move back to the airport from whence they came. Or whether they ought to remain.

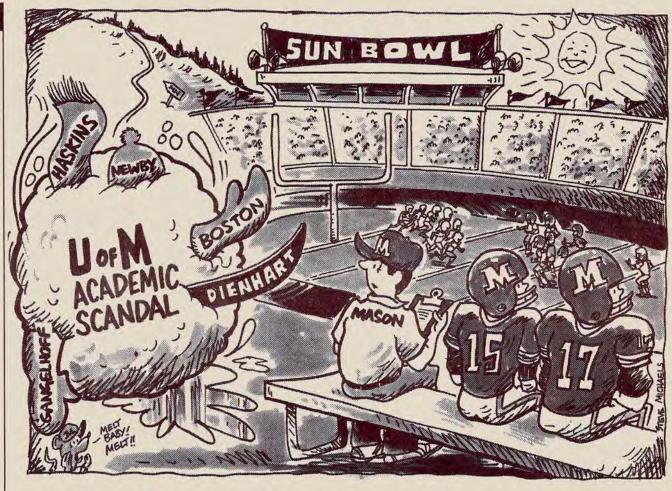
It depends on whether you believe that high-quality housing for seniors is in woefully short supply and would find a ready market were it developed at Shepard-Davern. Or whether the existing hodgepodge of residential, commercial and industrial uses at Shepard-Davern ought to be maintained.

It depends on whether you believe that higher-rise housing would in fact provide far more people with far better views of the river valley than is currently the case. Or whether the limited views of the valley now available are good enough.

In short, it depends on whether something—as opposed to nothing—ought to be done to take advantage of the Shepard-Davern area's vast untapped potential for mixed residential and commercial development.

Those who would hold the preservation of existing river valley views above the far, far greater good that would be brought about by Shepard-Davern's redevelopment can't see the forest for the trees.

The river corridor height restrictions ought to be raised.



When the Gophers were truly golden

by Dick Gordon

he Gophers are once golden again—in football if not in basketball. Ending their season with three straight conference victories, the University of Minnesota gridders fashioned an overall record of 8-3 this fall, their first winning season since 1990 and their best season record since 1967. The somewhat unexpected showing has clinched a bowl bid for the Maroon and Gold. The Gophers will be playing Oregon in the Sun Bowl at 1:15 p.m. Friday, December 31, in El Paso, Texas.

So, to parody the "Minnesota Rouser," Glen Mason, hats off to thee. In three years, the coach has managed to turn around a perennial loser.

That being said, pardon an old-time Gopher diehard for hearkening back to a truly golden era when the university's largely home-grown football teams never—that's right, never—lost a game.

The recent death of Minneapolis insurance executive Babe LeVoir triggered an avalanche of memories. LeVoir was the blocking quarterback for the elite Gopher teams of 1933-35, which went unbeaten through 24 games. (Big Ten seasons were limited to eight games then and freshmen were not eligible for varsity competition.)

In LeVoir's sophomore season, the Gophers posted four victories and four ties. That set the table for the 1934 season, when the Gophers went 8-0. Their third game that fall, at Eastern powerhouse Pittsburgh, was billed as a showdown for the national championship. The game pitted two master coaches, Minnesota's Bernie Bierman and Pittsburgh's Jock Sutherland, and drew nationally renowned sportswriters like Grantland Rice and Bill Cunningham to the Smoky City.

Minnesota won the game 13-7 with two fourth-quarter touchdowns. The winning TD came on a buck lateral forward pass—a play that Bierman devised just a few days earlier—to Gopher star end Bob Tenner.

Tenner aptly illustrates one of the differences between college athletes then and now. He was enrolled in the university's pre-med program and had laboratory classes until 4:30 p.m. four days a week. Bierman fumed about this, often demoting Tenner to second team during practices, but never when it counted on game day. And despite his stature on a national championship team, Tenner did not aspire to play professional football as many collegians do today. He became one of the Twin Cities' leading proctologists.

Minnesota breezed through the rest of the Big Ten

schedule in '34, outscoring its five opponents by a combined score of 191-19, and were deemed consensus national champions. They repeated the feat in 1935 with yet another 8-0 season.

The confidence of the '35 Gophers was evident in the final game that fall against Wisconsin at old Memorial Stadium. Leading 6-0, Minnesota returned the kickoff opening the second half to its own 40-yard line. Wisconsin was flagged on the play and the Gophers, scorning good field position, took the penalty and another kickoff. It paid off: An impromptu lateral on the kickoff netted a touchdown.

On a rainy Halloween in Evanston, Illinois, the following year, the Gophers' unbeaten streak ended at 28 when they were upset by Northwestern, 6-0. The game's only score was set up by a fumble and a controversial 15-yard penalty on the Gophers assessed by referee Johnny Getchell, who happened to be a University of St. Thomas graduate and Twin Cities stockbroker. That defeat cost the Gophers another Big Ten title, but the Associated Press gave them a third straight national championship when they finished the season with three lopsided victories.

The Gophers settled for mere Big Ten titles in 1937 and '38, losing nonconference games in those years to Nebraska and Notre Dame. They suffered a disappointing 3-4-1 season in 1939, but that off-year was more than compensated by the two 8-0 national championship seasons that followed in '40 and '41.

Yes, Gopher football was different two generations ago, but not always for the better. St. Paul native Dwight Reed could attest to that. An African-American, Reed came out of Washington High School to earn a starting assignment at left end for Minnesota in 1935, his sophomore year. But when Minnesota played host to Tulane in the third game that fall, Reed was not in uniform. University administrators kept him out of the game hoping to avoid any racial incident. The only mention of Reed's absence in the media was one sentence to the effect that he was ailing and would be replaced by backup end Ray Antil.

Air travel for college teams was nonexistent in those days. The Gophers and their fans took the train to road games, riding in cars attached especially for them. In 1940, when Minnesota completed its perfect season with a 22-13 comeback victory at Wisconsin, there was plenty of celebrating by fans and players alike on the return trip from Madison. One Gopher player, Helge Pukema, sipped on a few too many. Team captain Bob Bjorklun, not wanting Coach

Gopher gridders/see page 8

Sports column fails to cover all schools equally Beware of Home Inspection Pitfalls

Dear editor,

This may be obvious, but could it be that "Cody's Corner" disproportionately covers columnist Tom Cody's favorite sports and schools?

For example, in qualifying for the state meet, Central High School's boys and girls cross country teams turned in astounding performances. Both teams finished first at the regional meet, and three out of the top seven girls positions went to Central. Imagine the sappy superlatives dripping from "Cody's Corner" if three of the first seven runners going to state hailed from Cretin-Derham Hall. Instead, most of Cody's November 17 column was devoted to football. These girls and boys deserved as much coverage as any football hero.

Instead of football lore, Cody might expose the clear truths behind CDH's sports successes. He might report on CDH's "farm system," which recruits athletes from private junior high school leagues—leagues that the public schools do not sponsor. He might expose how great athletes receive CDH's excellent academics on the cheap (in other words, their tuition is remitted or reduced). Central, by comparison, can't reduce what it doesn't charge.

Mr. Cody, cover all sports and all three local high schools equally or simply declare, "It's my column and I bleed purple and I'm not ashamed to admit it. As long as my checks are cashed, who cares about the ethics?"

Paul Peter Paulos Macalester-Groveland

Editor's note: The regional meet to which Mr. Paulos refers occurred after the deadline for the Villager's November 3 issue, though we were able to add at the last minute the names of those girls who qualified for state in our recap of the City Conference results. By the time we published our November 17 issue, the state cross country race had been run. Tom Cody dutifully noted the state meet results in his column in that issue. In both columns, the Central girls were afforded the identical coverage that the other state-qualifying girls from Cretin-Derham Hall, Sibley, Minnehaha Academy and Visitation received. While Mr. Paulos is welcome to make the case that cross country merits as much coverage as football, that coverage has certainly been balanced among schools.

VILLAGE POST

As to the larger issue that Mr. Paulos raises—that because of Mr. Cody's full-time job as a teacher at Cretin-Derham Hall, our sports coverage of local high schools is slanted—we forthrightly reject the charge. Mr. Cody typically writes one feature story in addition to his column in every Villager. Because of his position at Cretin-Derham Hall, he does not write stories about that school's sports except in periodic all-school season previews. Mr. Cody is free to write what he wants in his column, but he understands and embraces our desire to spread the high school sports laurels among all nine high schools in the Villager's distribution area.

As to the recruiting charge, Cretin-Derham Hall principalpresident Richard Engler replies: "Cretin-Derham Hall does not recruit athletes; we recruit students. We have little to no knowledge of an applicant's athletic ability. Other than a \$300 grant to the top 15 testers, any financial aid is based solely on need as determined by Tuition Aid Data Services."

Run through the Mill

Dear editor,

The St. Paul Planning Commission has recommended the four-lane extended option for Ayd Mill Road even though its own appointed citizens task force gave that option the lowest ranking. The Planning Commission did so, I assume, largely on the recommendation of task force co-chair and planning commissioner Steve Gordon and project manager Mike Klassen.

Good people sometimes arrive at very different conclusions. I'm sure that Commissioner Gordon and Mr. Klassen were acting in what they believe to be the best interests of the city. However, Commissioner Gordon was responsible for much more than sending his personal preference up the ladder. He was entrusted with receiving, evaluating and elevating comments to the Ayd Mill Road Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This he failed to do.

Village Post/see next page

Beware of Home Inspection Pitfalls BEFORE You Put Your Home Up For Sale

According to industry experts, there are over 33 physical problems that will come under scrutiny during a home inspection when your home is for sale. A new report has been prepared which identifies the 11 most common of these problems, and what you should know about them before you list your home for sale.

Whether you own an old home or a brand new one, there are a number of things that can fall short of requirements during a home inspection. If not identified and dealt with, any of these 11 items could cost you dearly in terms of repair. That's why it's critical that you read this report before you list your home. If you wait until the building inspector flags these issues for you, you will almost certainly experience costly delays in the close of your home sale, or worse, turn prospective buyers away altogether.

In most cases, you can make a reasonable pre-inspection yourself if you know what you're looking for. And knowing what you're looking for can help you prevent little problems from growing into costly and unmanageable ones.

To help homesellers deal with this issue before their home is listed, a free report entitled "11 Things You Need to Know to Pass Your Home Inspection" has been compiled which explains the issues involved.

To hear a brief recorded message about how to order your FREE copy of this report, call 1-800-889-5621 and enter ID #1003. You can call anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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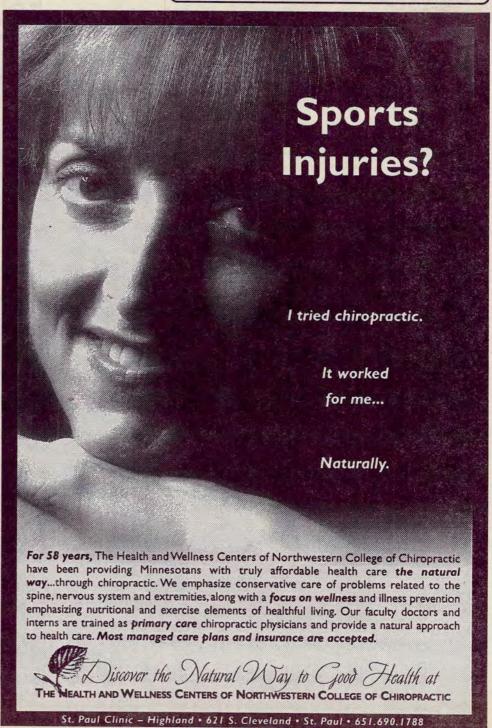


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Village Post/from previous page

Among the most authoritative comments are those contained in the Hagler Bailly Review of the draft EIS. That review references work by University of California researchers Mark Hansen and Yuanlin Huang which, when applied to this project, suggests that traffic forecasts may be off by a lot. I hesitate to say that this and other relevant information was suppressed, but it was certainly allowed to languish. Never were properly introduced comments presented in their original form. Instead, Gordon thought it sufficient to publish a 15-page document that summarized broad topics of concern, often with a single word, and went on to restate the very findings that the comments were attempting to refute. Other topics, such as sprawl and cumulative environmental effects, were not addressed at all. Still others, such as noise walls and the accident analysis, were promised evaluation at a later date. When? After the the final disposition of Ayd Mill Road has been determined?

Commissioner Gordon could have presented a fair and objective hearing for all of the alternatives for Ayd Mill Road, complete with relevant information from the public. Instead, he chose to tout his preferred alternative and then unleash an unbridled attack on the citizen task force that, after six years of study, found that the linear park would best serve the project's objectives.

Mike Madden Merriam Park

Rebuild Ayd Mill with four lanes

Dear editors

The intersection of Snelling and University avenues has been ranked as one of the worst in the state for pollution and congestion. It is important to have a four-lane alternative built along Ayd Mill Road to help alleviate this problem.

According to the Ayd Mill Road Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Snelling Avenue between Marshall and University avenues will carry 3,050 vehicles during the peak afternoon rush hour in the year 2020 if the four-lane alternative is built. Currently, 3,600 vehicles use that stretch of Snelling during the peak afternoon rush hour. This represents a 15 percent decrease, the most of any of the alternatives studied in the Ayd Mill EIS. The linear park alternative would add roughly 225 vehicles to the peak afternoon rush hour in 2020—a 6 percent increase from the current number.

Carbon monoxide pollution levels at Snelling and

University would be 0.1 to 0.2 parts per million higher under the no-build alternative than it would be under the four-lane alternative. No figures are available with the linear park alternative, but I assume they'd be worse since there would be more vehicles at the intersection. The four-lane alternative would reduce carbon monoxide pollution at Snelling and I-94 between 1.5 and 3.4 parts per million.

The four-lane alternative is the safest in terms of accident projections for the Snelling intersections at University, St. Anthony, Concordia, Marshall and Selby avenues. The four-lane alternative will improve livability in this part of St. Paul. I urge the City Council to vote for the four-lane extended Ayd Mill Road alternative.

Lisa Frenette Hamline-Midway

Four-lane road does most good

Dear editor,

The four-lane Ayd Mill Road alternative recommended by the St. Paul Planning Commission doesn't ignore the pleas of neighbors who want a park in their area. The four-lane alternative opens up 16 acres of green space. Since bikers and pedestrians aren't allowed on Ayd Mill Road now, that's a substantial improvement.

How much is 16 acres? It's bigger than the Edgcumbe Recreation Center's 14 acres. It's bigger than the 15-acre public right-of-way on Summit Avenue from Lexington Parkway to Mississippi River Boulevard. It's a little smaller than the Merriam Park Community Center's 17.5 acres. And it's half the size of the proposed 32-acre linear park alternative for Ayd Mill Road.

With the four-lane alternative, people living near Ayd Mill Road get a new walking and biking path and a new park near Hamline Avenue. People living along Lexington get their parkway back. The four-lane alternative would take enough traffic off of Lexington so that parts of it could be restriped for two lanes of traffic and a bike lane on the side.

I hope the City Council votes for the four-lane alternative. It does the most good for the most people.

Pauline Hanson Macalester-Groveland

Billboard blunder

Dear editor

Regarding the recent referendum in St. Paul to ban billboards: In order not to have more billboards, you had to

vote yes. I did, but all those I talked to voted no, thinking they were voting against billboards. Some said, "I just voted no on everything." My neighbor, a retired lawyer, said he could not understand why you would vote yes to eliminate billboards.

I am sure that the vote was legal, but it was very shady.

Eugene F. Reiner Highland Park

Law endangers pedestrians

To the editor:

I've read several letters in past issues of the *Villager* about the problems with drivers ignoring the state's pedestrian law. The situation is almost worse than before because drivers either ignore the law or don't know when they are obligated to give the right of way to pedestrians. This sets up a situation where pedestrians bravely step out into the street believing they have the right of way only to have vehicles slam on their brakes to avoid hitting them and possibly set up a chain-reaction accident. Sometimes when I stop for a pedestrian, a car will race around me on the shoulder or right lane, believing that I am turning left without signaling. If the pedestrian is not careful, he or she could very well walk into the path of the car. When I'm a pedestrian, I'd rather forgo the right of way to save my life than be dead right.

The law is well-intentioned, but it's still confusing for many drivers and pedestrians. It's not enough to feel good about passing laws and fining people who violate the law at the risk of killing pedestrians. Wouldn't it be nice if the state spent less time advertising the lottery and more time promoting a dramatic change in one of our driving laws?

Walter J. Huemmer Highland Park

Lightening the load

To the editor

We at Francis Basket would like to thank those who helped with the Highland Business Association's "Light Up Highland" fund-raiser. We received more than 300 pounds of food and a percentage of the proceeds from the event to help provide for people in need this holiday season. Indeed the lights in Highland seem brighter this year as you have helped us make the holidays a more joyful time for those in need.

Franciscan Sisters of St. Paul Highland Park

Gopher gridders of old were good, but they never played in a bowl game/from page 6

Bierman to catch the inebriate, escorted him off the train during its brief stop in St. Paul. Bjorklun hailed a cab for Pukema and told the driver to take him home. But Helge had other ideas. When the Gopher Special arrived in Minneapolis, he was in the front row of the welcoming delegation, waving his hat and cheering for his teammates as they disembarked.

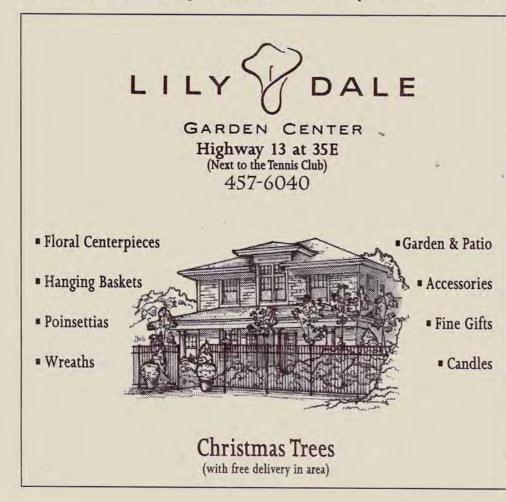
That same year, one of the Gophers' nonconference victims

was Nebraska, a strong team that went on to play in the Rose Bowl. Where were the Gophers on New Year's Day? Home as usual, since the Big Ten at the time prohibited postseason action.

Yes, during that wondrous stretch of six Big Ten titles and five national championships, the Gophers never once played in a bowl game. It wasn't until 1947 that the conference's presidents relented and entered into a Rose Bowl agreement

with the Pacific Coast conference. For the next four decades, Big Ten bowl activity was limited to Pasadena. In the mid-80s, the rules were further relaxed. Now the conference may have as many as six representatives playing in various bowls.

The 1999 Gophers are going to a bowl game, and deservedly so, despite their three defeats, which are three more than Babe LeVoir's teams had during his entire varsity career at the U of M.





NEWS BRIEFLY



Three decades of talkin' turkey. Thanksgiving Meals on Wheels founders Bill Foussard and Barb Aslesen celebrated their 30th year of serving turkey dinners to needy Twin Cities residents last week. They were joined by 2,000 volunteers who gathered at Cretin-Derham Hall on Thanksgiving morning to help package and deliver 14,000 dinners with all the trimmings. Photo by Mike Long.

Former judge sues city over Mac-Grove housing project

A dispute over a Macalester-Groveland townhouse project has resulted in a lawsuit against the city of St. Paul.

Retired judge Ronald Hachey is asking Ramsey County District Court to rescind the St. Paul City Council's decision to grant developer John Kratz a special condition use permit to build a seven-unit townhouse development overlooking I-35E. The site is located east of Lexington Parkway between the hilltop ends of Juliet and Palace avenues.

Neighbors have opposed development of the site for townhouses, saying they would rather see a few single-family homes built there. They have complained in the past about the design and size of the project. They said it will block their views of the river valley, make their homes less valuable, increase traffic on Lexington and add to the demand for on-street parking.

Hachey is using a more technical argument to challenge the City Council decision. The townhouse development needs at least 80 feet of frontage on Juliet and Palace avenues. Hachey contends that the project only has 73 feet of frontage on Juliet and that the frontage on Palace is on an unimproved street. He is asking that the court find that the city violated its own zoning code and acted unreasonably or arbitrarily, and that the city be enjoined from any act granting or enforcing News briefs were compiled by Jane McClure.

the permit. Hachey is also seeking reimbursement for his court costs.

The lawsuit is being reviewed by the city attorney's office.

Macalester's new building on Grand Avenue approved

Macalester College's plan for a three-story commercial and residential building at Grand Avenue and Cambridge Street was approved by the St. Paul Planning Commission on November 19. Work on the \$2 million project is expected to get under way this fall, but because soil testing and grading are needed, construction will not start until February or March, according to Donna Kelly, Macalester's neighborhood liaison.

The proposed brick building will include 4,000 square feet of commercial space on the first floor and eight apartments on the second and third floors. A parking lot to the north will have 23 spaces-12 for residents and 11 for business tenants and customers.

The property served as a Standard Oil and Amoco gas station for many years and later was used as a bike shop and photo processing store. The original building on the site was torn down more than a year ago. The collegeowned house on the lot just to the north will be moved or torn down to make way for the new development.

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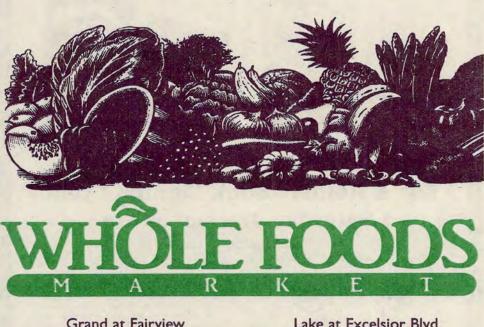
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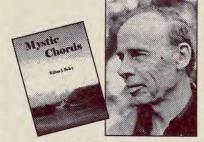
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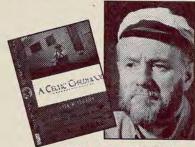


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Neighbors balk at St. Thomas' plans to redevelop south side of Summit

by Jane McClure

A neighborhood's difficulty in accepting a two-block expansion of the University of St. Thomas campus was evident on November 17 at a meeting of the Macalester-Groveland Community Council's Building and Land Use Committee.

More than three dozen people attended the gathering to sound off on St. Thomas' plans to redevelop the two mostly residential blocks between Summit, Grand, Cleveland and Cretin avenues. The college is hoping to break ground in the next few years on two new music buildings near Summit and Finn Street along with replacements for McNeely Hall and Christ Child Hall east of Finn Street.

St. Thomas already owns all but one singlefamily home on the Summit Avenue side of the two blocks. The university owns all but two houses, two apartment buildings and the Oasis Market on the Grand Avenue side.

St. Thomas' neighbors are concerned about increased traffic, loss of taxable property and a possible reduction in property values in the neighborhood adjacent to the campus' proposed expansion. However, it is the university's plan to demolish 12 Summit Avenue homes that has sparked the most criticism.

"Summit Avenue should flow east and west and not disintegrate into the University of St. Thomas," said Todd Wadsworth, a Summit Avenue resident. Wadsworth and others asked whether the university would consider adding buildings on the adjacent St. Paul Seminary campus or expand north of Selby Avenue instead.

According to university spokesman Doug Hennes, St. Thomas does not own property north of Selby and has agreed not to expand into that neighborhood. On the other hand, Hennes said, St. Thomas has been clear in its intention to expand onto the two blocks south of Summit since 1990, when its current campus boundaries were established. In fact, university-owned property on the block east of Finn Street is already within those bound-

"Everyone knows we've been buying up property there," Hennes said. "We ultimately saw this as our expansion space."

Sometime in January, St. Thomas is expected to take its plans for Summit Avenue to the St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC). The two-block area is located within the Summit Avenue West Historic Preservation District. As a result, any alterations to buildings there must be reviewed by the HPC.

The university's goal is to have its expanded campus boundaries approved by the St. Paul Planning Commission by next summer, Hennes said. St. Thomas is hoping to begin work next year on the new music buildings, which would consolidate music facilities that are now scattered in three buildings across the campus. Long-range plans call for removing the homes and apartment buildings on the north side of Grand and replacing them with mixed-use buildings of small businesses and residences for students, faculty and staff.

Neighbors concerned about rowdy students and additional traffic, parking and litter along Grand asked Hennes where St. Thomas' expansion will end. "We want to know where St. Thomas is going as a university so we can know that you're not going to be another Notre Dame," said Tom Moss, a member of the Macalester-Groveland Community Council.

According to Hennes, St. Thomas is currently studying the potential for growth in St. Paul. While total university enrollment has climbed to close to 11,000 students, enrollment on the St. Paul campus has dropped from a high of 8,700 in the early 1990s to about 7,300 students today.

The university has no plans to expand south of Grand or east of Cleveland, Hennes said, and St. Thomas officials are considering selling the properties the university owns outside of its proposed campus boundary.

Tentative plans for the new music building on the southwest corner of Summit and Finn call for a three-story Collegiate Gothic structure similar to Albertus Magnus and Aquinas halls directly across Summit Avenue. The university is hoping to vacate Finn Street there and construct a recital hall adjacent to the music building. Underground parking would be available below those and other new structures along Summit.

One issue that Hennes and neighbors agreed on is the need to improve pedestrian safety on Summit, although just how to do that is open to debate. Suggestions for skyways over the street, tunnels beneath it and more clearly marked crosswalks drew mixed

"St. Thomas has the same concerns that you do," Hennes told the audience. "Someone is going to get hit."

The Housing and Land Use Committee's next meeting on St. Thomas' expansion plans will be held at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 19, at the Edgcumbe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St.



Lightly roasted for a job well done. Nativity principals Kate Wollan and Margo Weiberg got a kick out of how their daily chores were described as heroic deeds by 4th-graders Mary Beth Murray and Jessica Mollner during a Principals Appreciation Day program at the school. Photo by Brad Stauffer.

Highland sheds light on need to improve athletic complex

But 44-year-old deed bans high school from installing permanent field lighting

by Jane McClure

Highland Park High School is continuing its push to install lights on its athletic fields, though funding issues and a 1955 deed restriction are casting a shadow on those plans.

School officials, Highland District Council members and neighborhood residents gathered on November 18 to discuss the field lighting. Following a presentation by athletic director John Heller, the council referred the matter to its Community Services and Community Development committees.

Heller would like to see new lighting, improved seating and a reconstructed track on the field at the southeast corner of Montreal and Snelling avenues. Last spring, Highland students led an effort to obtain a \$150,000 Sales Tax Revitalization (STAR) grant from the city for the project. However, the request was turned down.

One of the main reasons the high school would like to install the lights is to enable parents who work during the day to attend their children's football and soccer games. When Highland opened in the early 1960s, only the football and boys track teams used the track and field. Football games and track meets could easily be accommodated there during daytime hours. However, with the addition of boys and girls soccer, the demand for field

time has increased, not just at Highland but throughout the St. Paul City Conference.

The only two lighted football-soccer fields in the conference are Griffin Stadium at Central and Bakken Field at Harding. That means many games must be scheduled during the workday.

"We have parents who can't see their kids play sports," Heller said. "Every single outstate field in Minnesota has a lighted field. Every suburban school has a lighted field."

If the St. Paul School Board decides to add a third lighted field, Heller said Highland would make the most sense. The field already has a press box, electricity and bleachers. It is also farther from homes than the fields at Humboldt, Arlington, Como and Johnson.

Several years ago, a request for field lighting at Highland was quashed by neighbors who were concerned about the impact on their homes. Heller said today's lighting systems are much improved and would allow the beams to be focused on the field and not spill over into the surrounding residential area.

If field lighting is added at Highland, Heller said it would only be used until 9:00 or 10:00 p.m. The school would not seek additional bleacher space and would not play football games there that draw large crowds, such as those against Central or Cretin-Derham Hall.

Neighbors said they would like to know more about the lighting proposal. "Frankly, I'm sort of torn on this issue," said Edgcumbe Road resident Litton Field. "I could probably persuade myself that this is a good proposal if it were for smaller-venue events."

Other neighbors questioned what addi-

tional parking demand, litter, noise and other problems might be caused by night games.

"Parking already can be a problem," said Edgcumbe Road resident Michael O'Neil. "I'm not looking forward to it getting any worse. I can see it snowballing into a bigger and bigger thing."

Some Highland District Council members said they were in favor of the lighting, but would have to weigh its benefits against any potential problems for neighbors. "I don't think the problems are insurmountable," said council member John Grzybek.

Kevin Umidon of the school district's plant planning and maintenance staff said Highland is a good candidate for lighting. "But the school district has no funding in its current budget for any athletic field lighting projects," he said. "Highland recently added a new field house and any further requests for the school would have to be weighed against many other capital improvement project requests from other schools throughout the city."

Another obstacle involves a deed restriction that was placed on the 19-acre field when it was transferred from city to school ownership in 1955. The restriction states that the land must be used for public junior and senior high school physical education and athletics, but bans the installation of any "permanent structural accommodation for the seating of spectators," as well as "any flood lighting to adapt the same for nighttime use."

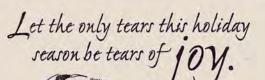
Neighbors say the deed restriction was placed on the field because of concerns raised by Edgcumbe Road residents in the 1950s. The athletic field was once part of the Stees 80, an 80-acre parcel that sat vacant as the Highland Park neighborhood developed around it after World War II. The property was bounded by Montreal Avenue, Edgcumbe Road and Snelling Avenue.

The city acquired the land from the Stees family through tax forfeiture and held it for several years as future park space. A 1954 St. Paul Dispatch article indicated that developers had long eyed the tract as a site for homes or offices.

Highland residents were divided on the idea of an athletic field on the property. The 17-acre junior-senior high school site across the street had been earmarked for a school since the early 1950s when an ambitious school construction program took shape under then-Superintendent Forrest Connor. In the spring of 1954, a Highland parents group led by Eugene Schway asked Mayor John Daubney and the City Council to consider deeding part of the former Stees farm to the School Board for use as an athletic field. However, attorney and former mayor Gerhard Budlie represented about 400 area residents and business owners who were opposed to the idea. According to a St. Paul Dispatch article, their objection "was based on a fear that the area might become another Dunning Field or Lexington Park in their front yards." They expressly objected to a stadium and to night activities under glaring

The City Council subsequently adopted a resolution that prohibited construction of a stadium or use of lights. Similar language was later incorporated into the deed.





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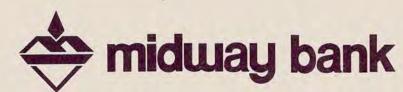
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The little things in life

Artist re-creates his fondest memories in miniature

by Bob Gilbert

It's been said that one of the advantages of leading a good life is that you get to enjoy it twice—once when you're living it and again when you're old and its memories bring you joy.

That certainly holds true for Charles Neren. The 86-year-old Ramsey Hill artist re-creates his fondest memories in miniature. His artistic impulse may have come late in life, but in the past five years the retired businessman has built hundreds of detailed dioramas of the moments that have meant the most to him.

For Neren, who came to St. Paul from Brest-Litovsk, Poland, with his family in 1922 at the age of 7, the proverbial "good old days" were just that. Many of his creations illustrate life as it was when he was growing up in a Jewish family on St. Paul's West Side, where he lived with his parents and five brothers.

There are scenes from Jewish holiday dinners in his parents' home. A small handmade replica of a Jewish man selling fruit from a horse and wagon came from a memory of Oscar Applebaum, a Jewish immigrant in his neighborhood who went on to found the Applebaum's grocery store chain. There are also scenes of the temple arks where Jewish Torahs are kept and of boys at the pulpit during their bar mitzvahs.

"The West Side had a thriving Jewish community," Neren said. "There were five temples, all of them Orthodox. Most of the families who lived there came from Eastern Europe. Considering what they came from, all their children did well in life."

Neren builds the miniatures in his basement with colored pencils, paints, knives and scissors, turning cardboard boxes that he gets from the supermarket into small-scale replications of such things as his mother's kitchen, right down to the table and chairs, the framed pictures on the wall and the woodburning stove.

Many of the rabbis and cantors that populate his works are former Star Wars



Summit Avenue resident Charles Neren admires his illuminated display of a Jewish Passover meal. *Photo by Brad Stauffer*.

action figures that he buys at the Dollar Store. He paints their beards to make them look like Orthodox Jews.

Neren spent 50 years in the cattle business at the South St. Paul stockyards, which became the largest in the country after the Chicago yards closed. He has a miniature scene of a cattle shed just like the one he owned at the Neren Cattle Company in the 1940s. The company supported him, his wife and their two children. Though there is not much left of the stockyards, Neren said it was a good business in his day and he still gets together several times a year with friends he met there.

"When I retired in 1982, I dreamed about the cattle business constantly," he said. "I'd have dreams where I worried about sick cattle. It took a long time to get it out of my system. When the dreams finally stopped, these creative ideas just kind of bubbled up.

"I don't try and understand it," he

said. "I just like doing it. This is a kind of therapy for me. They're sculptures of my memories, just the way I lived them. It takes a long time to build one and I get so involved in the work that I lose track of time."

His tiny display of the dining room of Cafe di Napoli on Hennepin Avenue in Minneapolis won a fifth-place ribbon at the Minnesota State Fair last year. The miniature even includes a picture of himself hanging on the wall behind the cash register.

"It's a creative way to spend your time and it's better than watching television," said Shirley, his wife of 57 years, who grew up at Summit and Victoria. "I think what he does is important because he doesn't sit around and worry about his health. It's something that keeps him busy and creative, and it helps to keep him healthy physically, tee."



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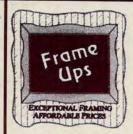
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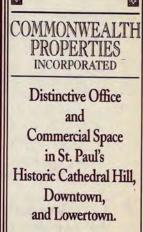
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CDH outlines possible solutions for curbing campus parking problems

The discussion has

been expanded to

include Holy Spirit

and Expo Magnet

schools. Neighbors

have complained

about traffic as

children are being

picked up and

dropped off at the

schools.

by Jane McClure

Ways to create more on- and off-campus parking are on the drawing board at Cretin-Derham Hall. By January, several short- and long-term solutions should be ready for review by school officials, neighbors and the Highland District Council.

Meanwhile, more neighborhood residents are petitioning to expand a resident-only permit parking district that went into effect east of the high school last month. The district now includes Juno, Niles and Watson avenues between Hamline Avenue and Syndicate Street and the east side of Hamline between Juno and Watson. Local residents petitioned the city of St. Paul to create the district because of parking congestion, careless driving, litter and rowdy student behavior.

A petition to extend the district to Hartford Avenue between Hamline and Syndicate was on the November 24 City Council

agenda, but was postponed for the third time until December 1. Ward 3 council member Mike Harris asked that the matter be tabled so that the school and neighbors could seek other solutions.

St. Paul allows residential property owners to petition the city to establish permit parking districts. The district near Cretin-Derham Hall is the latest of the city's 25 such areas, though it is the first to address parking near a high school.

Residents on Niles Avenue

between Syndicate and Griggs also submitted a petition in mid-November to extend the permit parking district in front of their homes, said Duane Jagiello of the St. Paul Department of Public Works. Petitions are also circulating for other sections of Juno and Hartford avenues.

About 140 people, including three dozen students, attended a meeting on November 15 at Cretin-Derham Hall to discuss parking issues. The meeting was set up by the school and Highland District Council. It was moderated by a representative of the Dispute Resolution Center

District council representatives asked that the discussion be expanded to include nearby Holy Spirit and Expo Magnet schools. Students at those schools are too young to drive, but neighbors have complained in the past about traffic as children are being picked up and dropped off at the schools.

Cretin-Derham Hall has already taken some steps to try to solve the parking problems, said president-principal Richard Engler. According to him, the streets are now patrolled by school staff and off-duty police officers before and after school to quell potential problems. Students who are serving detention are now being sent into the neighborhood to pick up litter. The school's student council has posted a ride board to encourage car pooling.

Some neighbors said they appreciated the

school's efforts to patrol the area, though others said they saw no evidence that the patrols have worked.

Cretin-Derham Hall has hired an architect to determine where more parking could be created, Engler said. One idea is to provide angle parking on land between Albert Street and the Carondelet Fields to the west. Another is to close Albert and develop a culde-sac.

A more controversial proposal is to pave part of the school's front lawn on Hamline Avenue. That is opposed by many neighbors.

A few people at the November 15 meeting asked that the school pave part of its athletic fields or the shared city-school Carondelet Fields. However, Engler said that is not an option, especially at Carondelet. The school spent \$900,000 on the fields there, with the city chipping in another \$300,000. Before the field was developed, parking was allowed there during the winter after the ground had

frozen. But the field is now fenced and has a sprinkler system that could be damaged by vehicles.

Creating more on-campus parking is just one idea being studied at Cretin-Derham Hall. Others include the following:

 Assigning numbers to students who drive so the school knows whose vehicle had to be moved if it is parked illegally.

 Allowing students who carpool to park in some of the school's 90 on-campus parking spaces.

• Busing students living in the surrounding neighborhood. Cretin-Derham currently has no bus service. About 380 of its 1,285 students drive. Of those who drive, 90 live a mile or closer to the school, and another 120 live within 5 miles of the campus.

 Asking students to park at a remote lot and then busing them to the school. One lot that has been suggested is at the Highland Ice Arena on Ford Parkway and Snelling Avenue.

 Posting "no parking" signs on days when residents need parking near their homes for service or delivery vehicles.

 Looking at places in the surrounding neighborhood where existing parking time limits can be changed.

• Increasing the enforcement of traffic laws in the neighborhood around the school.

• Limiting who can drive to school. Some neighbors suggested only letting seniors drive. However, several students said they need to drive in order to get to after-school jobs. Some said they live too far away from campus to make bus connections, and others said they drive so they can come in early and get help from teachers.

• Helping students and residents get to know each other better through newsletters and joint school-neighborhood events.

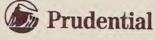
• Getting students to pay more attention to snow emergencies. Several neighbors said their streets do not get plowed to the full width because of student parking.

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SCHOOL NOTES

St. Paul Connections, a program of the St. Paul Public Schools, is once again offering students in grades 9-12 a chance to learn everything from auto repair to Web page design, all for \$1.00 per class. The program is offering 70 different courses and seminars this session. The courses are conducted at various St. Paul locations, including the University of St. Thomas, Concordia University, Express Bike Shop and Oxford Pool. Teens taking the courses can earn high school and college credits and can fulfill Minnesota graduation standards. Participants receive a free MTC bus card and a T-shirt and pizza party at the end of the session. The registration deadline is December 16. Call 651-221-1446.

Highland Park Junior High parents have formed a booster club to support music programs at the school. Nearly 250 students participate in the instrumental and choral music programs at the school. Anyone with a band instrument gathering dust at home is being asked to consider donating it to the program. Particularly needed are bass clarinets, trumpets, bassoons, bass alto clarinets and tenor saxophones. Volunteers also are needed to lead 7th- and 8th-graders in sectional or individual lessons, to sort music, to telephone parents and to do other organizational tasks. Those who would like to contribute instruments or their time are asked to leave a message for music instructor Randy Peterson at 651-293-8950, extension 1049.

Computer classes for adults will be presented this month at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. The schedule includes "Meet the Mouse" on December 6-9, "Welcome to the World Wide Web" on December 6-8 and "Internet Search Skills" on December 13-16. The cost per class is \$30-\$40 for JCC members and \$40-\$55 for others. Call 651-698-0751.

Julie Miller Jones, a nationally recognized professor of nutrition at the College of St. Catherine, has been named president of the American Association of Cereal Chemists.

Fifteen local high school students were recently honored by the Optimist Club of St. Paul as part of its annual Youth Appreciation Awards program. The students were chosen for having succeeded in academics, service and extracurricular activities despite facing significant hardships. Area winners



Six Minnesota students have been chosen to participate in the innovative Museum Fellows Program for minority students at the Minnesota Historical Society. The program brings together the museum, business and academic worlds in an effort to attract minority students to the museum profession. Pictured attending an orientation weekend at the Atlanta History Center, from left, are Steven Williams of Augsburg College, Victoria Raske of the University of Minnesota, Justin Brandon of Macalester College, Christy Clark and Benjamin Petry of the University of St. Thomas, and Faith Suzuka of Macalester.

include Andrea Romero and Jenilyn Swett of Central High School; Anna Shields of Cretin-Derham Hall; and Jonathan Olson, Nicholas Kim, Michael Parada-Orantes and Jiaxiao Zhang of Highland Park Senior High.

Horace Mann Elementary School in Highland Park will begin offering an all-day kindergarten in the fall of 2000. The school's site council approved the move in November. Currently, Mann offers a half-day kindergarten with morning and afternoon options. Horace Mann's Discovery Club child care program will continue to be available before and after school.

Nativity Catholic School students and families collected enough food and donations to provide Thanksgiving dinners for almost 500 people last month. The school has conducted the food collection since the early 1980s for the families of Holy Rosary School in Minneapolis. Nativity also will continue its long-standing tradition of collecting Christmas gifts for the same families this holiday season.



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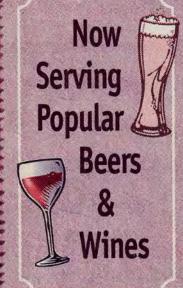
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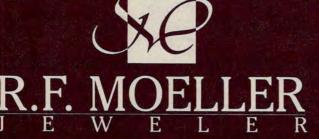
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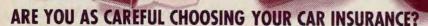
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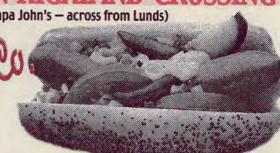
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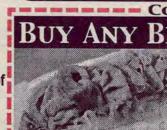


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New shops carry on Grand tradition of giving small businesses their start

by Bob Gilbert

A recent road trip to the East Coast made Wet Paint owner Beth Bergman aware of how uniform shopping has become across America. Every downtown business district or strip mall she encountered had virtually the same selection of retail chains and franchises. It made Bergman value Grand Avenue even more for its small, independent businesses.

Bergman has operated an art supply store along a two-block stretch of Grand Avenue known as Macalester Village for the past 16 years. "Part of what makes our area unique is the absence of chain stores and franchises," she said. "There are stores here in Mac Village that are unique to the Twin Cities, like Wet Paint, the Hungry Mind and Table of Contents. People like to come here and soak in the atmosphere."

Macalester Village's atmosphere has grown all the more eclectic this fall with the opening of four new independent businesses. The new shop owners are all in their 30s and first-time proprietors. Each at-

tempts to appeal to that young crowd whom marketers at national trade shows are calling the "New Bohemians"—people who are less interested in the mainstream and more geared to emerging trends.

Eclipse Records

Eclipse Records, 1692 Grand Ave, is owned by Josh Nelson, Joe Furth and John Culbertson. All three grew up in the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood and have been friends since elementary school. All three augment their entrepreneurial roles by cooking part time in local

Furth recalled hanging out with his friends at Cheapo Records when it first opened at Grand Avenue and Cambridge Street. The memories of those times motivated the trio to create their own independent record store. Much of their stock is alternative rock.

"Minneapolis has several independent record stores like the Electric Fetus, Roadrunner and Let it Be," Nelson said. "Everything St. Paul has is corporate. The stores are usually high-tech, sterile and impersonal. What we're trying to create is a mom-and-pop-type store where you can hang out, talk music and feel welcome."

Eclipse sells used and new CDs, used vinyl records, incense and posters."Vinyl records are making a comeback," Nelson said. "Analog recordings have a warmth to them that digital can't reproduce. I don't know if it's nostalgia or retro, but it's fun." In the future, the owners have plans to restore and sell turntables.

They have also built a small stage where they showcase live music. The shows run from around 8:00 to past 10:00 p.m. In addition, there will be storytellings, readings and other performances promoting culture. There is no cover charge.

Eclipse also offers video games, free coffee and couches where people can just sit and hang out. "There's a gig underground scene in St. Paul that we're trying to tap into," said Culbertson.

Body Revolution

Annalyssa Helgeland and her husband, Christopher, have opened Grand's first tattoo and piercing shop, which is perhaps indicative of how mainstream those trends have become, especially among college

Everyone who gets pierced or tattooed at Body Revolution, 1673 Grand Ave., must sign a release form and many of the addresses are 1600 Grand Ave., the address for Macalester College.

Annalyssa formerly ran a program for street kids in Minneapolis' Phillips neighborhood and Christopher worked as a counselor in a group home for developmentally disabled adults.

Though tattooing is heavily regulated by the city's health department, piercing is not regulated at all, so the Helgelands have set up their own rules. They will not pierce anybody under 18, not even with parental consent, and they will not go below the belt.

"Girls like to come in groups for tattoos and piercing," Annalyssa

Husband and wife Mike Shoafstall and Peg Rossi show off some of the goods available at their new Soulflower shop. Photos by Terry Faust.

said. "It's becoming the 1990s version of going out to get your hair done or picking out a new dress." Most of those who come in for

tattoos and piercing are in their late teens or early 20s. But not all their customers are college-age.

"A conservative, clean-cut guy came in last week and said, 'Hi, I want to get my nipple pierced," Annalyssa said. "Actually, I thought we'd have more weird people, but they've all been pretty normal. I like weird people, but I think Minneapolis has cornered the market on

Body Revolution also sells incense, jewelry, bumper stickers, T-shirts, hair dyes, face makeup and fake tattoos.

Soulflower

Mike Shoafstall and his wife, Peg, recently opened Soulflower at 1665 Grand Ave. They sell casual clothing, jewelry, candles and incense. Shoafstall is a veteran of corporate America, having worked for Ameritech for 11 years as a sales representative, a networking consultant and a manager.

"Before this I was going into an office in the suburbs where everyone's view was very white bread," he said."I got way caught up in the politics of it all. The money was phenomenal, but in the end it became too much. The rift between my personal and professional values was getting too large and I felt I was compromising myself. So we decided to take some of the money we saved and get back to the stuff that we believe in."

For Shoafstall, owning his own store means he can cultivate a customer base of people who, like him,

Macalester/see next page



Owner Pooh Phetnongphay offers a traditional Thai greeting to area residents in hopes they will sample her new Pad Thai Grand Cafe.





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Highland Oriental Medicine has opened at 670 S. Cleveland Ave. The clinic is owned by Jennifer Blair of Macalester-Groveland and Patricia Perry of Summit Hill, who along with colleague Jen Connell use acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine to treat patients with a wide range of health concerns. They hope to be joined soon by one of their teachers, Yongping Jiang, a faculty member at the Minnesota Institute of Acupuncture and Herbal Studies.

42nd Street, a gift shop located on Minnehaha Avenue and 42nd Street in Minneaoplis, will hold a holiday open house from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday, December 11. Jewelry designer Shauna will make an appearance from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and refreshments will be served.

Chico's Clothing, 1068 Grand Ave., is collecting new, unwrapped gifts through December 15 for distribution to women in crisis during the holidays. With six Twin Cities locations, Chico's is hoping to match last year's drive, when the store col-



Nine associates from Coldwell Banker Burnet's Highland Park office have made the holiday season a little brighter for families residing in the Ronald McDonald House in Southeast Minneapolis. Carrying on a five-year tradition, the contingent strung holiday lights at the house, which serves as a temporary home for the families of children who are hospitalized with life-threatening illnesses. Pictured left to right with Ronald himself are: (standing) Steve Ivaniszyn, Bernie Clement, Tom Winner, Cathie Flenzen, Leonard Schwartz, Rick Moravec; (seated) Ken Nerison, Les Gubman and Kathie Phillips.

women living in local shelters. For information, call

Dr. Keith Nelson, a Highland Park chiropractor, was

lected over 500 gifts for recently presented with the Minnesota Chiropractic Association's 50-Year Award for his dedication to the profession over the past half

Macalester Village shops/from previous page

are environmentally conscious and politically

Soulflower sells what he likes to call "hip" hippie wear, much of it made from recycled material. "The clothing is good quality and it definitely has its own attitude," he said. "The people who wear it are the kind who like drawing outside the lines."

Pad Thai Grand Cafe

Pooh Phetnongphay, manager of the Sawatdee Thai restaurant in Bloomington, and her uncle, Khamfune Phanthavong, had wanted to open a restaurant for a long time. The Southeast Asian immigrants said they studied American businesses and spent years

saving up to get started. Last month, they opened Pad Thai Cafe at 1654 Grand Ave.

"Pad" refers to a style of Thai stir-fry cooking. The full-service cafe features stir-fry sauces with red curry and coconut. The menu also includes soups, salads, appetizers and more than 50 entrees, including steak, chicken, pork, seafood and a wide variety of vegetarian dishes.

The most expensive item is Thai-style filet mignon for \$13.95. The other entrees are priced at \$10 or less. Traditionally, Thai food is very spicy, but patrons can choose how hot they want their meal to be.

The restaurant is open for lunch and dinner seven days a week.



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The Snelling-Hamline Community Council would like its neighborhood to become the fourth neighborhood in Ward 4 to restrict billboards by establishing a permanent special sign district. Ward 4 has a total of 118 billboards, according to the Scenic St. Paul Coalition. Of the city's seven wards, it is second only to Ward 2, which has 136 billboards.

Snell-Ham council can't wait for city to impose new restrictions on signs

by Jane McClure

The Snelling-Hamline Community Council's request to establish a special sign district banning new billboards in the neighborhood will be addressed by the St. Paul City Council at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 8.

Billboard industry representatives had sought a delay of the special sign district request until a Planning Commission task force can make its recommendations for new citywide sign regulations. However, Ward 4 City Council member Jay Benanav insisted that Snelling-Hamline's request and a similar request for the West Side proceed as planned.

Snelling-Hamline's request cannot wait, according to Don Ludeman, president of the community council. "We're very concerned that our neighborhood is being targeted by the billboard industry because of its Midway location," he said.

Snelling-Hamline may be one of the city's smallest planning districts, but it is home to Midway Center and Midway Marketplace, busy commercial areas that are coveted by the billboard industry as prime locations for new

The Snelling-Hamline special sign district would prohibit new billboards in the area bounded by Snelling, Hamline, Summit and University avenues. New billboards would still be allowed in the I-94 right-of-way, which is regulated by state and federal law.

Snelling-Hamline's and the West Side's are the first special sign district requests to come forward since the November 2 defeat of a referendum that would have banned new billboards citywide.

Eller Media lobbyist Michael Cronin and Paul Rademacher of Delite Outdoor Advertising used the vote's outcome to argue against more special sign districts in St. Paul.

"No matter how you sugar-coat it, a special sign district is nothing short of a ban (on billboards)," Rademacher said. "It's not what the people want."

According to Rademacher, the neighborhood planning councils that are seeking special sign districts are "run by a handful of residents influenced by a paid political activist group known as Scenic Minnesota."

The Scenic St. Paul Coalition, an affiliate of Scenic Minnesota, was the driving force behind the proposed citywide billboard ban. The group operates largely with volunteers and spent about \$7,000 on the unsuccessful ballot initiative campaign. Eller Media reported expenditures of more than \$100,000 in its campaign to oppose the ban.

According to Cronin, St. Paul should not approve special sign districts before new city-

wide billboard regulations are adopted. The districts, he said, may make it more difficult to devise a citywide resolution to the billboard debate.

"Without a citywide context, it's very difficult to assess the impact these districts will have," Cronin said. "You are taking whole districts off of the table."

Cronin argued that special sign districts could actually result in fewer neighborhood billboards being removed. According to him, 60 billboards in neighborhood settings would have been removed already had the city adopted the recommendations proposed by an advisory committee to remove neighborhood billboards in exchange for allowing new billboards in commercial and industrial

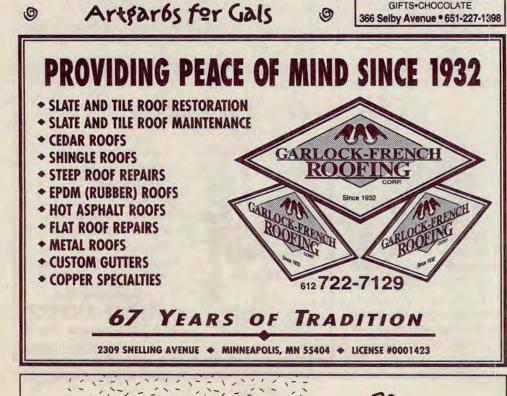
Snelling-Hamline is potentially important for the billboard industry, Cronin said. That is especially true north of I-94 where the old Metro Transit bus barn is set to be torn down. Redevelopment of that site and the adjacent Midway Center may provide locations for new billboards.

Like most of St. Paul, Snelling-Hamline already has an interim special sign district in place that prohibits new billboards until a Planning Commission study is completed and new sign regulations are adopted by the City Council. The Snelling-Hamline council would like to have a permanent special sign district in place before the interim district is dissolved.

Such permanent special sign districts have been established over the past year in the St. Anthony Park, Hamline-Midway and Merriam Park neighborhoods. Although the regulations vary slightly by neighborhood, all of them prohibit new billboards and place restrictions on new advertising signs for businesses. Nonconforming signs are allowed to remain in place provided they are not extensively altered or reconstructed. The restrictions do not apply to transit shelter signs and bus benches.

Snelling-Hamline's special sign district is less restrictive than the proposed citywide billboard ban, which would have forced many billboards to be taken down as public nuisances. "We're not trying to ban billboards—we're trying to restrict them," Ludeman said.

"I'm not so much concerned about the intended impact (of the special sign districts) but by the unintended impact," said planning commissioner Rich Kramer. With special sign districts in some neighborhoods and not in others, Kramer said, the city may be creating a situation where new billboards are concentrated in only a few neighborhoods.





City decision on transit route derailed

Blakey reluctant to back University without more public input

by Jane McClure

The fast track to recommending a route for light-rail transit in St. Paul made an unscheduled stop last week.

Members of the St. Paul City Council were all set to vote on their preference when, at the request of council member Jerry Blakey of Ward 1, the decision was postponed until December 8.

The City Council is already on record as preferring the Central Corridor between the downtowns of St. Paul and Minneapolis for light-rail transit. After three months of study, the city's Planning Commission has recommended University Avenue as the best alignment for light-rail within the Central Corri-

But Blakey questioned whether more consideration should be given to the I-94 median and Pierce Butler Route before the city settles on an alignment. "I want to make sure those other options are not derailed," Blakey said as his colleagues groaned.

Blakey is also concerned about a lack of citizen participation in the Planning Commission study. A few weeks ago, Blakey asked a group of Hmong civic leaders about light-rail transit along University Avenue. "There was a blank look," he said. "There was silence. They didn't know what I was talking about."

Many of the businesses at the eastern end of University are owned by firstand second-generation Hmong citi-

Ward 4 council member Jay Benanav agreed that there was cause for concern,

"but I think we need to start focusing," he said. "Both the Planning Commission and the Midway Chamber said University Avenue is the corridor we need to focus on."

The City Council vote is not the end of debate on the Central Corridor, Benanav pointed out. Several studies would have to be completed, and county, state and federal officials would need to agree.

The Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority has been studying mass transit in the Riverview Corridor between downtown St. Paul and Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. Two weeks ago, it hired the consulting firm of BRW to conduct a study of the Central Corridor focusing on University Avenue and Pierce Butler Route as possible align-

The Ramsey County Board is hoping to secure funding for both the Riverview and Central corridors. The two would form a "transit triangle" with Minneapolis' planned Hiawatha Corridor light-rail line between downtown Minneapolis and MSP International Airport.

St. Paul officials believe the chances of securing state funding for both lines is next to nil and are hoping to reach an agreement with the county on a single route before the Minnesota Legislature convenes in February. State and Metropolitan Council officials have said that if the city and county cannot agree on a preferred route, the next light-rail line will be built in the western suburbs of Minneapolis.

The Midway Area Chamber of Commerce has given grudging support to the proposal for light-rail transit along University Avenue. "While we continue to be skeptical of the investment and resulting ridership, the chamber believes that it is in the best interest of the Midway area to develop an informed set of recommendations that recognize the possibility that light-rail transit will be built," the chamber stated in a position paper on light rail.

Light rail could have a positive influence on economic development along University Avenue, chamber officials believe. Light-rail lines require less right-of-way now than they did 10 years ago, and the shortened construction schedules help to make it less disruptive for local businesses.

However, the chamber noted, "light rail alone will not serve the transit needs of University. An investment in light rail must be accompanied by major improvements in the bus system as well, both along University and along northsouth streets in the area."

Christmas tree sale

The Nativity Church Men's Club will hold its annual Christmas tree sale now through December 18. The lot is located next to Nativity School at Wellesley and Prior avenues. Sale hours are from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 3:00 to 8:00 p.m. Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Saturday and 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sunday. Beverages and snacks are provided.



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Council considers adding staff, services to city budget

by Jane McClure

More money for skating rinks, recreation centers, library hours and materials, and city attorney and planning staff are among the additions being eyed for the city of St. Paul's 2000 budget. The City Council also is considering whether to pencil in funds to improve the delivery of other city services.

The council will continue its number crunching during meetings over the next two weeks. The budget should be shaped up in time for the joint city-county-school district truth-in-taxation hearing at 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 14, at Arlington High School. The council is scheduled to adopt its \$474 million city budget and \$80 million capital budget the next day.

Staff from the Ramsey County Assessors' Office will be on hand at 5:00 p.m. to meet individually with property owners and answer questions prior to the December 14 hearing. Truth-in-taxation notices were mailed to St. Paul property owners in mid-November.

At the Joint Property Tax Advisory Committee meeting on November 22, school district, city and county officials said they have

heard few property tax questions or concerns from citizens. The committee was created by the Minnesota Legislature in the early 1990s as a response to rising property taxes in St. Paul. While all local units of government in Minnesota have to follow state truth-in-taxation guidelines, only St. Paul has the extra step of a joint committee. The committee works on issues such as property tax reform, capital bonding project coordination and ways to consolidate or combine public services.

The committee set its maximum joint levy in September. After fiscal disparities are factored in, the increase is 2.4 percent over this year's amount for a total of \$186.3 million.

St. Paul is proposing no increase in its property tax levy for the sixth straight year. Ramsey County adopted a 0.2 percent increase. The school district anticipates a 4.7 percent increase. The individual levies were set in September and can be cut, but not increased, before the end of the year.

St. Paul is the last of the three local units of government to complete work on its 2000 budget. On November 24, Ward 4 council member Jay Benanav unveiled his plan for three budget additions that would provide incentives for city departments to cut back on their spending. Currently, any surplus funds at the end of each calendar year are transferred from departmental budgets back into the general fund. He is proposing that departments be allowed to keep half of the funds saved and carry the dollars over into the following year.

"We essentially have a spend-it-or-lose-it type of system here," Benanav said.

He also proposed setting aside \$250,000 in a competitive funding pool. City departments would submit proposals for the more efficient delivery of city services. City workers also could submit proposals for consideration by an employee committee. Every year the City Council would receive a report outlining which projects were selected and their results.

A third proposal submitted by Benanav involves a training program to improve city employee safety and service delivery. A \$150,000 pool would be set aside and allocated through a competitive process. City workers would submit proposals for training or equipment purchases that they believe would enhance their jobs. Like the other

funding pool, the City Council would receive an annual report on which projects were selected and how they saved the city money.

The focus on employee efficiency and cost savings has been driven by the debate over Mayor Norm Coleman's Compete St. Paul program. The program, which was modified by City Council action earlier this fall, calls for cost-cutting and efficiencies in delivering city services. The mayor's plan was opposed by most council members and employee unions because of the possibility that city jobs could be lost.

Other council members and budget office staff indicated that they were interested in Benanav's ideas, but that they needed to study them further before amending the 2000 budget. Several other proposed budget additions are already on the table, including \$101,000 to add three City Attorney's Office positions, \$24,000 to restore the operation of seasonal skating rinks at several sites, \$100,000 to restore recreation center director positions, \$48,500 to add a city planner position, \$104,000 to restore cuts to Sunday and morning library hours, and \$100,000 for the library materials budget.

THE HBA TODAY BY PATRICIA BOYD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HIGHLAND BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

LIGHT UP HIGHLAND

The Highland Business Association's first "Light Up Highland" fund-raiser was a tremendous success. Highland Ice Arena manager Joe Balzer estimated that more than 500 people turned out on November 19 to enjoy a night of skating, games, holiday photos, food and fun. The business association appreciates the team effort that went into pulling off this event. Special thanks go to the following:

Davanni's, Mail Boxes ETC., Sevenich Butler Gerlach & Brazil Ltd., Edward Jones Co., Aspen Waste, Snyder's, Highland Electric, the *Villager*, Edina Realty, Bartsh Law Office, Re/Max Crossroads, the city of St. Paul, the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, Highgrove Community Federal Credit Union, Coldwell Banker Burnet, Protec Environmental Consultants, Midway Family YMCA, Old Country Buffet, Established Heart Ministries, the Teddy Bear Band, the Highland Grill, Pearson's Candy, Chanhassen Dinner Theatres, Tivoli Too Inc., Act One

Photography, artist Donna Chermak, Killairne Jewell of JTEKH-Water Wars, Grace and Jane Schmidley of Lifetime Fitness, Doug Kasper of Chipotle Mexican Grill and Nancy Moeller of R.F. Moeller Jeweler.

The two bins for the Francis Basket food shelf were overflowing with donations given by those who attended the event. Because of the great response, the HBA is planning to schedule a similar skating party in March.

HOLIDAY IN HIGHLAND

Holiday in Highland will be celebrated from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Saturday, December 11. Activities will include Breakfast with Santa from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. at Perkins Family Restaurant, a free showing of the family movie *Jack Frost* at 10:30 a.m. at the Highland Theatre, free hayrides, vintage carolers, a drawing for family packs to the Minnesota Zoo and more. Check this issue of the *Villager* for details or call the HBA office at 651-699-9042.

HOLIDAY SILENT AUCTION

The HBA will celebrate the season with its always popular Holiday Silent Auction from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Friday, Decem-

ber 3, at the HighlandBank, 2100 Ford Pkwy. The event is open to all association members and their employees. It will include numerous auction items for bidding, along with food, refreshments and music by a string quartet from the Minnesota Youth Symphonies.

Those with donations for the auction may leave them at the HBA office in the HighlandBank or with Steve Johnson at Liberty State Bank.

HIGHLAND TEA TIME

The next Highland Tea Time will be held at 3:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 1st, at TeaSource, 752 S. Cleveland Ave. All are welcome to stop in for tea and conversation with business association members, Highland Village beat cop Paul Lewsader and others who drop in.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

December 9: HBA board of directors meeting, 7:30 a.m., Pierre's Grill and Cafe, 1806 St. Clair Ave.

January 26: HBA annual dinner in the Officer's Club at Fort Snelling. Guest speaker will be Dave Anderson of Famous Dave's.





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Pilgrim Lutheran Church St. Clair & Prior • 651-699-6886 9 a.m. - Learning Hour for all ages 10 a.m. - Worship

Welcome to a neighborhood church, a home for hungry minds and souls.

Sunday, December 12 – 9 a.m. forum: "Meaning and the Millennium: The Future of Religion" 10 a.m. worship: Macalester Chaplain Lucy Forester-Sm

Saturday, December 4 - 10 a.m.: Lefse making at Pilgrim

Macalester-Groveland DUNCIL CAPSULF

KIDSPARK FUND-RAISER

Folk singer John McCutcheon performed two concerts on November 21 as a fund-raiser for KidsPark, the Macalester-Groveland Community Council's drop-in child-care program. Thanks to the generosity of the University of St. Thomas and area businesses, the concerts raised more than

The community council would especially like to thank A. Johnson & Sons Florists, the Andre-Franca Studio, Anita McKeown of Edina Realty, Church Offset Printing, Grand Avenue Ace Hardware, Great Harvest Bakery, the Green Mill, the Groveland Tap, Kowalski's Grand Market, Liberty State Bank, the St. Clair Broiler, St. Patrick's Guild, Sundberg Pharmacy, Von Hanson's Meats, Air Combat Entertainment Systems, Cafe Latté, Deb Bushee of Discovery Toys, Luci St. Paul, Creative Kidstuff, Roxy Cleaners, Widmer's Supermarket, Punch Woodfire Pizza and the Villager.

KidsPark operates out of the warming house at the Groveland Recreation Center, 2045 St. Clair Ave., from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on days that public schools are in session. Children may use KidsPark up to 45 hours a month. Families pay a \$30 membership fee, along with \$11 per morning for infants and \$3.50 an hour for children age 16 months and older. Parents may exchange work for KidsPark hours by working from 9:00 a.m. to noon. For information or to make a reservation, call KidsPark at 651-695-4008.

JOB CONNECTION

The community council's Job Connection matches youths who want jobs with Macalester-Groveland and Highland Park senior citizens who need chores done around the house, including mowing, raking, shoveling and housecleaning. Workers are particularly needed in the Highland area. The hours are flexible and the average pay is \$7.00 an hour. For information, call Laura Gutmann at 651-695-4000.

WELCOME PACKETS

Welcome packets are now available for those who have recently moved into the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood. To receive one, call Laura Gutmann at 651-695-4000.

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Highland District COUNCIL CAPSULE

SHEPARD-DAVERN HEARING SET

The St. Paul City Council will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, December 8, on a zoning overlay district for the Shepard-Davern area. The overlay district would establish new zoning and building design guidelines to be included in the Shepard-Davern Small Area Plan.

City staff and neighborhood representatives on the Shepard-Davern Task Force have agreed on most of the provisions of the zoning overlay district. However, city staffers are seeking a 65-foot height limit on new buildings in the Shepard-Davern area. Highland District Council representatives have asked that the current 40-foot limit be maintained within the Mississippi River Corridor. City staff are also seeking minimal setbacks for new buildings in the commercial area along West 7th Street. The neighborhood representatives are seeking bigger setbacks to allow for more landscaping along the street.

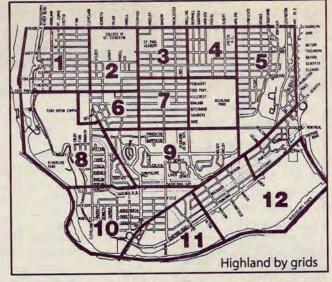
Area residents are encouraged to attend the hearing, which will begin at 3:30 p.m. at City Hall. For more information, call 651-695-4005.

HEARING SET ON ST. MARY'S EXPANSION

Franciscan Health Community, owner of St. Mary's Home at 1925 Norfolk Ave., has asked the St. Paul City Council to overturn the Board of Zoning Appeals' decision to deny the five variances it requested for a new assisted-living residence adjacent to the home. The Highland District Council opposed the five variances because of the mass of the proposed building. The City Council will hear the appeal at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 8, in City Hall.

DISTRICT COUNCIL WILL NOT MEET

The Highland District Council's board of directors will not hold its regular monthly meeting in December. Area residents



who have an issue that needs immediate attention are asked to call the district council office at 651-695-4005.

RECYCLED REMINDER

The next dates for curbside recycling in the Highland area are Mondays, December 6 and 20. Items should be bagged and placed on the curb by 7:00 a.m. Area residents are reminded that neither gift wrap nor shiny gift boxes may be recycled through the curbside program.

NEWCOMERS WELCOMED

The Highland District Council offers all new residents of the area a packet of information about the neighborhood. The packet may be ordered by calling the district council office at 651-695-4005.

BLOCK LEADER PACKETS AVAILABLE

Neighborhood block leaders who were unable to attend the block leaders gathering last month may obtain a copy of the Block Leaders Handbook by contacting Highland crime prevention coordinator Linda Moeller at the district council office (651-695-4005).

Snelling-Hamline COUNCIL CAPSULE

BILLBOARDS

The request for a special sign district for the Snelling-Hamline neighborhood will return to the St. Paul City Council at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 8, at City Hall. Those who are interested in blocking the construction of new billboards in the Snelling-Hamline area are asked to call council member Jay Benanav at 651-266-8642 or write to him at Room 310D, City Hall, 15 W. Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55102. For information, call Sherilyn Young at 651-644-1085.

NEIGHBORHOOD ISSUES

The district council's Neighborhood Issues and Citizen Sound Off Committee meets at 7:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month at Liberty State Bank, 176 N. Snelling Ave. The next meeting will be held on December 21.

The committee makes recommendations to the full board on issues relating to land use, transportation, business and economic development. All those who are interested in having their neighborhood concerns heard are encouraged to attend. For information, call Sherilyn Young at 651-644-1085.

DOOR-TO-DOOR SOLICITING

There have been reports of a man knocking on doors in the Snelling-Hamline neighborhood asking for money to buy medicine for his asthmatic child. The same individual also was soliciting in the Powderhorn neighborhood in Minneapolis a few months ago.

The individual first asks, "Do you remember me?" He then tells the resident not to be afraid and asks for cash or a check. He also promises to pay the person back.

Residents are urged not to open their doors to anyone they do not know and to call 911 if they are approached by this person. They also are encouraged to call the district council office at 651-644-1085 if they experience a crime so their neighbors can be alerted.

LAST CALL FOR Y2K VOLUNTEERS

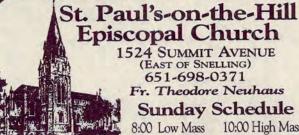
Volunteers are being sought to staff emergency communication sites in St. Paul from 9:00 p.m. on December 31 to about 5:00 a.m. on New Year's Day. The volunteers will be paired with city employees.

The sites will provide residents with a place they can go if their telephone does not work because of the Y2K computer bug and they need to make an emergency call. Each site will be hooked up to the city's emergency dispatch center.

Approximately 73 sites will be set up throughout the city. Attempts will be made to place volunteers in their own neighborhood. Sites closest to the Snelling-Hamline neighborhood include the police storefronts on Grand and University avenues, Longfellow Elementary School, the Desnoyer Park Recreation Center and Kowalski's Grand Market.

Two training sessions will be held on December 15—one during the day and one in the evening. Those interested in volunteering are asked to call Tim Butler at 651-228-6290.

Gloria Dei 651699-1 Lutheran Church – ELCA 651699-1378 So. Snelling & Highland Parkway SUNDAY WORSHIP 8:30 & 11:00 AM Education for all ages 9:45 AM **Healing Worship Service** First Thursday of Each Month 7:00 PM Nursery Service Available elephone Devotions 651-699-5575 Telemission 651-698-5598



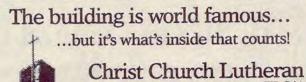
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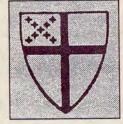
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Education hour at 9:30 (all ages) Child Care, 9:30 & 10:45 Great worship, great people!

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NAMES in the NEWS

Chris Coleman has joined the staff of Goff & Howard, a St. Paul public relations firm. Coleman, 38, who has represented Ward 2 on the St. Paul City Council for the past two years, has worked as an attorney for 10 years, including seven years as a trial lawyer for Hennepin County. In 1966, his late father, Nick Coleman Sr., cofounded the firm that became Goff & Howard.

Jeff Wiles of Summit Hill, a free-lance wildlife and landscape photographer, has had one of his works selected for inclusion in WCCO-TV's Minnesota Weatherguide calendar for 2000. His photo of the blooming wildflower lupine was among those chosen from more than 2,000 entries.

Luke T. Olson, son of Shari Taylor-Wilsey of Summit-University, has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio as an Air National Guard airman. Olson graduated last June from St. Thomas Academy.

Ethel Kline of Highland Park has been inducted into the National Multiple Sclerosis Society's Fund-Raising Hall of Fame. Together with her late husband, Sid, Kline established the annual Sid Kline Invitational Golf Tournament. Over the past three decades, the event has raised \$2.5 million for research into a cure for MS. It was renamed the Sid Kline Phantom Golf Tournament after Sid's death in 1994.

SPORTS SHORTS

The first puck of the season at St. Paul Academy's Drake Arena will be dropped at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, December 2, by Matt Michalski, also known as the Rookie, a KSTP-AM radio personality and producer. Michalski grew up across the street from the arena and spent much of his youth hanging out there. Following the ceremonial puck dropping, the SPA boys will play a game against the St. Paul Hawks of Central, Highland Park, Humboldt and Arlington high schools.

Denny Roach, Dana Schnobrich, Bob Stupka Jr. and Kevin Treacy topped a field of 24 foursomes to take first place in the 10th annual WallyWorld scramble held on October 17 at the Highland Park 18-hole golf course. The champion quartet shot a 12-under-par 60. Tim Owens received the Wally-World Golfer of the Millennium Award. A member of Ironworkers Local 512, Owens was recognized for playing in all 10 of the lateautumn classics-in years when it was sunny and 72 degrees and those when it was sleeting with subfreezing temperatures.

The Nike 3 For All, a free basketball skills competition for girls 17 and younger, will be held at seven Twin Cities sites from November to January. The competition is open to girls of all skill levels and tests dribbling, shooting and free throw abilities. A local qualifier will be held on Saturday, December 18, at Central High School, 275 N. Lexington Pkwy. Competition will begin at 8:00 a.m. for ages 12 and younger, at 10:00 a.m. for ages 13-14 and at noon for ages 15-17. Call 1-888-336-7255.

Tricia Michel, a graduate of Cretin-Derham Hall and freshman at Ohio Wesleyan University, won the 1- and 3meter diving events for the Bishops during a doubledual meet with Wilmington and Wittenberg on Novem-



The Hillcrest U-10 girls soccer team went undefeated in the regular season and finished as runners-up in the Soccer Jamboree on October 30-31 at the Phalen Recreation Center. Pictured, from left, are (front row) Marisa Montelibano, Kelsey Gerlach, Shira Bilinkoff, Allie Kirchner and Anna Czech; (second row) Liz Coyne, Abby Kallas, Stephanie Georgeson, Monica Steelman, Patty Mullaney; and (back row) coaches Eric Kallas and Mark Gerlach. Not pictured is Ellen Krachmer.

ber 12 and a dual meet versus Oberlin the following day.

Marie Liston of Mendota Heights, a sophomore at St. Paul Academy and Summit School, set new school sixdive and 11-dive records this season. She went undefeated in the conference and scored a personal best of 412.7 in the 11-dive meet to win the Section 5AA title. Liston placed 5th in last week's state Class AA diving meet. Teammate Erin O'Brien of Highland Park High School also qualified for state after coming in second in the conference with 240 points and placing fourth in sections with a 219.

Downhill and cross country skiing instructors are being sought by the St. Paul Parks and Recreation for evening and weekend lessons at the Como Ski Center. Instructors are paid between \$7.00 and \$10.50 per hour. Call Howard Bell at 651-266-6415.

St. Paul Academy and Summit School has hired new head coaches for its varsity girls and boys basketball teams. Daniel Engebretson, an assistant coach for the

girls varsity for the past two seasons, has moved up to head coach. Bradley Kruschwitz, coach of the SPA junior varsity boys team since 1994, will coach the boys varsity.

Baseball clinics for those in grades 5-12 will be offered on December 26-28 and 29-31 at the University of St. Thomas. The first session will concentrate on pitching and catching. The second will focus on hitting and fielding. Dennis Denning and his UST coaching staff will be joined by players, clinicians and professional players to conduct the clinics. The cost is \$65 per session and the registration deadline is December 10. Call Denning at 651-962-5924.

Macalester College will offer a holiday baseball camp on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 28-29. The camp will be divided into two age groups: 7-13 and 14-18. Staff will include area college and high school coaches, including Matt Parrington of Macalester and Dean Bowyer of Minnesota State. The cost is \$69. Call Parrington at 651-696-6770.

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RELIGIOUS NOTES

"Jesus and All That Jazz," a worship series featuring an ensemble of professional jazz musicians, will return to Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 S. Snelling Ave., for its second year beginning with an Advent service at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, December 2. The ensemble includes pianist Laura Caviani, bassist Peter Olson, drummer Craig Hara and saxophonist David Milne. Offerings collected during the service will be donated to Listening House in downtown St. Paul. Other services in the series will be held in February and May.

A Hanukah Sabbath dinner for Jewish gay and lesbian people and their families will take place at 6:00 p.m. Friday, December 3, at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. Participants are asked to bring their own menorahs for a lighting ceremony. Storytelling will follow dinner. The cost is \$12 for adults and \$5.00-\$7.00 for children. For information, call Carol Rone at 651-699-0751.

Twin Cities Friends, a Quaker congregation, will discuss the Pimicikamak Cree Nation's struggle to restore Manitoba's environment and enforce broken treaty obligations on Sunday, December 5. The meeting will run from 9:00 to 10:15 a.m. at the Meeting House, 1725 Grand Ave. Call 651-699-6995.

Temple of Aaron Synagogue, 616 S. Mississippi River Blvd., will offer the following programs in the coming weeks: a Hanukah party at 10:00 a.m. Sunday, December 5 (admission is a new toy for a needy child); and a Learner's Minyan at 9:10 a.m. Saturday, December 11. Call 651-698-8874.

A "Kindle the Light" family Hanukah program will be held from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Sunday, December 5, at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. The Minnesota Jewish Storytellers Guild will tell Hanukah stories and participants can learn about the process of making oil for a menorah from members of The Living Legacy. The cost is \$5.00 for JCC members and \$6.00 for others. Call 651-698-0751.

Advent vespers with a millennium theme are being offered by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet at 4:30 p.m. each Sunday in the Our Lady of Victory Chapel at the College of St. Catherine. The schedule includes "Make Straight the Way of the Lord through Repentance and Forgiveness" on December 5, "Imagine a World of Justice, Not Business as Usual" on December 12

and "God Is With Us" on December 19. Call 651-690-7000.

Rabbi Martin Zinkow will present slides and personal anecdotes as part of "In the Footsteps of Abraham and Sarah: Planning a Trip to Israel" at 7:00 p.m. Monday, December 6, at Mount Zion Temple, 1300 Summit Ave. Call 651-698-3881.

A Sabbath dinner and service for Jewish singles of all ages will take place on Friday, December 10, at Mount Zion Temple, 1300 Summit Ave. Young adults will host a "bring your own dinner" at 6:30 p.m. Drinks and snacks will be provided. The service will follow at 7:30 p.m. Babysitting is available at \$3.00 per child. Call Marianna at 612-692-8306.

The Church of St. Helena, 3204 E. 43rd St., Minneapolis, will present a talk by the Reverend Mitch Pacwa on "Enriching Our Spiritual Life by Praying to the Father as Jesus Did" at 7:30 p.m. Friday, December 10. Participants are asked to bring along a Bible. The cost is \$3.00. Call 612-729-7321.

Shir HaNeshamah (Song of the Soul), a Twin Cities Jewish Renewal Minyan, will hold monthly services at 10:00 a.m. on Saturdays at the Twin Cities Friends Meeting House, 1725 Grand Ave. The next gathering will be on December 18. The service will be followed at 12:30 p.m. by a potluck kosher vegetarian lunch. Child care is available. Call 651-645-7532.

Pilgrim Lutheran Church, 1935 St. Clair Ave., is offering the following programs in the coming weeks: a lefse-making demonstration at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, December 4; and an adult forum led by Macalester College chaplain Lucy Forster-Smith on "Meaning & the Millennium: the Future of Religion" at 9:00 a.m. Sunday, December 12. To register for the free lefse demonstration, call the church at 651-699-6886.

Summit Avenue Assembly of God, 845 Summit Ave., will present *The Gospel According to Scrooge* on December 5, 10-12 and 17-18. About 140 members of the congregation are included in the cast. Performance times are at 6:00 p.m. on Sundays, 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and 2:00 p.m. on Sundays. Admission is free.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1895 Laurel Ave., will hold candlelight meditation services at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays during Advent. Child care is provided. Call 651-646-6175.

A candlelight festival service of lessons and carols will be presented by the choir of Hamline United Methodist Church at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, December 12, at the church, 1514 Englewood Ave. Admission is free. Call 651-645-0667.



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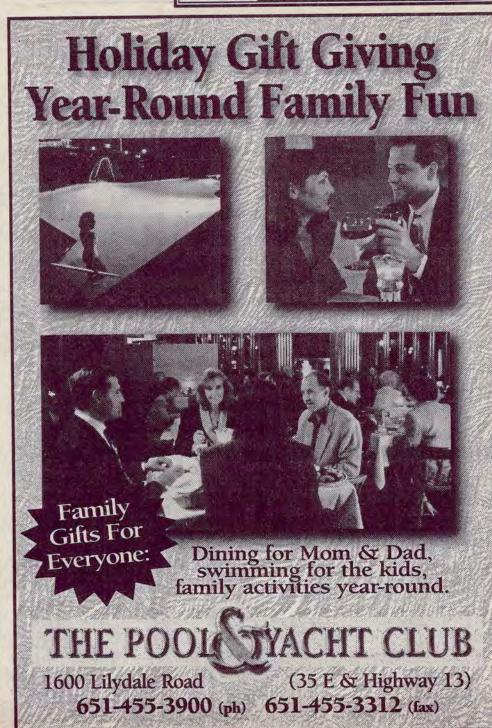


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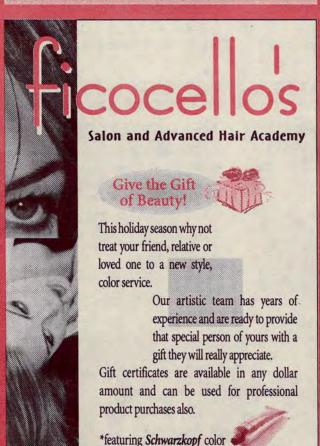


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THEKIOSK

Wednesday/December 1

A SUPPORT GROUP for people dealing with depression will meet from 7:00 to 8:30 this evening and the first and third Wednesday of each month at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. For information, call 651-698-0751.

THE SIMPLE LIVING GROUP will meet at 7:00 this evening at Minnehaha United Church of Christ, 4001 S. 38th Ave., Minneapolis. For information, call 612-729-7556.

"LONGEVITY: A MEDICAL Perspective" will be discussed from 7:00 to 8:30 this evening at the Sweatshop Health Club, 167 N. Snelling Ave. Dr. Rod Burke will summarize the high points of current medical studies on longevity and reveal the fountain of youth from a medical point of view. Admission is free, but reservations are required by calling 651-646-8418.

Thursday/December 2

LANDMARK CENTER will be filled with the holiday spirit when the doors open for its 21st annual old-fashioned holiday bazaar. The bazaar will feature handcrafted items by more than 65 exhibitors, music, treats and a raffle. Hours are from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. today and tomorrow, and from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday. Admission is \$2.00 for adults and free for children 12 and younger.

Friday/December 3

SUMMIT ADOPTION HOME STUDIES, 1389 Summit Ave., will host a free informational meeting on adopting children from Poland at 6:30 this evening. Huminski's Anioly, a nonprofit organization, has helped more than 480 Polish children find homes since 1989. To register, call 651-645-6657.

TOURS of the Alexander Ramsey House, 265 S. Exchange St., will be given from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturdays and from noon to 3:00 p.m. on Sundays now through December 26. The house will be decorated for the holidays and costumed characters will show how the Ramsey's servants prepared for the holidays. The cost is \$5.00 for adults, \$4.00 for seniors and \$3.00 for children ages 6-15. For reservations, call 651-

Saturday/December 4

TOURS of the James J. Hill House, 240 Summit Ave., will be given on weekends now through December 26. The house will be decorated for the holidays and costumed actors will portray the family and servants as they lead visitors on a tour of the house. Hours will be from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Saturdays and from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. on Sundays. There will also be tours from 10:00



A real fun raiser.

Elena Moeller, 2, gets ready for a holiday photo with the help of (above, from left) Doug Kasper of Chipotle Mexican Grill, Highland Business Association executive director Patricia Boyd, promotions chair Nancy Moeller, volunteer Grace Schmidley and Glen Foreman of Act One Photography. The shoot was part of the inaugural Light Up Highland celebration on November 19 at the Highland Ice Arena. Taking part in Light Up Highland's free skate were Lisa Snover of Macalester-Groveland and daughter Olivia, 2. Proceeds from the affair will help pay for holiday lighting in Highland Village. Photos by Brad Stauffer.

a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve day. The cost is \$5.00 for adults, \$4.00 for seniors and \$3.00 for children ages 6-15. For reservations, call 651-297-2555.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS will sponsor a panel discussion on the status of welfare reform in Minnesota from 10:00 to 11:30 this morning at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 104 S. Snelling Ave. Registration will take place between 9:30 and 10:00 a.m. Admission is \$5.00.

A CHRISTMAS BAZAAR will be held from 12:30 to 4:00 this afternoon at the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church, 3152 S. 17th Ave., Minneapolis. Proceeds will benefit churches and orphanages in Latvia.

A HOLIDAY BAZAAR will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. today at Minnehaha United Methodist Church, 4001 S. 38th Ave., Minneapolis. Lunch will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. For information, call 612-729-7556

Sunday/December 5

A PRESENTATION on "The Best in Jewish

Humor" will be given by humorist Stephen Z. Cohen at 7:00 this evening at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. The cost is \$9.00, or \$7.00 for JCC members. For reservations, call 651-698-0751.

A CHILDREN'S USED BOOK SALE will take place from 1:00 to 3:00 this afternoon at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. Call 651-698-0751.

Monday/December 6

HISTORIAN and retired Army captain Jim Johns will discuss how much the U.S. government knew of the planned attack on Pearl Harbor and why no warning was given at 7:00 this evening at Historic Fort Snelling. Admission is \$2.00. For information, call 612-713-2523.

Thursday/December 9

THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE will be discussed this evening by five veterans of the U.S. Army's 99th Infantry Division. Part of the monthly World War II History Roundtable, the free program will begin at

7:00 in the Fort Snelling History Center. Call 612-726-1171.

Friday/December 10

A RENAISSANCE MADRIGAL FEASTE will be held at 6:30 this evening and tomorrow evening in St. Joseph Hall at the College of St. Catherine. Diners will get the royal treatment as they feast on a meal of roast pork and enjoy an evening of singing, dancing and joking. The cost is \$30, or \$25 when registering a table of eight. Call 651-690-6690.

Tuesday/December 14

A FAMILY ISSUES PARENTING GROUP will meet from 7:00 to 8:30 this evening at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. Discussion will focus on exploring issues of balance, stress and time management. The cost is \$7.00, or \$5.00 for JCC members. To register, call 651-698-0751.

A NEW PARENTS AND BABIES GROUP will meet from 9:30 to 10:30 this morning at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. The meeting will focus on infant massage. To register, call 651-698-0751.



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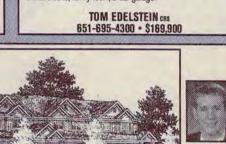
123,5K "Perfect" Macalester/Groveland Craftsman bungalow. Updated plumbing and electric, new roof and windows, 2+ BRs, gorgeous woodwork and built-ins. New kitchen and new ceramic bath. Fresh paint in and out 402 South Hamline. SUE DRUDE NOYES

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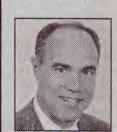
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ROSEMARY McNEELY 651-690-8541





Sleigh bells will be ringing, chestnuts will be roasting and carolers will be singing when merchants herald the holiday shopping season with the annual Grand Meander on Saturday, December 4. *Photos by Mike Long*.



In the air there's a feeling

Grand will be decked out in its holiday finest for 27th annual Meander

Grand Avenue merchants will serve up their traditional salute to the holiday season with the 27th annual Grand Meander on Saturday, December 4.

A multitude of activities will be taking place from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., according to Jan Gaines of Anything & Everything, chair of the Promotions Committee for the sponsoring Grand Avenue Business Association. Highlights of the day include a free pancake breakfast with Santa Claus at the Tavern on Grand, complimentary soup tasting at 19 featured businesses, a juried arts and crafts show at Ramsey Junior High School, strolling carolers singing the songs of the season, free horse-drawn hayrides and trolley rides along the length of the avenue, free holiday treats including roasted chestnuts, holiday characters, drawings, open houses and more.

Businesses along the avenue will be decked out for the occasion as they compete in the

annual holiday decorating contest, which is being coordinated by Don Jones of Wet Paint.

Returning after a several-year hiatus is a Grand tree-lighting ceremony set for 4:30 p.m. at Charlemagne, Jewelry, 1262 Grand Ave. The enormous evergreen there has been adopted as the official Grand Meander Tree.

A free family movie, *The Iron Giant*, will be shown at 10:30 a.m. at the Grandview Theatre, and children can meet and greet a live reindeer at Milton Mall.

The Grand Avenue Business Association assisted in compiling the following list of activities for this year's Grand Meander:

MEANDER HIGHLIGHTS

• Breakfast with Santa. Families are invited to start the day with the annual complimentary Pancake Breakfast with Santa from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Tavern on Grand, 656 Grand Ave. Parents are invited to bring their

cameras and photograph their little ones while St. Nick hears their wishes. Each child will receive a free gift bag full of items donated by Grand Avenue businesses. Those who join Santa for breakfast are kindly asked to bring along a new or used children's book for children's programs in Ramsey County.

• Art at Ramsey. The fifth annual holiday arts and crafts show will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Ramsey Junior High School, 1700 Summit Ave. More than 60 professional artists will be displaying and selling their fine arts, jewelry, handmade toys, pottery, painting and holiday ornaments. The juried affair is being sponsored by Macalester- Groveland Community Education. Proceeds will benefit Ramsey Junior High. Admission is free.

• Live reindeer. Come face to face with a live reindeer and learn more about these amazing animals from its owner and handler

from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Milton Mall, 917 Grand Ave.

• Free family movie. The 1999 animated film *The Iron Giant* will be shown at 10:30 a.m. at the Grandview Theatre. Written by British author Ted Hughes, it tells the story of a giant iron machine that befriends a young boy and helps save a town from fear and prejudice. Seating starts at 10:00 a.m. and will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Moviegoers are asked to bring along a new or used children's book for children's programs in Ramsey County.

• Free hayrides/trolley rides. The avenue will harken back to the holidays of yore with horse-drawn hayrides from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The hay wagon will travel from Dale to Fairview, stopping to pick up and discharge passengers all along the route. Those who

Grand Meander/see page 35





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Photographer Jeanne Engelmann with two hand-colored prints. Photos by Mike Long.

Black-and-white photos take on soft hues in the hands of Meander artist

by Bob Gilbert

Jeanne Engelmann has no training in painting. She has been studying photography for just two years. Yet her creative combination of the two art forms has earned her a place in Art at Ramsey.

The juried art show and sale will once again be part of the Grand Avenue Business Association's annual Grand Meander. Art at Ramsey will feature the work of 60 artists from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 4, at Ramsey Junior High School, 1700 Summit Ave.

A resident of Highland Park, Engelmann purposely underexposes her black-and-white photographs in the darkroom and, with special oil paints, she hand colors the sky, the trees and the earth to create dreamy landscapes that are almost a medium unto themselves.

In the days before color photography, paint was commonly used to enliven black-and-white photographs with rouged cheeks and red lips, Engelmann said. Now, however, there is only one company in America that still makes paints for coloring black-and-white film, she said. As far as she knows, no one else is using her hand-coloring technique on photographic landscapes.

Engelmann will place a photograph on her easel and, with green, blue and brown paint, work from the background, filling in the sky and horizon with a course brush or cotton balls. As she moves to the photo's foreground, her brushes become progressively finer, giving a sharper focus to the details found there.

Engelmann said the hardest thing for her to perfect in her painting was softening the lines of light. Blending the sky into the horizon requires a sophistication that she did not have in the early days, and her work then was much sharper and lacked the surreal quality she sought.

"What makes a good black-and white print is the interplay of light and dark," Engelmann said. "I look at where the light is coming from, where the highlights are coming from, and color the trees, leaves, water and the shadows reflected in the water."

In her medium, she said, "you have to recreate dimension in the photograph. Black and white flattens out the viewer's sense of three dimensions. Color is what often gives the painting its depth."

Engelmann's goal in coloring photographs is to reproduce the original scene and that can be especially difficult with trees, she said. Willows and beeches have a different color leaf, she said, and if you don't get it right it shows.

Another challenge is reproducing the color and shadows of images reflected in a body of water. How well that is done is often the difference between a good rendering and a



The tools of Jeanne Engelmann's trade.

spectacular rendering, she said.

Engelmann works quickly on her paintings. She tries to complete a work in the same day because the paints on her palette can harden overnight and change color. If she makes a mistake, however, she can wipe it clean with cotton because it takes the oil paint a good week to dry on the photographic paper.

Engelmann's skill in photography was recognized early on. In July of 1998, three of her photographs—images of a Lake Superior kayak paddle, pea pods and an arboretum trellis—were published in *Minnesota Monthly* as part of that magazine's annual Northern Lights photography contest.

"That was fortunate," she said, "because when you're working by yourself as an artist you're never quite sure if you're doing anything worthwhile or particularly unique. It's like living in a vacuum."

When not taking photos, Engelmann works as a free-lance writer of catalogs, brochures and other promotional materials for local publishers. Last year with co-author Gladys Volkers she published, "Taking Charge Of My Mind And Body," a self-help guide for teen-age girls that won a Minnesota Book Award.

"About a quarter of the artists in Art at Ramsey are new this year," said Marit Kucera, one of the show's organizers and a fiber artist whose work will also be included in the show. "The show will also feature the work of potters, painters, sculptures, doll makers and glass blowers."

Art at Ramsey is cosponsored by the Macalester-Groveland Community Education program. Admission is free to the public, but each artist in the show paid an \$80 entry fee and that money will go to Ramsey Junior High School.

The works of students in Ramsey's art and industrial arts department will be displayed for sale as well.





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★ DANCE GRAND AVENUE ★

Grand Meander/from page 33

prefer a faster mode of travel are invited to hop aboard one of three antique trolleys that will be making stops from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The free rides are sponsored by Billy's on Grand, D'Amico & Sons, Juut Salonspa, Summit on Grand, Kowalski's Grand Market, KS95-FM, Pasqual's and Whole Foods.

· KS95-FM Radio Broadcast. Listen to KS95-FM radio personalities on the air as they relay Grand Meander happenings at various Grand Avenue locations from 10:00 a.m.

· Wrap for the Cure. Those who shop at Milton Mall can have their purchases wrapped from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in return for a donation of \$2.00-\$10. Proceeds will benefit the Race for the Cure to fight breast cancer.

· Soup tasting. Nineteen Grand Avenue chefs will be serving up free samples of their best soups from noon to 3:00 p.m. The participating businesses, from west to east, are Whole Foods Market, Coffee News Cafe, Spudzza, Green Mill, Pasqual's, Kowalski's Grand Market, Great Harvest Bread Co., D'Amico & Sons, Sidney's Pizza Cafe, Cooks of Crocus Hill, Into the Woods, Billy's on Grand, Cafe Latté, Bruegger's Bagel Bakery, the Wild Onion, the Acropol Inn, Dixie's on Grand, the Tavern on Grand and La Cu-

The "Grandest Soup of All" will be determined that day by judges Lara Weinstein of Women Who Really Cook; Michelle Baltus, editor of Where Magazine; and Grant Fleming, director of Cooks Cooking School. Cooks of Crocus Hill will not be in the competition because its soup will be prepared by a representative from Saveur magazine.

Grand Tree Lighting Ceremony. Lighting of the official Grand Avenue holiday tree will take place at 4:30 p.m. at Charlemagne Jewelry, 1262 Grand Ave. Donations for the area's needy, including food, toys and cash,



The official Grand Avenue holiday tree will be lit at 4:30 p.m. at Charlemagne Jewelry. Photo by Mike Long.

will be collected.

· Strolling carolers. Holiday music will be provided by Ramsey Junior High's 8th-grade band, the Sweet Adelines, the Lexington-Hamline Community Band, Apple Valley's Eastview High School Chamber 2 Choir and other groups.

· Holiday food and refreshments. There will be countless opportunities to sample complimentary holiday goodies and refreshments all along the avenue.

Meander/see next page





Deadline: Dec. 8

Fine Shops on Snelling between Lincoln and Grand Stop in During Grand Meander, Sat., Dec. 4th the copy center COASTAL SEAFOODS the twin cities' best lish market Great Clips for hair OUR STYLISTS YOUR STYLE LINCOLN

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Come to the 27th Annual

Grand Avenue

from

Fairview to Dale

8:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Visit Santa and Free Pancake Breakfast

Tavern on Grand, Grand and Dale. Please bring along a new or used children's book donation for children's programs in Ramsey County, distributed by the Saint Paul Area Council of Churches. Free for children and their parents. Sponsored by Tavern on Grand and the Grand Avenue Business Association

9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Live Reindeer
Milton Mall, Grand and Milton. Come face to face with a live reindeer and learn more about these amazing animals from the owner/handler. Sponsored by Bread & Chocolate, Cafe Latté and KS95-FM

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Wrap for the Cure/Shop for the Cure
Milton Mall, Grand and Milton. Donate \$2 - \$10 to gift wrap your "Grand" purchases Seating is limited and will be filled on a

and help the Race for the Cure eradicate breast cancer as a life-threatening disease. Sponsored by KS95-FM and Paper Warehouse

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. KS95 Radio Broadcast Varied Grand Avenue broadcast sites. Listen to KS95 radio personalities on the air throughout the event as they relay Grand Meander happenings at various Grand Avenue businesses. Sponsored by KS95-FM

10:30 a.m. - Noon Free Family Movie: The Iron Giant (1999)

Grandview Theatre at Fairview. Seating starts at 10 a.m. for this highly praised, new animated film that will be enjoyed by both children and adults. Written by British author Ted Hughes, it's a story about a giant metal machine that befriends a young boy and helps save a town from fear and prejudice.

first-come, first-served basis. Please bring along a new or used children's book donation for children's programs in Ramsey County. Sponsored by Grand Avenue Ace Hardware, Grandview Theatre, Grandview Grille and Norwest Bank

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Free Art at Ramsey: A Holiday Art Fair

Ramsey Junior High School, Grand and Cambridge. Sixty plus juried artists. Sponsored by Macalester/Groveland Community Education and a benefit for Ramsey Junior High School.

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Free Trolley Rides

Between Fairview and Dale. Sponsored by
Billy's on Grand, D'Amico & Sons, Juut Salonspa, KS95-FM, Pasqual's and

Between Fairview and Dale. Sponsored by Billy's on Grand, Kowalski's Market, K\$95-FM and Whole Foods

11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Free Horse-drawn Hay Rides

Office: 651-835-1718 ext. 103

All Day: Business Events Free holiday treats, roasting chestnuts, live music, free drawings, holiday characters, book signings, pig roast, open houses and much more. Meander your way from Fairview to Dale and you'll be enchanted all along the way!

Grand Meander Free Soup Tasting! Noon to 3 PM

warm up with free samples of delicious soups during Grand Meander. No purchase required.

Tasting West to East...

Whole Foods	20 Co Esimiou
Coffee News Cafe	
Spudzza	1571 Grand Ave.
Green Mill	1342 Grand Ave.
Pasqual's	
Kowalski's Grand Market	1261 Grand Ave.
Great Harvest Bread Co	
D'Amico & Sons	
Sidney's Pizza Cafe	917 Grand Ave.
Cooks of Crocus Hill	877 Grand Ave.
Into the Woods	867 Grand Ave.
Billy's On Grand	857 Grand Ave.
Cafe Latté	
Bruegger's Bagels	
Wild Onion	788 Grand Ave.
Acropol Inn Restaurant	748 Grand Ave.
Dixie's on Grand	
Tavern on Grand	
La Cucaracha	

The following Grand Avenue businesses and sponsoring companies are official participants in the first Grand Meander *Grand Acts of Kindness*. Each business contributed to the indicated charitable cause with a generous donation. Bring your donation to a sponsoring business or to the tree lighting ceremony.

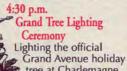
Area Food Shelves and Toy Collection Effort Food, toys and cash will be distributed to area needy. Charlemagne Jewelry

Books for Ramsey County Children

Distributed by the Saint Paul Area Council of Churches Grand Avenue Ace Hardware and Tavern on Grand

Ramsey Junior High School Band Fund Helping interested students enrich their lives through band participation Wet Paint Store to Door Shopping and delivery to Twin Cities frail and elderly Harrington's International

Summit Hill Living at Home Block Nurse Program Making it possible for seniors to remain in the community Bibelot Shop Women's Advocates Sheltering Victims of domestic violence and their children Anything & Everything, Ten Thousand Villages and Textilis Wrap for the Cure Working to eradicate breast cancer as a life-threatening disease KS95-FM Please call 651-699-0029 for further information.



tree at Charlemagne Jewelry, 1262 Grand Avenue (at Ayd Mill Road) will be a wonderful late afternoon event. Donations for the area's needy including food, toys and cash donations will Sponsored by be collected

Charlemagne

1 Jewelry

Special Thanks to Our Major Supporters: KS95-FM

Gold Level: Billy's on Grand, Kowalski's Grand Market, Tavern on Grand

Silver Level: Anything & Everything, Bibelot Shops, Cafe Latté, East Mall Associates, Great Harvest Bread Company, Green Mill, Jenson Consulting,

Summit on Grand

Jenson Consulting, Juut Salonspa, Lloyd's Automotive, Macalester College, McClay-Alton P.L.L.P. Attorneys, Muska Lighting Center, Norwest Bank, Pasqual's, Penzeys, Ltd., Skally Tax Service, Spudzza, Strategic Financial Group and Wet Paint

Grand Meander is an official Pioneer Party site in honor of Saint Paul's 150th anniversary of being named the capital of the Minnesota Territory.



Produced by the Grand Avenue **Business Association** 651-699-0029 www.GrandAve.com

Grand Meander

Join us Saturday, December 4 Soup Tasting ~ Chicken Noodle



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Meander

from previous page

INDIVIDUAL BUSINESSES (from west to east)

Dog Days, 1752 Grand. Meet retired racing greyhounds from noon to 3:30 p.m. and find out about adopting one as a pet.

A. Johnson & Sons Florist, 1738 Grand. Free cookies and refreshments will be served during the floral shop's annual holiday open house from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Get your picture taken with Santa and receive a free sprig of holly. Door prizes also will be awarded.

Wet Paint, 1684 Grand. Stop by the artists' material store between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. to learn how to make origami paper cranes.

Grand Avenue Ace Hardware, 1676 Grand. Free apple cider and cookies will be served throughout the day. Meanderers also can join Ace down on the farm by visiting a petting zoo at the corner of Grand and Cambridge from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Coat of Many Colors, 1666 Grand. Stop in and celebrate the season with voice, guitar, keyboard, flute and oboe music from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Soulflower, 1665 Grand. Free herbal tea and cookies will be served from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Treadle Yard Goods, 1338 Grand. Holiday scarf-making and beaded fringe demonstrations will be presented and complimentary cookies will be served from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Crescent Moon, 58 S. Hamline. Stop in for complimentary beverages and chocolate desserts from 10:00 a.m. to

Anything & Everything, 1208 Grand. Come join in holiday song during the shop's third annual caroling party from noon to 3:00 p.m. The singing will be led by the Sweet Adelines Quartette. Refreshments will be served.

Laurel Street Flowers, 1129 Grand. Register to win a free holiday wreath and enjoy complimentary tea and sweets from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Irish On Grand, 1124 Grand. A bagpiping Santa will perform and Irish tea and cookies will be served from noon to 3:00 p.m.

Bibelot Shop, 1082 Grand. Samples of Gavioli sparkling fruit juices from Italy will be available from 11:00 a.m. to



Santa will be checking to see who's been naughty and nice during the annual Grand Meander on December 4. Photo by Mike Long.

Wuollet Bakery, 1080 Grand. Follow your nose to where the scents of the season don't get more mouth-watering. Those who stop by may sample Wuollet's Christmas cookies and other holiday specialties from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00

Textilis, 1064 Grand. Meander in for free cookies and hot cider from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Bober Drug, 1059 Grand. Free cookies and cider will be served from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Ten Thousand Villages, 1051 Grand. Enjoy the sights, sounds and tastes of a Latin American Christmas from 10:00

Great Harvest Bread Co., 1049 Grand. Free samples of Grandma's Julekage and cherry walnut bread will be served from 6:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Traditions, 1039 Grand. Grand's purveyor of classic furniture and accessories will hold its annual holiday open house with cookies and coffee from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Grand Jeté, 975 Grand. Free hot cider for all and candy canes for the kids are on tap from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Stogies on Grand, 961 Grand. The cigar shop and smoking lounge will fire up live music during the Meander from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Summit Fly Fishing, 940 Grand. Flytying demonstrations will be given from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Milton Mall, 917 Grand. Meet a live

reindeer and see Santa's sleigh, have your gifts wrapped with proceeds going to the Race for the Cure for breast cancer, and listen to KS95-FM personalities on the air. Timbuktu Station will offer a drawing for merchandise, refreshments and holiday accessorizing how-to's. And the Summit Hill Living at Home/Block Nurse Program will hold a raffle, offer treats and provide information for se-

Red Balloon, 891 Grand. Swedishborn author Marie Olofsdotter will read from her book Sofia and the Heartmender at 10:30 a.m. She will be accompanied by a puppeteer.

Annette's, 867 Grand. Hot spiced apple cider and cookies will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Garden of Eden, 867 Grand. An open house with fortune cookies and free samples will be held from 1:00 to 4:00

Summit on Grand, 867 Grand Ave. Toast the grand opening of the avenue's newest clothing store with cider and

Billy's on Grand, 857 Grand. Billy's annual outdoor pig roast will be served up from noon to 5:00 p.m. Hot dogs and brats will also be available.

Juut Salonspa, 857 Grand Ave. Those who attend the salon's open house from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. can enter a drawing for a gift basket of Aveda products.

Meandering/see next page







Meandering on Grand/from previous page

F & B Linen, 844 Grand Ave. Come downstairs and receive free cookies from noon to 3:00 p.m.

Wild Onion, 788 Grand. The Onion will toast Grand Meanderers with complimentary Tom and Jerries for all those age 21 and older from noon to 3:00 p.m.

Grand Spectacle, 769 Grand. Chestnuts will be roasting on an open fire and hot apple cider will be served from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Acropol Inn, 748 Grand. Stop by between noon and 3:00 p.m. to enter a drawing to win dinner for two.

Dixie's on Grand, 695 Grand Ave. President-elect John Wolf of the Grand Avenue Business Association will be passing out the latest edition of the "Guide to Grand."

Penzey's, 674 Grand. Spice up your holiday with free cookies and punch from 9:30 a.m.

to 5:00 p.m.

Cardamom, 672 Grand. There will be food tasting and free candles will be given to the first 100 customers who stop in between 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Tavern on Grand, 656 Grand. Stop in for the annual Pancake Breakfast with Santa from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Crocus Hill Health Center, 653 Grand. Take a break from a long afternoon of shopping with a free chair massage and free hot spiced cider from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Baskets on Occasion, 613 Grand. Stop in to sign up for a holiday gift basket from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

For more information about the Grand Meander, call the Grand Avenue Business Association at 651-699-0029 or visit its Web site at www.GrandAve.com.

Holiday Sewing Gorgeous silks, fabulous buttons, fabrics and service that make you smile. TREADE YARD-GOODS 1051 698-9690 Mon-Fit 10-8 Sat: 10-5 Sun:1-5 1338 Grand Ave St. Paul Mn, 55105

Next Issue: December 15 Deadline: December 8





Meander by for Special Events

Fri. night Dec. 3, 6-9pm Partagas S Series Cigar Tasting

Sat. Dec. 4, 1-5pm Por Larranaga Cigar Tasting

Meet and talk cigars with a specialist in the art of selecting and enjoying a fine cigar 1-5 p.m.

• Refreshments & Music!

Select from a wide variety of memorable gift items in every price range for the cigar & pipe smoker on your list.

961 Grand Ave. • 651222-8700 OPEN: M - Thurs 10 - 9, Fri - Sat 10 - 10, Sun 12 - 6

Area charities to benefit from Grand Acts of Kindness

In conjunction with the Grand Meander, a new program called Grand Acts of Kindness is being introduced this year to give special attention to local charities. Grand Avenue merchants, employees, customers and area residents are all being encouraged to give to the causes that are nearest and dearest to them.

The following Grand Avenue businesses and sponsoring companies are participating in the program. Each business made a generous donation to the indicated charitable cause. Those who would also like to support those causes are invited to bring their donations to the sponsoring businesses or to the tree-lighting ceremony that will take place at 4:30 p.m. during the Meander.

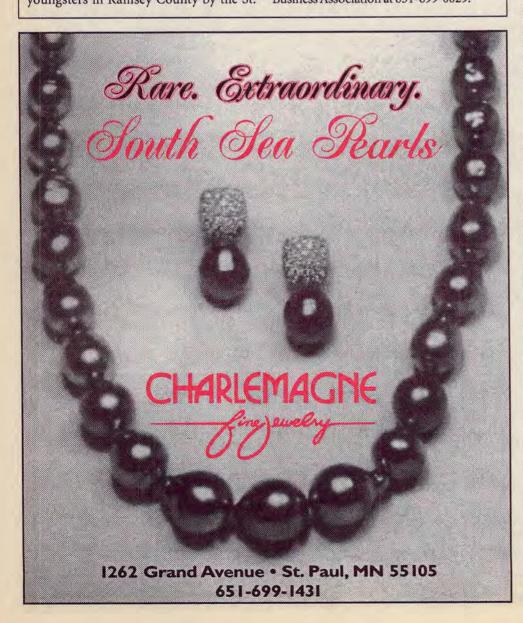
The businesses and charitable causes include the following:

- Charlemagne Jewelry—Donated food, toys and cash will be distributed to the needy.
- Grand Avenue Ace Hardware and Tavern on Grand—Donations of new and used children's books will be distributed to youngsters in Ramsey County by the St.

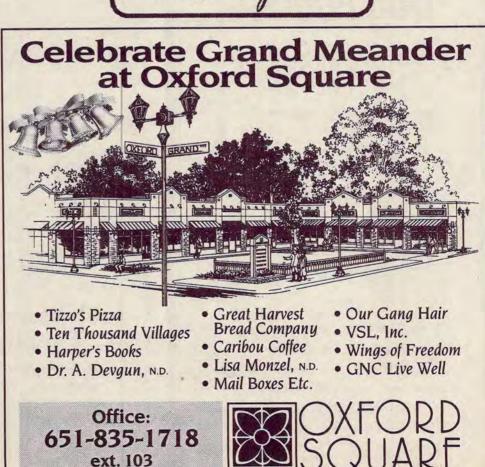
Paul Area Council of Churches.

- Wet Paint—Monetary donations to the Ramsey Junior High Band Fund will help students enrich their lives through participation in the school band.
- Harrington's International—Donations to Store to Door will help provide shopping and delivery services to frail and elderly residents of the Twin Cities.
- Bibelot Shop—Donations to the Summit Hill Living at Home/Block Nurse Program will help make it possible for seniors in the neighborhood to remain in their own homes as long as possible.
- Anything & Everything, Ten Thousand Villages and Textilis—Donations to Women's Advocates on Grand Avenue will assist the work of the nation's first shelter for victims of domestic violence and their children.
- KS95—Wrap for the Cure will provide gift-wrapping services at Milton Mall, with proceeds helping to eradicate breast cancer.

For more information about the Grand Acts of Kindness, call the Grand Avenue Business Association at 651-699-0029.







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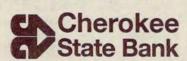
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Salutes GRAND MEANDER



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15% off Your First Grooming Visit H.V.





Youngsters can climb aboard the head elf's lap during Breakfast with Santa and later grab a horse-drawn hayride as part of the annual Holiday in Highland on Saturday, December 11. Photos by Mike Long.

Holly jolly holiday

Highland merchants prepare to salute the season

Highland area merchants will be wrapped up in the holiday spirit once again when the Highland Business Association presents its annual Holiday in Highland on Saturday, December 11.

The holiday promotion will begin with the HBA's venerable Breakfast with Santa from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. All children and their adult guests are invited to enjoy the free continental breakfast at Perkins Restaurant. Santa will be on hand to listen to the youngsters' holiday wishes and pose for photographs.

Families also are welcome to stroll over to the Highland Theatre after breakfast for a free 10:30 a.m. showing of the holiday movie Jack Frost, compliments of Mann Theatres and the HBA.

Horse-drawn hayrides will once again transport holiday shoppers throughout the Village. Cookie decorating will be done over the lunch hour at Blimpies and holiday music will be presented throughout the day by strolling carolers. In addition, the HBA will be holding a drawing for 12 family packs containing tickets to the Minnesota Zoo, Walk the Wild Lights display and IMAX Theater.

Following are the highlights of Highland's salute to the holiday shopping season as compiled by the Highland **Business Association:**

Breakfast with Santa. A complimentary continental breakfast will be served and Santa will be available to listen to children's holiday wishes and to pose for pictures from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. at Perkins Family Restaurant, 800 S. Cleveland Ave. Parents are welcome to bring along their cameras for photos of the kids on the jolly old elf's lap.

Free holiday movie. Families are invited to view the family holiday film Jack Frost on the big screen at the Highland Theatre beginning at 10:30 a.m. There is no admission charge.

Minnesota Zoo drawing. The HBA will be holding a drawing for 12 family packs, each containing tickets for four to the Minnesota Zoo, its Walk the Wild Lights holiday display and IMAX Theater, which is showing Home Alone, Jingle All the Way and Whales. Sign up for the drawing at participating Highland Village businesses through December 11. They can be found in the Holiday in Highland advertisement in this issue of the Villager.

Cookie decorating. Buy a children's meal for \$1.99 at Blimpies Subs & Salads, 1817 Randolph Ave., between noon and 2:00 p.m. and receive a free cookie to decorate any way you like.

Horse-drawn hayrides. Rest your weary legs after a day of shopping by hitching a ride on a horse-drawn hay wagon between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. The rides will begin and end near the Hillcrest Recreation Center parking lot on Ford Parkway.

Strolling carolers. Sounds of the season will fill the Village as vintage carolers take to the sidewalks from noon to 3:00 p.m.

For more information on Holiday in Highland, call the Highland Business Association at 651-699-9042.



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ONTHETOWN

Santas and sinners

Playwright Latimer unwraps her vision of a Claus with flaws



The Santa Club playwright Randy Latimer. Photo by Brad Stauffer.

Theater-goers

looking for peace on

earth and good will

to look elsewhere.

"I think it's great if

people are squirming

a little bit in their

seats," said director

Christopher James.

by Bob Gilbert

he Santa Club is not your typical holiday fare. The dark comedy by Highland Park playwright Randy Latimer revolves around a support group for people who are dying to don the white beard, red suit and tassled cap of Santa Claus but somehow lack the ho-ho-ho to land the job.

Members of the group meet from October to Christmas every year to air their frustrations, talk shop and exchange leads for what each of them considers the ideal job. Though otherwise gainfully employed, they all would give up their jobs in a heartbeat for a chance to play the role of St. Nick.

The Santa Club includes an alcoholic woman, a Jew, a man with an eye patch and a big black beard who refuses to dye it, and another man who works as a Santa in a bar and actually wears the bar's logo on his red

"These people are searching for what's missing in their lives," Latimer said. "For them, being Santa means being accepted and being able to give. Through the group, they attempt to work through emotionally whatever is keeping them from getting a job

Most of them will never succeed, Latimer said. All they will ever do is complain. However, this year, one of their own, a guy named Gary, lands the big job as Santa Claus—the "real" one. He will train at the North Pole, drive Rudolph and the other reindeer on Christmas Eve and pass out

presents around the world.

"Though there is happiness for his success," Latimer said, "there's also a lot of resentment within the group because, even though he's a good Santa, personally he's a

The Santa Club is being presented by the Fully Reciprocal Theatre Company at 7:00 and 9:30 p.m. on Tuesdays,

December 7-21, at the Bryant-Lake Bowl, 810 W. Lake St. in Minneapolis.

Theater-goers looking for peace on earth and good will toward men will have to toward men will have look elsewhere, according to Christopher James, director of The Santa Club and co-founder of the Fully Reciprocal Theatre.

"A lot of our plays deal with topics that people don't feel comfortable dealing with," James said." I think it's great if people are

squirming a little bit in their seats and reacting to what's happening on stage.

"That's where the name of our theater comes from," James said. "The way we look at it, the actors are throwing energy at the audience and hopefully the audience is throwing energy back, so there's a reciprocal interchange of emotions."

Latimer has been involved in theater since moving to the Twin Cities in 1980. Currently the assistant artistic director of the Mary Worth Theater in Minneapolis, she has

cowritten 16 musicals for Steppingstone children's theater and six plays for adults. She has also acted in productions at the Jungle Theater, Theatre de la Jeune Lune and the Children's Theater, among others.

Latimer played a part in Fully Reciprocal's holiday comedy of a year ago, The Eight, in which Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, et al. reveal

their horrible little secret-Santa abuses his reindeer. Vixen goes so far as to accuse Claus of sexual harassment. This year, the troupe wanted something different, so they commissioned Latimer to write a new holiday comedy.

For Latimer, the creative process begins before she ever sits down to write. She keeps her eyes peeled for the little acts of spontaneity and meaningful coincidences that cross her path and offer

insights into her emerging characters. She compares writing plays to befriending a new group of people who are willing to tell you the most intimate details of their lives.

For The Santa Club, Latimer enlisted the help of actors and other theater professionals at the Playwrights Center in Minneapolis, where she is a member. Some of the center's best actors and directors gave her first draft a dramatic reading.

A native of Deadwood, South Dakota, Latimer studied acting at the University of Denver against her parents wishes. They did not think the stage was a suitable way to make a living. But if acting did not pay the bills, Latimer knew she would never lack for work because she could type 120 words a

Arriving in San Francisco during the 1960s, Latimer settled in Haight-Ashbury, where the flower-power counterculture was just emerging. Though she stood in awe of what was happening around her, Latimer was no hippie. She worked for the Small Business Administration. Today, she has a medical transcription business that helps to support her.

Latimer is passionate about theater. Everybody involved in a play has the opportunity to share an emotional experience without being endangered, she

"Unlike television or the movies, theater still tells the truth," Latimer said. "Good theater gives people the stuff that allows them to grow emotionally."

Despite Minnesotans' reputation for being stoic, Latimer believes that local theater patrons somehow understand that they cannot go into a theater and keep themselves apart from the production.

"Just because you have an entire audience that sits through a play without making a sound, it doesn't mean that they aren't moved by it," she said. "Sometimes you just have to relax and take the trip. Local audiences understand that."

Tickets for The Santa Club, which cost \$12, may be reserved by calling 612-825-8949.







Music



A free concert by the University of Minnesota's Graduate Brass Quintet will be offered at 7:30 p.m. Friday, December 3, at the Church of St. Luke, 1079 Summit Ave. Admission is free. Call 651-224-1608.

A candlelight Christmas concert will be performed at 8:00 p.m. Saturday, December 4, in Our Lady of Victory Chapel at the College of St. Catherine. Admission is free.

"Joy to the World," a concert celebrating the music of the holiday season, will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Saturday and at 3:00 and 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 4 and 5, in the Buetow Music Center Auditorium at Concordia University. For free tickets, call 612-343-3390.

"The Colors of Christmas," featuring Peabo Bryson, James Ingram, Dionne Warwick and Deniece Williams, will be performed at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, December 5, and at 8:00 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, December 7 and 8, at the Ordway Music Theatre. For tickets, priced at \$27,\$37 and \$48, call 651-224-4222.

The Prospect Park Players will perform "Clara's Net," a concert of music by Milhaud, Bartok and Poulenc, at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, December 5, in Sundin Hall at Hamline University. For tickets, priced at \$15, call 612-331-8345.

The Chamber Music Society, along with soprano Maria Jette, will perform at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, December 5, in the 3M Auditorium at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. For tickets, priced at \$15, or \$10 for students and seniors, call 612-339-2264.

The Singer's Voice, an autobiographical music series hosted by Dan Chouinard, will continue with the following perfor-

mances at 8:00 p.m.on Sundays at the Dakota Bar & Grill in Bandana Square: Aimée Fischer will perform jazz, blues and country on December 5; and Cookie Coleman, Arne Fogel and Bruce Henry will perform a Sinatra birthday salute on December 12. Call 651-642-1442.

Robayat, a local ensemble that performs the indigenous music of Persia, Turkey and Central Asia, will perform at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, December 9, at the Hamline Library, 1558 W. Minnehaha Ave. Admission is free.

Cafe Accordion Orchestra will perform a Christmas concert at 8:30 p.m. Friday, December 10, in Baumgartner Auditorium at the University of St. Thomas. Admission is \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. Call 612-782-8488.

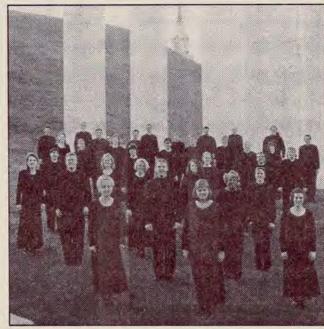
Kantorei will perform "Celebrating the Mystery: Music of Christmas" at 8:00 p.m. Friday, December 10, at the Church of St. Patrick, at Valley View Road and Gleason Road in Edina. The concert will be repeated at 8:00 p.m. Saturday, December 11, at Annunciation Catholic Church, 509 W. 54th St., Minneapolis. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5.00 for students and seniors.

Collin Raye will perform a concert of holiday favorites at 8:00 p.m. Saturday, December 11, at the Historic Orpheum Theatre. For tickets, priced at \$28.50 and \$33.50, call 612-989-5151.

The Dale Warland Singers will perform "Echoes of Christmas" at 8:00 p.m. Saturday, December 11, at Nativity of Our Lord Catholic Church, 1900 Wellesley Ave. For tickets, priced from \$20 to \$30, call 612-339-9707.

The Macalester Concert Choir will perform "Looking Back Ahead" at 8:00 p.m. Saturday, December 11, in the Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center at Macalester College. The concert will include work by composers whose forward thinking moved choral music ahead during

ON THE TOWN briefly



World Voices will perform its annual Christmas concert at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, December 11, at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 S. Snelling Ave. The concert will feature the 36-voice choir and a chamber performing such classics as Bach's "Gloria in Excelsis Deo," Buxtehude's "Das Neugeborne Kindelein" and Pachelbel's Magnificat in G. Interspersed between the larger works will be carols from many Eastern European countries. Admission is \$12 for adults and \$8.00 for students. Call 612-937-2776.

their time and in many instances became the standard upon which present and future works are based and measured. Admission is free.

A holiday concert will be performed by the Wayzata
Women's Chorus and the Apollo
Male Chorus at 8:00 p.m. Saturday, December 11, and at 3:00
p.m. Sunday, December 12, in
the Ted Mann Concert Hall on
the West Bank of the University
of Minnesota. For tickets,
priced from \$7.00 to \$18, call
612-557-1166.

The Highland Park Junior High School orchestras and chorus will perform on Tuesday, December 14, and the bands on Thursday, December 16. Both concerts will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the school, 975 S. Snelling Ave. Refreshments will be sold by the newly formed booster club to raise money for the school's music program.

Books



The Cathedral Hill Book Club will meet from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. every other Saturday at Nina's Coffee Cafe, at the corner of Western and Selby. Upcoming books to be discussed will be Frank McCourt's Angela's Ashes and Michael Shaara's The Killer Angels. For meeting dates, e-mail htiller@yahoo.com.

Barnes & Noble Highland, 2080 Ford Pkwy., will hold the following events for adults: the spirituality bookclub will meet to discuss *The Alchemist* at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 1; and Barbara Moss will read from and sign copies of her book *Change Me Into Zeus' Daughter* at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, December 2. All events are free. Call 651-690-9443.

Jon Hassler will read from his book My Staggerford Journal at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 8, at the Macalester College Chapel, 1600 Grand Ave. Admission is free. Call 651-699-0587.

Dance .



Leela Prabhu Theater Arts will present "Paramparaa" at 8:00 p.m. Friday, December 3, and at 6:00 p.m. Sunday, December 5, in the St. Paul Student Center at the University of Minnesota, 2017 Buford Ave. The production will provide the audience with insight into the history and practice of various types of Indian Classical dance styles such as Bharatha Natyam, Kuchipudi, Mohini Attam and Odissi. For advance tickets, priced at \$10, or \$8.00 for students and seniors, call 612-836-1223. Tickets will also be available at the door for \$10 and \$15.

The Macalester Dance Ensemble will perform "Obsessed," an eclectic mix of modern, ballet and dance theater, at 8:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday, December 3 and 4, and at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, December 5, in the Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center at Macalester College. For tickets, priced at \$7.00 for adults and \$5.00 for seniors, call 651-696-6359.

The Dancers Studio, 99 N. Snelling Ave., will hold a dance from 8:00 to 11:00 p.m. Saturday, December 4. A group class will be held from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Admission is \$13, or \$10 for members of Dancers Studio. Call 651-641-0777.

The Continental Ballet Company will perform *The Nut-cracker* at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, December 4, at the O'Shaugh-

nessy on the campus of the College of St. Catherine. For ticket information, call 612-989-5151.

The TGIS Singles Social Club will hold a smaller free singles.

will hold a smoke-free singles dance at 8:30 p.m. Saturday, December 11, at the Thunderbird Hotel, 2201 E. 78th St., Bloomington. Second Generation will provide the music for the dance. Admission is \$10, or \$8.00 before 9:00 p.m. Call 651-644-3443.

"Cinema With Passion," a festival of Hong Kong films, will take place at midnight on Fridays at the Riverview Theatre, 3800 S. 42nd Ave., Minneapolis, and at 11:00 a.m. and midnight on Saturdays at the Oak Street Cinema, 309 S.E. Oak St., Minneapolis. The festival will continue with the following: Hong Kong Triad on December 4; Where a Good Man Goes on December 3 and 11; and Portland Street Blues on December 10. Admission is \$6.00. Call 612-376-7715.

"Beyond Barbed Wire," a documentary focusing on the Japanese-Americans who fought in World War II while their families were interned in camps by the American government, will be shown at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, December 4, at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. Admission is free. Call 651-296-6126.

Family



Preschool storytimes for children ages 3-5 will be held at the Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave. The four-week sessions will continue on Tuesdays through December 21. There will be a session for daycare groups at 10:00 a.m. and one for families at 10:45 a.m. To register, call 651-642-0385.







The musical Willie Wonka will be performed by children in the 5th and 6th grades at 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Saturday, December 2 and 4, and at 1:00 p.m. Sunday, December 5, at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. Admission is \$5.00 for adults and \$4.00 for seniors and children. For information, call 651-698-0751.

SteppingStone Theatre for Youth Development will open The Best Christmas Pageant Ever at 7:00 p.m. Friday, December 3, in the F.K. Weyerhaeuser Auditorium at Landmark Center. Performances will continue until December 23. For tickets, priced at \$7.00, call 651-225-9265.

The Youth Performance Company will open House at Pooh Corner on Friday, December 3, at the Howard Conn Fine Arts Center, 1900 Nicollet Ave., Minneapolis. Performances will continue until December 19. For tickets, priced at \$7.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children, call 612-623-9080.

Theatre Live will present City Children's Nutcracker at 7:30 p.m. Friday, December 3, at 2:00 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, December 4, and at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, December 5, at the Historic State Theatre. For tickets, priced at \$15 for adults and \$10 for children, call 612-673-0404.

The Red Balloon Bookshop, 891 Grand Ave., will offer the following events: Marie Olofsdotter will talk about her picture books Sofia and the Heartmender and Frej the Fearless at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, December 4; and John Coy will read from his new book Strong to the Hoop at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, December 11. Admission is free. Call 651-224-8320.

History HiJinx, a drop-in program for children and families, will take place from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Sundays at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. The lineup will include the following: learn the traditional dreidel game or

Book fulfills mother's wish

MaryLou Stromme of Shoreview made a promise to her 64-year-old mother, Mary Lord, who was dying of leukemia. Lord had always wanted to write a children's book, but she died before her dream could come true.

On her death bed, Stromme promised to write the book for her. Unsure what topic to choose, she sat on her bed holding her

mother's notebook in hand and was inspired to write down what she felt in her heart.

The result is Gramma Went to Heaven, which Stromme self-published last month. With illustrations by her brother-in-law Christopher Stromme, the book contains memories of her mother, all the fun she had with her grandchildren and the message that she would continue to watch over them even after she was gone.

"Mom was one of us," said Stromme, whose husband, Jon, grew up in Macalester-Groveland and graduated from Highland Park Senior High School."When we played, she played. Our childhood memories of fun and laughter are ones that we would never forget."

Stromme will sign copies of Gramma Went to Heaven from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Saturday, December 4, at Where Dreams Come True, 1856 Grand Ave. The book costs \$14.95, with \$4.95 from each sale going to charity.

To order Gramma Went to Heaven or for more information, visit www.grammawenttoheaven.com or call 651-486-8457.

make your own puppet goblin on December 5; and make a "Julgranskorg," a heart-shaped basket of woven paper in the Swedish colors of yellow and blue on December 12. Admission is free. Call 651-296-6126.

"Sundays at Landmark," a family-oriented event series, will take place at 2:00 p.m. on Sundays at Landmark Center. The lineup will include the following: the Minnesota Boychoir on December 5 (\$3.00 for adults and \$1.00 for children); and the Roseville Community Band on December 12 (free). Call 651-292-3225.

The St. Paul Civic Symphony will present a special children's concert at 2:00 and 4:00 p.m. Sunday, December 12, in the Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center

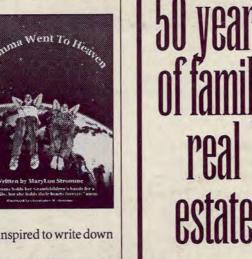
at Macalester College. Children can also participate in art activities sponsored by ArtStart at 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. The cost is \$4.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children, Call 651-696-6189.

Etc.



"Winter Lights," a performance of music, dance, poetry and songs of the season, will be performed at 7:00 p.m. Friday, December 3, in the Recital Hall at the College of St. Catherine. There will also be a silent auction and raffle beginning at 6:15 p.m. Admission is \$30. Proceeds will benefit Dwelling in the Woods Hermitage Retreat Center.

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The Wild Yam Cabaret, founded by Summit Hill resident Eve Blackwell, will present an evening of eclectic entertainment at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, December 4, at the CSPS Hall, 383 Michigan St. Blackwell will host the show as a middle-aged Marilyn Monroe. Admission is \$7.00, or \$6.00 in advance by calling 651-293-9072.

Na Fianna Irish Theatre will hold a benefit fund-raiser from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. Sunday, December 5, at the Dubliner Pub, 2162 W. University Ave. The evening will include music, dancing, skits, readings, prizes and raffles. The cost is \$5.00 which includes a beer and brat.

Exhibits **

A dual installation of "Shakti-Voices of Shakti: Pain, Struggle, Courage" by Indira Freitas Johnson and "Milieu: An Exploration of Environment" by Chris Allen-Wicker, Therese Buchmiller and Krista Kelley Walsh has opened in the Catherine G. Murphy Gallery at the College of St. Catherine. The exhibit will remain on view until December 19. For information, call 651-690-6637.

An exhibit of recent paintings and artwork by Gabriele Ellertson, a visiting assistant professor of drawing at Macalester College, has opened at the Macalester College Art Gallery. The exhibit will remain on view until December 20.

An exhibit of recent works by Patricia Canelake and Bonnie Heller is on display at Cafe Latté, 850 Grand Ave. The exhibit will remain on display through January 1. For information, call 651-690-0060.

"Canoe Pieces," an exhibit of cast metal sculpture by Wayne E. Potratz, has opened at the Raymond Avenue Gallery, 761 Raymond Ave. An artist's reception will be held from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Friday, December 3. For information, call 651-644-9200.

"Illuminations," an exhibit recognizing the artwork of individuals with developmental

will open with a reception from 2:00 to 7:00 p.m. Thursday, December 2, at the Capella Management Group, 475 N. Cleveland Ave. The exhibit will remain on view until January

An exhibit of contemporary works in clay, fiber, metal and wood by nationally known artists will open with a reception from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Saturday, December 4, at Art Resources Gallery, 494 Jackson St. The exhibit will remain on display until December 31. For information, call 651-292-8475.

Theater

Late Nite Catechism is now playing at the Ordway's McKnight Theatre. The theater has been transformed into a Catholic schoolroom where the irrepressible Sister conducts her hilarious adult catechism class. Performances will run through February 20. For tickets, priced from \$15 to \$25, call 651-224-4222.

The Great American History Theatre, 30 E. 10th St., has opened Orphan Train, a musical chronicling the journey of a trainload of homeless, abandoned and neglected children from New York's orphanages and slums to new homes in the rural Midwest. Performances will continue through December 26. For tickets, priced from \$19 to \$23, call 651-292-4323.

"Daily Life and Popular Devotion in the Andes: Painting from Tigua, Ecuador" will open for exhibit with a reception at 4:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 1, in the Brady Educational

Center at the University of St. Thomas. The exhibit features enamel paintings on sheepskin and ceremonial objects. It will remain on view until February 29. Call 651-962-5560.

> Theatre in the Round Players has opened Alan Ayckbourn's Season's Greetings in their performance space at 245 Cedar Ave., Minneapolis. Performances will continue through December 19. For tickets, priced at \$15, call 612-333-3010.

Theatre de la Jeune Lune, 105 N. First St., Minneapolis, has opened The Magic Flute. Performances will continue through January 16. For tickets, priced from \$10 to \$25, call 612-333-6200.

Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol has opened at the Guthrie Theater. The story will be narrated by the recorded voice of legendary actor Sir John Gielgud. Performances will continue until December 26. For tickets, priced from \$20.50 to \$43.50, call 612-377-2224.

Teatro del Pueblo will open La Posada at 8:00 p.m. Friday, December 3, at Park Square Theatre, 408 St. Peter Street. The comical love story follows Anita and Aurelio as they reminisce about a Christmas long ago

when Aurelio journeyed from Minnesota to Mexico in search of his beloved Anita. Performances will continue through December 19. For tickets, priced at \$16, or \$10 for children, students and seniors, call 651-224-4222.

Eye of the Storm Theatre Company will open SantaLand Diaries at 8:00 p.m. Friday, December 4, at the Minneapolis Theatre Garage, 711 W. Franklin Ave., Minneapolis. Performances will continue until December 26. For tickets, priced at \$15, call 612-728-5859.

Kevin Kling will perform his one-person holiday show Tales from the Charred Underbelly of the Yule Log at 7:30 p.m. Monday, December 6, at the Guthrie Theater. For tickets, priced at \$15, call 612-377-2224.

Illusion Theater will open Fall On Your Knees, a suburbanstyle holiday celebration featuring Miss Richfield 1981 decked out in her holiday finest, at 8:00 p.m. Thursday, December 9, at the Hennepin Center for the Arts in Minneapolis. Performances will continue at 8:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday, December 9 and 10, and at 7:00 p.m. Sunday and Monday, December 12 and 13. For tickets, priced at \$15, call 612-339-4944.





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A collaboration meeting community needs and creating lasting positive change

This report is made possible, in part, thanks to the sponsorship of these community newspapers: The Alley, Hopkins Sun Sailor, Minneapolis Spokesman, Minnesota Women's Press, Minnetonka Sun Sailor, Seward Profile, St. Paul Legal Legal Ledger, St. Paul Recorder, Siren, Southside Pride, Southwest Journal, Villager (Highland Villager). Also made possible thanks to the generous support of the Otto Bremer Foundation and The Saint Paul Foundation.

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The Twin Cities Metro has a critical lack of affordable housing.

Community experts cite causes in affordable housing shortfall

1. Increase in demand. More families are in poverty today than 10 years ago, and rents in real dollars have increased, while wages in real dollars have decreased.

2. Reduced supply.
Demolition without replacement, and conversion of subsidized housing to market rate are responsible for the loss of thousands of affordable housing units. Minneapolis alone has lost over 4,000 units in the past 10 years

- 3. Decreased involvement by federal government. The government has dramatically reduced its involvement, expecting the private market to fill the need.
- 4. Current tax policies provide fewer incentives for landlords to provide affordable or subsidized housing.
- 5. Lack of appropriations for long-term building mainte-nance have led to unsafe lead levels, substandard housing and the condemnation and demolition of housing.

6. Public perception. Attitudes toward people in poverty perpetuate an "us" against "them" mentality. Often people believe that affordable housing in their community will mean lowered property values and increased crime.

7. The booming economy. People assume because times are better for them, if others are struggling, it's due to laziness or some other personal failing. The increasing economic disparity makes poverty less visible. What we don't see, we don't address.

We asked 'why?' and 'what can we do?'

The Twin Cities' lack of affordable housing causes human misery and threatens our community's future prosperity and stability. To solve the problem the community as a whole must understand the issues and get involved. Community Solutions Fund decided to publish a communitywide discussion of the problem. We asked agencies, activists, officials, and other community members to talk about causes, effects, and solutions to the crisis. This is what they told us.

Why is affordable housing such a big issue?
"It's the number one policy issue in the area," says Yusef

Mgeni, president of the Urban Coalition. "It's a major crisis facing low-income people. Children suffer from their family's financial stress or homelessness. Individuals face increased barriers to employment. Homelessness brings with it the threat of lower school performance for children and severe health problems from exposure and illness."

There are about 16,600 people who are homeless or precariously housed in Minnesota on any given day, and 8,000 in the metro area. With housing costs rising faster than wages, even two fulltime jobs isn't a guarantee that a family can afford decent, safe housing.

Why can't people afford housing?
Housing is considered "af-

fordable" if a person or family pays no more than 30% of their income for rent or mortgage costs. According to the Saint Paul-based Wilder Foundation, about one in five Minnesotans are forced to spend more than they can afford on housing.

In 1997 a typical two-bed-

room apartment in the metro area rented for \$621 per tion 8-subsidized housing projects) are expiring. Many month. By the 30% measure, a family would have to earn \$24,840 per year (\$12 per hour) to rent a two-bedroom apartment. Most bus driver, health aid, or teaching assistant jobs do not pay this amount.

Although unemployment is at a record low and the economy is "booming," it's not booming for everyone. There are more families in poverty than there were ten years ago, and housing costs are rising faster than wages. Between 1974

and 1993, rents increased 13% in real dollars in the Twin Cities; renters' real incomes decreased 8%.

How did this crisis happen?

Over 4,000 units of affordable housing have been demolished in Minneapolis over the past ten years. It's true that demolition can often decrease concentrations of poverty, renew troubled blocks, and eliminate unhealthy, leadladen properties. However, locally, demolition has led to a net reduction in affordable units, and a replacement of affordable units with less-affordable units. "We need to stop tearing stuff down," says Charlie Warner of HOME Line, a tenant advocacy group.

"It costs about twice as much to build new units as it does to save existing units," points out Pete Wyckoff, executive director of the Minnesota Senior Federation.

But demolition of existing low-income housing units is just one of the causes of the lack of affordable housing. "High utility costs can force low-income families to move from one inadequate housing situation to another," says Pam Marshall of Energy Cents Coalition. The problem gets magnified because "moving contributes to a downward spiral in economic circumstances of families who have to

pay moving costs, new damage deposits, and are forced into poorler housing.'

In addition, federal support has plummeted. According to the Congressional Budget Office, appropriations for HUD subsidized programs have fallen by 81% from \$32.2 billion in fiscal year 1978 to \$11.7 billion in fiscal year 1991 (adjusting for inflation).

"The federal government used to be involved in building affordable housing directly and indirectly through the tax code," says Allan Malkis of the Urban Coalition. The government reduced this involvement with the expectation that the private market would fill the need for affordable housing. Malkis adds, "It's apparent to everyone that the market won't take care of low-income people's housing

HUD Section 8 housing contracts (Housing and Urban Development agreements with owners of Sec-

landlords are opting out of the program to receive higher, market-rate rents.

On top of all this, the Twin Cities' housing market is extremely tight. The vacancy rate for rental units in the metro area is less than 2%. There are 68,900 renter households in the metro area with incomes below \$10,000, but only 31,200 affordable units are available at this income.



The human face of the issue

About 16,600 people are homeless or "precariously housed" on any given day in Minnesota. Fifty percent are children.

Take a Housing Quiz 1. T or F - Children on waiting

lists for subsidized housing are six times more likely to have stunted growth than kids in subsidized housing.

- 2. T or F When a house is condemned in Minneapolis, zoning laws say that in order for someone to live in it, it must have a full basement.
- 3. The total cost of mortgage interest deductions for homeowners is how much larger than HUD's entire budget for lowincome housing?
- 4. Children in substandard housing are at an increased risk of which of the following: asthma, lead poisoning, burns.

Answers on opposite page.

- What are the solutions?

 1. Stop demolition and start rehab: Protect existing affordable housing by expanding the funds to maintain affordable housing and preserve subsidized housing.
- 2. Require replacement of affordable housing that is demolished.
- 3. Get the lederal government to increase its involvement in subsidizing housing development, and restore federal tax incentives to landlords and developers of affordable housing.
- 4. Suburban municipalities can remove or reduce zoning barriers and provide other assistance for developing affordable housing.
- 5. Educate and involve communities: Engage community members in solving the problem. Illustrate how everyone will gain by increasing affordable housing in all communities, so everyone will take responsibility for it.
- 6. Get smarter about investing housing rehab dollars to address energy problems when rehab is done. Reduce overall housing costs by reducing energy costs, which are a significant portion of rising housing costs.
- 7. Reduce housing discrimination against people of color and families with children by investigating complaints and enforcing existing laws.
- 8. Improve public transportation to create access to better jobs.
- 9. Hold leaders accountable: Community leaders, elected officials and business leaders need to face the scope, severity and potential long-term consequences of the problem. Their leadership is needed to re-order public priorities in order to bring about solutions.

Seven things YOU can do about affordable housing

- 1. Get informed. Talk about affordable housing with your friends and neigh-
- 2. Talk to your local, state and federal legislators about the need for affordable housing.
- 3. Join a coalition doing organizing, public education or legislative work.
- 4. Ask your minister / rabbi / priest / faith community leader to address the issue with your congregation.
- 5. Call one of the coalitions mentioned here and get help to organize a talk or brown bag discussion at your work / civic organization / union / club.
- 6. Contribute to an organization or coalition working on the issue.
- 7. Support affordable housing development efforts in your community.

What is happening? What is being done?

Who is affected?

Providing adequate affordable housing "has a direct impact on this area's ability to grow and prosper," says Jim Solem of the Metropolitan Council. "We need to attract a good work force, and these people will need a place to live.'

Of the 16,000 people who are homeless or "precariously housed" on any given day in Minnesota, 72% have lived in Minnesota for two years or more; 50% are children; and 35% of the adults are working. In the Twin Cities, from 1985 to 1997, the number of homeless children increased 881%.

Children struggle without safe, affordable housing. Average reading scores for kids who moved three or more times during the school year were nearly 20 points lower than those who didn't have to move. Health care providers can't keep track of children and their medical histories, including immunizations. And kids' overall health suffers in substandard housing: cockroaches, dust mites and mold increase the risk of asthma and upper respiratory disease.

The dearth of affordable housing is "one of the most serious obstacles that women meet in achieving self-sufficiency for themselves and their children," points out Grace Harkness of the Minnesota Women's Consortium.

Mary Ann Palumbo of the East Metro Women's Council says that "policy makers in suburban communities need to understand that housing which is affordable for all income levels is needed in their communities. It's lifecycle housing for their older citizens and the young people coming up. It's needed for families in transition.'

"Often the people affected are older people and people with disabilities," says Charlie Warner of HOME Line.

"Being displaced is destroying their sense of community." It also affects their health, their safety, their lives.

The Minneapolis Affordable Housing Task Force's report determined that low-income people of color are disproportionately impacted by the housing crisis, due to concentrated poverty in communities of color, and issues of racial and economic bias and discrimination. The Twin Cities Metro has one of the highest per capita concentrations of poverty among people of color in the nation, and the income disparity between Minneapolis and the surrounding suburbs is among the highest in

In the Twin Cities manufactured home communities are home to 50,000 people. According to Jim Paist of All Parks Alliance For Change,

"Manufactured homes are a critical source of affordable housing in the suburbs - in some communities, it's the only source.'

Many suburban manufactured home parks are at risk for development. When a park closes, residents may have few protections, such as relocation benefits and advance notice. They face the challenge of finding a new park, the added expense of moving their home, and can lose their home if they are unable to re-locate it. Dislocated residents often have to move into a new community because little affordable housing remains in their old one.

Teenagers are also affected. "Youth under 18 who may have left an abusive home cannot get housing or even an ID without their legal guardian present. This, combined with the discrimination young people face, forces youth to 'squat' to survive," according to Leigh Coombs of District 202.

"We've got to stop saying it's someone else's problem," says Jim Solem. "Stop denial."

Lack of affordable home ownership has long-term effects.

The number one source of financing post-high school education is a home equity loan. It's also the number one access to capital for starting and expanding small businesses in communities of color. In times of transition, illness, unemployment, a family's home equity is critical to their ability to stave off a cascade of disasters.

With decreased ownership among families of color and families with low incomes, the means for self-sufficiency and economic betterment are diminished for a second generation as well. "Children from families who own their homes also benefit. They are less likely to drop out of school and less likely to have children as teenagers," according to A Dream Deferred: the 50/30 Housing Research Initiative Report of the Urban Coalition and Roy Wilkins Center.

Progress in the works We are making progress at all levels toward solving the

affordable housing crisis. At the federal level, coalitions and advocacy groups are working to support federal legislation that would dramatically increase funds available for development, preservation, and rehabilitation by providing a federal match of state and local funds appropriated.

At the state level, the legislature increased appropriations for the Minnesota housing Finance Agency's (MHFA)

affordable housing program by \$74 million. The housing budget currently makes up 0.4% of the Minnesota General Fund. The personal testimony, letter writing and organizing of several coalitions helped to achieve this success. The Family Housing Fund, the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition and others have banded together to call for increasing MHFA's budget to 1% of the General Fund.

At the local level, The Minneapolis City Council passed an Affordable Housing Policy Resolution directing the Minneapolis Community Development Agency to oversee a task force. The Minneapolis Affordable Housing Task Force has developed strategies to increase

affordable housing production, with a priority for extremely low-income housing (30% or below median

At the neighborhood and organization level, successful tenant organizing has led to preservation of hundreds of subsidized housing units by encouraging landlords to sell to nonprofit housing organizations, or otherwise keep the building in the HUD Section 8 program.

At the individual level, people like you are becoming concerned about the housing crisis. They are getting involved, changing policy, and demanding that all people should be able to live indoors in safe, affordable housing.



This is something we do together. One community. Everybody is part of the solution.

Minnesota Senior Federation was able to save many hundreds of affordable housing units by organizing tenants.

- Answers to the Quiz

 1. True. Families often have to choose between paying rent and buying food and medicine. Substandard housing is associated with increased illness.
- 2. True. The house must have a basement under the porch, which most houses in Minneapolis don't have. Waivers may be granted, but the initial law scares many potential buyers away.
- 3. Mortgage interest tax deductions add up to 3 times HUD's budget for low-income housing.

Here's how Community Solutions Fund member groups are making a difference:

Advocating Change Together produced the documentary Living in the Freedom World, telling the stories of persons with developmental disabilities who have moved from state institutions to their own homes.

All Parks Alliance for Change, a community-based organization of manufactured home park residents, advocates for fair laws to stabilize low-income neighborhoods.

The Alley Newspaper is producing a special section for the paper and on their website on jobs and affordable housing.

Association for the Advancement of Hmong Women in Minnesota advo-cates for and assists Hmong women and their families in finding and keeping housing.

Black, Indian, Hispanic & Asian (B.I.H.A.) Women in Action operates Uzuri African American Women's Resource Center, and advocates for and assists women in finding affordable housing.

Cedar Riverside People's Center provides social and health services to seniors in neighborhood senior high rises.

District 202 works with gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender youth with housing needs to find emergency, transitional, and long-term housing solutions, and is a member of Street-Works, a collaboration of youth-serving agencies providing outreach to youth who are either homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Elliot Park Neighborhood, Inc. sup-ports grassroots efforts for affordable housing, crime prevention, intercultural understanding and neighborhood and economic revitalization.

Energy Cents Coalition promotes community education, organizing, public policy initiatives, and projects designed to reduce the utility portion of housing costs.

Hawthorne Area Community Council administers the area Neighborhood Revitalization Program including: a loan program using \$300,000 to make housing improvements; working with Minneapolis Community Development Agency to acquire properties for development or demolition; developing 20 new town homes; and removing graffiti. HACC partnered with General Mills and Project for Pride in Living in a \$3,000,000 housing improvements program. Collaborates with others to help residents forced to move due to school construction know their options, and provides assistance in finding new residences.

Lexington-Hamline Community Council owns and provides support for seven properties which form a housing co-operative; makes housing improvement loans; provides information about rental properties, home loans, grants and improvements; coordinates group contracting for repairs and services; and organizes residents in Skyline Towers.

Little Earth Residents Association provides services to 1,000 lowincome housing residents of Little Earth of United Tribes.

continued on back

To get involved:

Affordable Housing Campaign through Family & Children's Service, 612-341-1616 Affordable Housing Coalition of Dakota County, care of Maribeth Lundeen, 612-891-7463 Alliance for Metropolitan Stability, 612-332-4471 APAC - All Parks Alliance for Change, 651-644-5525

East Metro Women's Council, 651-773-8401 Energy Cents Coalition, 651-774-9010 Jewish Community Action, 612-822-1442 Joint Religious Legislative Coalition, 612-870-3670

MICAH (Minneapolis Interfaith Coalition on Affordable housing), 612-871-8980 Minnesota Senior Federation (Metro Region), 651-645-0261 Saint Paul Area Coalition for the Homeless, care of Nelda Rhoades Clark, 651-224-1329 ext. 119

SPEAC (Saint Paul Ecumenical Alliance of Congregations), 651-290-9192 Saint Paul Tenants Union, 651-224-6538

For information:

Family Housing Fund web site: www.fhfund. HOME Line - suburban Hennepin tenant advocacy, 612-933-0017

HUD web site: www.hud.gov/houscris Legal Aid Society of Minneapolis, 612-332-1441

Like Waters Rolling Down - MICAH and Illusion Theater play on fair housing, 612-871-8980

LISC (Local Initiatives Support Corporation) 651-649-1109 Metropolitan Council Housing & Redevelopment Authority 651-602-1428, web site: www.metrocouncil.org Minnesota Housing Partnership web site: www.mhponline.org

Thank you to these people and organizations for their information and assistance:

Monte Aacker, Minnesota Housing Finance Agency Andriana Abariotes - LISC (Local Initiatives Support Corporation) **Audrey Anderson** Louise Brown and Jo Haberman-Family &

Children's Service Joe Big Bear, Little Earth Residents Association Leigh Coombs and Melissa Conway, District 202 Chris Dart, Lexington Hamline Community Council Grace Harkness and Carolyn Odegard, the

Minnesota Women's Consortium Jerie Heille Kirk Hill, Minnesota Tenants Union

Flo Golod, Southside Family School Sue Gunderson and Donna Morgan, Sustainable **Resources Center**

Tom Kingston, Wilder Foundation Pacyinz Lyfoung, MN Housing Finance Agency Dan McGrath, Progressive Minnesota Yusef Mgeni and Allan Malkis, The Urban Coalition Kathy Milner, The Saint Paul Tenants Union Dru Osterud, Legal Services Advocacy Project and

Energy Cents Coalition Jim Paist, All Parks Alliance for Change (APAC) Mary Ann Palumbo, East Metro Women's Council Senator Sandy Pappas

Vic Rosenthal, Jewish Community Action Jay Schmitz, MICAH

Jim Solem, Metropolitan Council Tom Streitz, Legal Aid Society of Minneapolis Charlie Warner, HOME Line Family Housing Fund (web site)

News from Central Neighborhood Housing Trust Family Housing Fund (website) Minneapolis Community Development Agency

(MCDA) (web site) Joint Religious Legislative Coalition (Justice Alert newsletter)

Community

Solutions Fund conducts a workplace giving campaign to benefit its members who work to meet critical needs and create lasting positive change. To bring Community Solutions Fund to YOUR WORK-PLACE, call us at 651-647-0440. To find out more information on Community Solutions Fund or any of our member organizations: call us, check out our website at www.solutionsfund.org, or email us at staff@solutionsfund.org.

Member groups make a difference, continued

Minnesota Alliance for Progressive Action Education Fund supported a successful campaign to adjust income eligibility of the renters credit for inflation; worked to secure benefits for people experiencing homelessness; strategizes with organizations working on housing to connect the housing crisis with the big picture on taxes and appropria-

Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women provides training and other resources to area shelters.

Minnesota Senior Federation (Metro Region) addresses housing policy issues directly and in coalition; conducts successful organizing efforts to preserve HUD Section 8 subsidized housing; coordi-

nates reverse mortgage program. Minnesota Tenants Union serves tenants with information, advice and referral; advocates in coalition for the availability and preservation of affordable

housing stock. Minnesota Women's Consortium convened "Housing as a Women's issue;" prints MICAH action alerts; and includes updates and calendar informa-

tion on housing activities in its weekly newsletter. National Federation of the Blind of Minnesota provides housing for blind students in their program; and assists and advocates for blind people in finding housing.

Older Women's League of Minnesota conducts a bus tour of housing options available for seniors.

Saint Paul Tenants Union provides legal information, advocacy and organizing assistance to tenants, and through active legislative efforts, improves availability and affordability of housing to lowincome people and people of color.

Southside Family School's student association, SAACP, is involved in affordable housing advocacy through seeking information, public testimony and attending hearings and rallies. Member of the Affordable Housing Campaign.

Sustainable Resources Center preserves and improves affordable housing stock through lead risk reduction and energy conservation, housing, weath-

erization, air quality diagnostics, and education. Member of the Affordable Housing Campaign and the Phillips Neighborhood Healthy Housing Coalition.

The Urban Coalition provides free research, technical assistance, and other support to organizations and coalitions working on housing issues. Member of the Minnesota Housing Partnership, the Alliance for Metropolitan Stability and has provided research, analysis and expert testimony for groups seeking affordable housing remedies through the legislative and judicial system.

West Bank Community Development Corporation provides housing, job creation, and services for people of low and moderate incomes.

West Side Community Health Services operates clinics in St. Paul-area subsidized housing locations, Healthcare for the Homeless clinics at St. Paul area shelters, and directs a homelessness prevention outreach project.

Community Solutions Fund member organizations get results

In addition to efforts for affordable housing, member groups work individually and in coalitions to find innovative, effective solutions to other critical human needs: access to affordable health care, eliminating poverty; improving child care, neighborhood and economic development, corporate accountability, campaign finance, and human rights.

Early Childhood Resource Center Elaine M. Stately Peacemaker Center Family Tree Clinic Friends for a Non-Violent World **Greater Minneapolis Day Care Association** KFAI FM - Fresh Air Radio Migizi Communications, Inc. **Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault Missing Children Minnesota Phillips Community Development Corporation Quatrefoil Library Resource Center of the Americas** The Twin Cities Gray Panthers **Women Against Military Madness**

~ Create ~ Achieve ~ Connect ~ Sustain ~



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SPORTS

CODY'S CORNER

TOM CODY



Fallout from U scandal fouls the air

ovember was not a pleasant month on the University of Minnesota campus as president Mark Yudof responded to the academic scandal that has rocked the men's basketball program for the past six months. The Gophers haven't run into this much trouble since groundskeeper Bill Murray was policing the fairways in Caddyshack. The scandal caused Alamo Bowl officials to re-examine their options before issuing a bid to Glen Mason's football team.

Talk about a pile of bull poop. Bowl bids aren't issued on the basis of moral standards; they're issued on the basis of dollars and cents. Alamo Bowl officials were afraid that the Minnesota contingent at the December 28 game would be smaller than the band of Texans who defended the original Alamo. They wanted 16,000 fans to make the trip to San Antonio. I'm not sure that many Minnesotans would turn out for a Gophers-Texas A&M matchup at the Metrodome.

The academic scandal is the epitome of hypocrisy. On the same day Gopher athletic director Mark Dienhart and vice president McKinley Boston resigned, CBS announced it had acquired the television rights to the NCAA basketball tournament for \$6 billion. In this day and age, big-time college sports has nothing to do with academics.

Yudof asking Dienhart to step down makes as much sense as the city of San Francisco firing its city engineer after an earthquake. Dienhart was responsible for cleaning up this mess, not accounting for it. The way it looks to me, Yudof had to get Dienhart in order to get Boston. Of course, nobody seems to be able to get Clem Haskins. He's out there on his Kentucky horse ranch today, shoveling the same stuff that he gave to Dienhart throughout this whole fiasco.

Question: How does a boss take charge when his employees make six or seven times his salary? Dienhart was expected to closely monitor the actions of Haskins? I'm no college administrator, but that doesn't sound feasible.

I know Mark Dienhart personally and I strongly believe the following to be true: You can take Dienhart's job from him, you can take his salary from him and you can take his title from him, but you cannot take away his good name. Dienhart leaves with that intact.

WHAT DOESN'T KILL YOU

The worst corner in Minnesota used to be University and Snelling. Not anymore. Now it's Jimmy Hitchcock. Such is the fickle finger of fate in the National Football League.

Last year, everything that the Vikings cornerback did turned out great. Hitchcock took chances, he made big plays, he scored touchdowns. Every guess he hazarded seemed to be the right one.

This season, the laws of probability have caught up with Hitchcock. Ever since he got burned by Brett Favre in the last-second loss to the Packers, he seems tentative. Life in the defensive secondary in the NFL demands a certain Deion-like swagger. Hitchcock has to get his game back.

It's amazing that this team is sitting at 7-4 and is poised to make a run at the Central Division title. The '99 Vikings have suffered numerous mishaps and have gotten more than their

Cody/see page 50

A class of its own

Big-play offense, pressure defense lead CDH to title

by Bill Wagner

Steve Walsh. Chris Weinke. Corbin Lacina. Ben Birk.

Followers of the Cretin-Derham Hall football team will recognize this quartet as once outstanding Raiders who went on to fine gridiron careers. Three of them have progressed into the National Football League and the fourth, Weinke, after a stint in professional baseball, is now trying to guide Florida State to a national college championship.

But for all their talent, none of the four ever played on a state champion football team. Which puts Joe Mauer, Walter Bowser, Joe Vannelli, Ronny Dox and the rest of the CDH gridiron squadron of 1999 in a class all their own.

As of 12:02 a.m. Saturday, November 27, the Raiders became the state AAAAA champions, soundly defeating previously unbeaten Hastings 42-21 and putting to rest the oft-repeated taunt that CDH, for all of its conference and sectional championships, could never win the big one.

CDH (13-0) wasted no time in the title game, scoring touchdowns on its first two offensive series. Hastings answered with two touchdowns of its own. But three quick TDs by CDH late in the second quarter made it 35-14 and the contest appeared to be over.

"This is the most fun I've ever had," said Bowser, a senior wide receiver who caught six passes for 164 yards and three touchdowns in the game. Bowser helped set the tone for the game on the first CDH play from scrimmage, when he ran under a 51-yard bomb from quarterback Mauer to set up the score, a 10-yard scamper by sophomore running back Kim Sarin.

"We planned that," said Bowser about his 51-yard catch. "We did the same thing against Hopkins (in the semifinals) the week before."

Mauer and Bowser connected on 70yard and 10-yard TD receptions in the final two minutes of the first half. "At halftime, it was kind of quiet," Bowser said. "We knew that we still had 24 minutes left to play. But we had got it done."

"Hastings is a very good team—their defense is very quick," said Mauer, a junior. "But we made the plays when we had to."

The CDH defense were no slouches either, forcing three first-half turnovers. On Hastings' first possession of the game, CDH senior linebacker Dox stripped running back Dan Voigt of the ball. Defensive end Marcus Freeman, a



Cretin-Derham Hall senior defensive end Tony Warren gets ready to pounce on a second-half fumble by Hastings. *Photo by Brad Stauffer*.

225-pound sophomore, picked up the fumble and rambled 24 yards to give CDH an early 14-0 lead.

"We're for real, and we came out and showed it today," said Dox, who also nailed a 51-yard punt in the first quarter.

"These kids have been focused all year," said CDH head coach Rich Kallok of his team.

Kallok has seen some heartbreaking losses for the Raiders in the state tournament—as CDH's coach and, before that, defensive coordinator. "I guess this gives some legitimacy to our program," he said. "Some people thought that we didn't belong with the big boys. But we showed them tonight that we do."

Mal Scanlan, who as coach led CDH to several state tournaments in the late 1980s and early 1990s, served as an assistant to Kallok this year. But he downplayed any role he had in the triumph. "I was just watching; I was just a fan, that's all," Scanlan said. "The kids did it. They had talent and they worked hard."

The hard work paid off at two points in the game when it looked as if Hastings might regain the momentum.

The first occurred with 2:07 to play in the first half. After a slow start, Hastings had begun to move the ball, putting together a Prep Bowl record 99-yard drive to tie the game at 14-14. Hastings had a chance to take the lead, but an interception by senior defensive back Joe Clif-

ford gave the ball back to CDH. Then Sarin broke free behind the Hastings secondary and Mauer hit him with a 56yard scoring strike to make it 20-14.

The other momentum-stopper came in the third quarter. Hastings had taken the second-half kickoff and marched down to the CDH 29. But on fourth and 1, Dox and CDH junior defensive back Rashon Powers-Neal threw Voigt for a 2-yard loss and CDH took over.

CDH sealed the victory in the fourth quarter. An 18-yard pass from Mauer to Bowser made it 42-14. Hastings managed only one more score, a 1-yard run by Josh McLay. Senior placekicker Rob Reiling was six-for-six in extra points for CDH, and also set up a Raider touchdown late in the first half with a key interception.

Much of the Raiders' success in the game was due to the pressure their defense was able to put on Hastings quarterback Greg Begnaud. Begnaud made some big plays, especially in the first half, but he continually had to run out of the pocket and often had to throw off balance and off his back foot.

Kallok said he liked the matchups, both offensively and defensively, between his team and Hastings. "We thought that our best was as good as their best," he said.

No, Coach. It was better.







Girls basketball preview

Prep coaches size up class system, chances for success

by Bill Wagner

Lower than expected attendance and larger than expected margins of victory at the girls state high school basketball tournament have coaches across the state talking about scaling back the number of classes for the postseason

Three years ago, the girls and boys state basketball tournaments jumped from two to four classes based on school enrollment. The result, at least among the girls, coaches say, is a broader range of talent at the tourney and a subsequent drop in competitiveness, with some teams getting blown out of the water. Under the four-class system, attendance at the girls state tourney is up slightly over the last four years of the two-class system, but still under that of the previous 16 state tourneys.

For the past two years, girls coaches have been talking about reducing the number of classes to three, according to Willie Taylor, coach of the Central High School girls varsity. A majority of the coaches are in favor of it, he said. "Personally, I'd like to see just two classes, A and AA," he said.

The profusion of classes has not only diluted the talent, it has diluted the honor of going to state, he added. "Whenever you go to state under a two-class system, it's a really big deal," he said.

Talk of a three-class system is still preliminary, according to coach Paul Bernabei of the Convent of the Visitation School. There are pros and cons on either side, Bernabei said, and he's not sure how he'd vote on such a proposal.

In any case, the class system only affects the playoffs. Eight girls teams in the Villager area have a whole season of competition before that happens. Here's how their respective coaches rate their prospects for 1999-2000:

CENTRAL Conference: St. Paul City 1998-99 record: 18-5

Key players and their strengths:

Coach: Willie Taylor

Velnisha Williams, 5-foot-5 junior guard. Deft defender, good shot.

 Nakia Carlisle, 5-foot-8 sophomore guard. Quick hands, can take it to the

· Nira Boyd, 5-foot-9 junior forward. Team captain; a smart player who has a good jump shot and can rebound.

 Elsie Ginsberg, 6-foot-1 senior center. Aggressive player.

 Rikiee Ellis, 5-foot-9 junior forward. Good outside game, great jump shot.

· Serena Nalls, 5-foot-9 junior forward. Quick; has a good shot.

· Betsy Waalen, 5-foot-9 sophomore center. Good rebounder.

Team strengths, weaknesses: The Minutemaids are quick and have one of the best backcourts in the state. They have a nice mix of youth and experience in their line-up, but they may have trouble against taller teams.

Outlook for season: This could be Central's year to unseat Cretin-Derham Hall. "I'm not saying that it'll happen," Taylor said, "but we're due."

CRETIN-DERHAM HALL

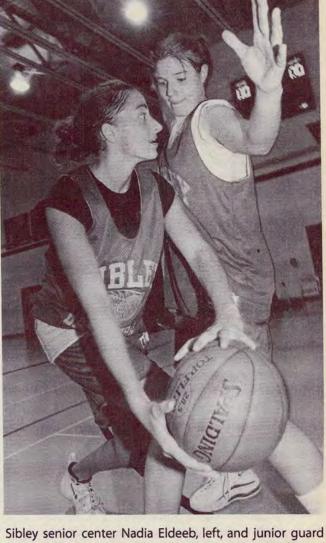
Conference: St. Paul City 1998-99 record: 24-2, state champions Coach: Tom Cody

Key players and their strengths:

Kate Townley, 5-foot-10 senior point guard. One of the best in the state, Townley underwent ankle surgery in November and may be slowed some early in season.

· Mary Dienhart, 5-foot-9 junior guard. Drives well and plays solid

Girls basketball/see next page



Kristina Kurchinka go toe to toe. Photo by Brad Stauffer.

Puck preview: Area boys take to ice for start of new season

by Tom Cody

Virtually all of the topflight high school boys hockey programs in Minnesota draw the majority of their players from their local youth hockey associations. Many of the prep teams in the Villager area are not as fortunate. Instead of having direct feeder programs, they share the fruits of the Pee Wee and Bantam (ages 10-14) leagues operated by the Highland-Central and West St. Paul Area associations, among others.

"Only seven of the 15 'A' bantams on the West St. Paul team go to Sibley," said Warriors coach Scott Reddy, "and the rest go to Cretin and St. Thomas. We lose a lot of youth program kids to the private schools. We'll get six or seven players from each class, then we have to fill in with the younger kids. You need 13 or 14 seniors to be a really strong varsity team these days. It comes down to numbers. If you're getting a direct feed from your youth teams, you've got more high school-ability players available."

"We never can count on a core group of players coming to St. Paul Academy," said coach Bill Ross. "We have programs in our lower school, but they're not producing significant numbers for our varsity. Kids come to SPA for the academics first. We're not a strong draw for local hockey players."

Coach Scott Gengler said Minnehaha Academy is trying to remedy the situation by developing its own Bantam team. "This is the first year we've established a junior varsity schedule," he said. "We lose all kinds of our talented middle school kids. They follow their youth program teammates to other high schools. We want to keep them here."

The prep hockey season gets under way this weekend. Here's a sneak peek at what to expect from the six area teams:

ST. PAUL HAWKS (Central-Highland-Humboldt-Arlington) League: St. Paul City Conference 1998-99 record: 6-17-0 Coach: Jim Munkwitz

Key players and their strengths:

· Luke Garafola (sophomore goalie). He's a



The St. Paul Hawks are banking on a strong defense anchored by Marcus Smith, left, John Lopez, Luke Garafola and Jacob LeDuc. Photo by Brad Stauffer.

good one. Munkwitz will build the team's de- enrollment. It's difficult, but that's life." fense around this youngster.

 Wes Wilson (junior defenseman). Gives the Hawks a physical presence on the blue

· Jake LeDuc (junior defenseman). A smart player with good hockey sense. He'll direct the power play.

Craig Nelson (senior wing). A tough little player who doesn't mind hitting people.

· Andy Eckert (senior center). One of the fastest skaters on the team. He'll be counted on to get the puck in the net.

Team strengths/weaknesses: There are a lot of question marks on offense, but the team's defense should be solid."We'll work from our own end out," Munkwitz said. "We're comfortable with our five defensemen and our goaltender. Some of our young forwards will just have to step up for us."

Outlook for 1999-2000: The Hawks may be overmatched in the City Conference, but they'll have many competitive non-conference games this month. "Johnson and Cretin-Derham are tough; that's the recent history of our league," Munkwitz said. "We play in the big-school class because of our (four-school)

CRETIN-DERHAM HALL League: St. Paul City Conference 1998-99 record: 19-6-0 Coach: Brandon Ferraro

Key players and their strengths:

- Joe Vannelli (senior center). A shifty playmaker who can score goals.
- Darren Richardson (junior wing). Another goal scorer. A fast skater with a good
- · Chet Alexander (senior wing). A standout performer on the power play.
- Morgan Buetow-Staples (senior defenseman). Returns after playing a season in a Colorado junior league.
- Matt Holli (senior defenseman). A solid blue-liner.
- · Kris Unise (senior goalie). All-state last season. Will largely determine CDH's for-
- Ryan Marrinan (senior wing). Accurate shooter who will score some points.

Team strengths/weaknesses: The Raiders' defense is solid and Unise is tough between the pipes. "We don't have any of those 30-40 goal scorers in our lineup," Ferraro said, "but we have a good group of forwards." The hockey team will suffer from the football team's success, since many players will start practice late.

Outlook for 1999-2000: Johnson is the favorite in the conference. The Raiders should be the Governors' chief threat. Hastings won the Section 3AA championship last year and will be almost as good this time around. Woodbury and Park will be section contenders. The Raiders should have an impact on the post-season as well.

SIBLEY

League: St. Paul Suburban Conference 1998-99 record: 15-8-0 Coach: Scott Reddy

Key players and their strengths:

- Sean Doyle (senior center). Scored 50 points last season. He can fly.
- · Troy Troje (senior defenseman). A 6-foot-5,215-pound, four-year veteran. Joe Becker (senior wing). A good passer
- who sees the ice well. Tim Schmidt (junior defenseman). A
- defensive-minded blue-liner. Brian Kilburg (sophomore defenseman).
- Likes to hit and doesn't make mistakes in his

 Rich Lopez (sophomore defenseman). Can rush the puck out of the defensive end.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Doyle and Troje are both legitimate college players. Doyle can dominate a game offensively, while Troje can also score points from his position. In fact, all four defenders will be involved in the offense. "Those two guys are probably the strength of this team," Reddy said. "But we have to look for offense from guys other than Doyle and Troje." Last year's goalie, Andy Gross, will be difficult to replace.

Outlook for 1999-2000: Reddy hopes to see his team improve all season and make a playoff run. "Our league is really tough with Hastings, Park and Woodbury," he said. "Though Hastings was probably unbeatable last season, this year there could be an upset."

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Girls basketball preview/from previous page

defense.

- · Kate Garvey, 5-foot-9 senior forward. Was first off the bench last year.
- Kristin Greenwood, 5-foot-9 senior guard. Consistent, well-balanced performer.
- Jessica Dickey, 5-foot-9 junior guard. Solid defender.
- Gail Gagne, 5-foot-11 junior center. A heads-up player who can rebound.

Team strengths, weaknesses: The Raiders lost eight seniors from their state champion team. They don't have the height that they had last year, but they should be quick and strong defensively.

Outlook for season: Cody considers his team strong enough to win even without Townley, but the sooner the Raiders' 1,000point scorer returns to form the better, he said. Cody's strategy this year: "We'll press and fast-break."

HENRY SIBLEY

Conference: St. Paul Suburban 1998-99 record: 10-14 Coach: Chris Hiti

Key players and their strengths:

- Brenda Wilson, 5-foot-7 senior guard. Solid defender; can shoot and run the floor.
- · Andi Johnson, 5-foot-10 senior guard. Should average in double figures scoring; quick off the dribble and good rebounder.
- Nadia Eldeeb, 6-foot senior center. Led conference in rebounding last season.
- · Alana Lucio, 5-foot-7 senior guard. Team leader and solid defender who can penetrate.

Team strengths, weaknesses: The Warriors have a great sophomore class and solid defense, but they will need to learn to score in-

Outlook for season: Hiti thinks his squad offers a legitimate challenge to such conference powerhouses as Tartan, Woodbury, North St. Paul and Hastings. "We have everybody back who started last year," Hiti said. "The key is how well we shoot the ball."

HIGHLAND PARK

Conference: St. Paul City 1998-99 record: 16-10, Section champs Coach: Jeff Levine

Key players and their strengths:

- · Laura Haugen, 5-foot-8 senior guard. On pace to crack 1,000 career points this year.
- · Janet Klees, 5-foot-11 sophomore forward. Sees the floor well and creates shots.
- Nikki Comby, 5-foot-8 junior guard. Deft passer and team leader.
- · Alison Falkenhagen, 5-foot-7 junior guard. Very aggressive defender.

Team strengths, weaknesses: Highland has a nucleus of talent, but Haugen is going to need some help scoring if the Lady Scots are

Outlook for season: Levine looks for his team to finish in the top half of the league, nipping at the heels of Cretin-Derham Hall and Central. "I'm optimistic," he said. "We'll work hard."

MINNEHAHA ACADEMY

Conference: Tri-Metro 1998-99 record: 19-5 Coach: Lance Johnson

Key players and their strengths:

- · Annika Boyd, 5-foot-10 freshman guard. Good scorer from outside; three-point threat.
- · Chanel Thomas, 6-foot senior center. Strong inside player.
- Sarah Kron, 5-foot-10 senior forward. Team captain and defensive specialist.
- Amanda Johnson, 5-foot-10 sophomore point guard. Has a great shot and penetrates well; can play any spot on the floor.
- · Lee Durant, 5-foot-8 sophomore forward. Averaged 16 points per game last year.

Team strengths, weaknesses: The Red Hawks have good size and good offensive balance, but their defense has not been sharp in the early going.

Outlook for season: Blake is the favorite in the Tri-Metro, Johnson said, but with five of his top seven players back from last year, he thinks 'Haha may challenge for the title."Our top three players are sophomores, so we'll have some inexperience to overcome," he

ROOSEVELT

Conference: Minneapolis City 1998-99 record: 2-19 Coach: Carita Green

Key players and their strengths:

- Te'Aira Small, 6-foot sophomore center. Has perhaps the best shot on the team.
- · Carmen Bartlow, 5-foot-4 sophomore guard. Has a great shot, but inexperienced.
- · Kieyonn Bogan, 5-foot-7 junior guard. Defensive ace.
- Shalandas Evans, 5-foot-3 sophomore point guard. Good dribbler, passer and scorer, but inexperienced.

Team strengths, weaknesses: The Teddies will be quick and have a bit more talent than last year, but are still relatively inexperienced.

Outlook for season: "We'll be better this year," Green said. Her goal for the team: Finish .500 or better for the season.

ST. PAUL ACADEMY

Conference: Tri-Metro 1998-99 record: 2-22 Coach: Dan Engebretson

Key players and their strengths:

- Sarah Barnes, 5-foot-11 junior forward. All-conference last year, she has a solid game inside and out.
- Katie Ross, 5-foot-4 senior guard. Team captain and defensive specialist.
- Sarah Kromroy, 6-foot junior center. Allconference honorable mention last year. Dependable rebounder.
- · Uju Obi, 5-foot-9 senior guard. Smart, unselfish playmaker.

Team strengths, weaknesses: The Spartans will be quick and can score, but lack height and possibly some confidence.

Outlook for season: Spartans took a beating last year, their first year in the tough Tri-Metro. "But this year," Engebretson said, "we should be pretty good."

VISITATION

Conference: Tri-Metro 1998-99 record: 16-9 Coach: Paul Bernabei

Key players and their strengths:

- Katie Hanson, 5-foot-10 senior center. Team captain; a tough player who does what
- Colleen Traeger, 5-foot-8 junior forward. An offensive threat; all-conference honorable mention last year.
- Keri Erickson, 5-foot-10 senior center. Much improved from a year ago.
- · Miquela Hernandez, 5-foot-8 senior forward. Three-point threat.
- · Jenny Carnival, 5-foot-7 junior forward. Quick hands; scrappy inside.
- · Shannon Fitzgerald, 6-foot-1 senior center. Outstanding rebounder, strong scorer and good defender.
- Kelly Fitzgerald, 5-foot-9 senior guard. The team's quarterback, she can make the three-point shot, but a shoulder injury may keep her on the bench until mid-December.

Team strengths, weaknesses: The Blazers have five seniors back from last year's squad and can go nine players deep off the bench, but their rebounding will need to improve.

Outlook for season: Bernabei rates Blake as the conference favorite, but thinks his team will be right behind. "We should be pretty good," he said. "We'll press and play some uptempo ball."



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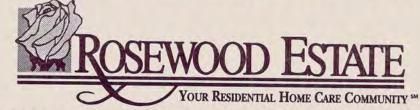
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ST. THOMAS ACADEMY

League: St. Paul Suburban Conference 1998-99 record: 19-9-0, section champs Coach: Billy McCarthy

Key players and their strengths:

- Anthony Blumer (senior wing). A rugged scorer with great quickness. Scored 19 goals
- · Ryan Inman (senior defenseman). A steady, quiet leader.
- Matt Bennett (senior wing). A three-year veteran who is tenacious on the puck.
- · Joe Forliti (senior defenseman). Provides stability on the STA blue line.

Team strengths/weaknesses: The Cadets played in the state Class A tourney for the first time last spring."We had a taste of the big time and we know where to park over there now," McCarthy said. "We have several competitive kids who are two- and three-sport athletes. There's some excitement about hockey in our building." Five of six defenders graduated from last year's team, as did both goaltenders. This year's forwards will be quick and Blumer will elevate the offense when he is on the ice.

Outlook for 1999-2000: "The top four in our league (Hastings, Woodbury, Park, South St. Paul) are good ones," McCarthy said. "Our section will be good, too. Even though we're the defending champs, this won't be a justshow-up deal."

ST. PAUL ACADEMY

League: Tri-Metro Conference 1998-99 record: 9-14-0 Coach: Bill Ross

Key players and their strengths:

- · Max Buetow (junior goalie). Athletic 6foot-4 stopper with great ability.
- · Mike O'Halloran (senior wing). Will kill penalties and set up plays on offense.
- · Aaron Vanney (senior center). Talented skater with an edge to his game.
- · Sam Polk (senior defenseman). Leads the break from out of the defensive end.
- · Jamie Burns (junior defenseman). A big, rugged defender who likes the physical game. · Sundi Griffin (junior wing). A speedy
- skater who can check and pass the puck.
- · Evan Labon (junior defenseman). A big

6-foot-1 defender who can move the puck.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Ross has about half a dozen great players, "but we fall off quickly after the starting lineup," he said. "This crew will have to play a lot of minutes. It's important that we continue to develop depth on this club." The Spartans' top two goal-scorers last season have graduated, so scoring punch is an obvious issue.

Outlook for 1999-2000: "Flip a coin," said Ross on the Tri-Metro race. "It'll be Breck or Blake. We've got a decent shot at that third position." The Spartans will play in the same section as St. Thomas Academy. Red Wing and Mahtomedi are the early favorites there.

MINNEHAHA ACADEMY

League: Tri-Metro Conference 1998-99 record: 8-16-1 Coach: Scott Gengler

Key players and their strengths:

- Austin Hall (senior wing). An impact player who returns after missing two months
- · Bryan Murphy (senior wing). This sniper can really light the lamp. Has great hands and a strong shot.

- · Kevin Hennessey (junior goalie). A phenom in the nets. Has the perfect mentality to play goalie.
- · Neal Cole (junior center). Possesses good skills and has improved physically.
- · Nick Chase (senior defenseman). Has good all-around skills.
- · Jake Fay (senior defenseman). A real defensive blue-liner and team captain.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Hennessey will keep Minnehaha competitive in many games. "We put our best kids back on defense and build from there," Gengler said. "Hall is a huge factor for us. He had two points a game when he was on the ice last year. We only lost two players from last season, so we're excited about getting started." Gengler has developed a full junior varsity, but he must still play a lot of freshmen and sophomores on the varsity.

Outlook for 1999-2000: The Red Hawks were third in the conference last season. "We've got to beat Blake and Breck," Gengler said. "St. Agnes and St. Paul Academy will be right there with us." Minnehaha also plays in the same section as SPA, STA, Red Wing and Mahtomedi.

Cody's Corner/from page 47

share of bad breaks. They're basically playing without any new draft choices. The best rookie they got-tight end Jim Kleinsasser—can't even play his own position and has been moved to fullback.

I still see this club as a legitimate playoff contender come January. There's something about the gauntlet they've run that's making them a tougher team. Remember: What doesn't kill you makes you stronger.

BEYOND THE MIGHT-HAVE-BEENS

I thought that Kevin McHale and Glen Taylor grossly overpaid Kevin Garnett when they signed him to the sevenyear deal. Turns out that at \$125 million they may have gotten a bargain. Garnett has improved dramatically over the past two seasons, especially offensively, and there's no reason to

assume that he has reached his peak. It's scary to think how good he might become in his prime.

What's sad about the Garnett saga is what's missing: Stephon Marbury. The Wolves could've been an NBA title team. The Garnett-Marbury tandem, with just a little help inside, would have taken the Wolves to the conference finals this year. Terrell Brandon is a nice point guard, but I can't picture him taking any team to the title.

Brandon's backup, Bobby Jackson, is probably the most improved player on the Wolves. As a result, rookie William Avery still hasn't moved off the bench. The surprising Radoslav Nesterovic has shown more mobility than previous Wolves centers. Of course, my house moves quicker than the last couple of guys the Wolves tried in the post.

I know you're probably sick and tired of hearing this from me, but it's going to be Joe Smith's game that sets the tone for the Wolves this season. He missed four wide-open, inside

shots during crunch time in the home loss to the lowly L.A. Clippers two weeks ago, but he came back two nights later with a strong performance as the Wolves beat up on the powerful Utah Jazz.

HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

· Nora Ames of Minnehaha/Blake was the top local swimmer in last week's state swim meet. She finished third in the Class A 200-meter freestyle and fifth in the 100 free. Also placing were teammates Kelsey Johnson (seventh in 100 fly), Caroline Nystrom (14th in 200 free) and Amanda Griffin (9th in 200 IM and 8th in 100 fly). Placing for Visitation were Whitney McNabb (16th in 100 fly), Emily Petschel (16th in diving) and Alysse Fisher (10th in diving). Placing in the Class AA meet were Marie Liston of Highland/SPA (5th in diving), Lindsay St. Martin of CDH (14th in 200 free) and Bridget McCoy of Sibley (10th in 100 breaststroke).

> COUPON ----**0%** Off Dry Cleaning

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Professional Director

A guide to the services of area health, legal & financial professionals

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business, charitable planning and estate analysis. Call today for information.

VETERINARY CLINICS

Cats Limited Clinic 2042 St. Clair Ave. • 651-699-1413 Dedicated to quality health care for cats—medicine, surgery, dentistry, preventive care; in a cats-only environment. Science Diet available. Dr. Sharon Kleckner. Member American Association of Feline Practitioners.

OPTOMETRISTS

Dr. Kristi Backer 2034 Ford Parkway • 651-698-2744 Located at Pearle Vision — Highland. Providing the most comprehensive eye care for your entire family. Visual exam, ocular health exam, glaucoma test, contact lens fitting, family vision care. Specializing in pediatrics and geriatrics. Day, evening and weekend exams available.

Dr. Thomas R. Barber 769 Grand Ave. • 651-227-8198 Practicing optometry since 1960. Providing eye care for area residents in association with Grand Spectacle for the past eighteen years. Complete eyecare services available with daytime and evening appointments to conveniently fit your schedule.

Dr. Marvin Odegaard 2061 Ford Parkway • 651-699-4947 In practice over 25 years, the last five in Highland Park. Comprehensive exam, including glaucoma testing, contact lenses and visual training. Specializing in dry eye care. Daytime, evening and weekend appointments

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Clinic Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 8:00-6:00, Fri. 8:00-5:00 721 Snelling Avenue South • 651-690-1311

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651-457-7487 5972 CAHILL AVE. E. INVER GROVE HEIGHTS

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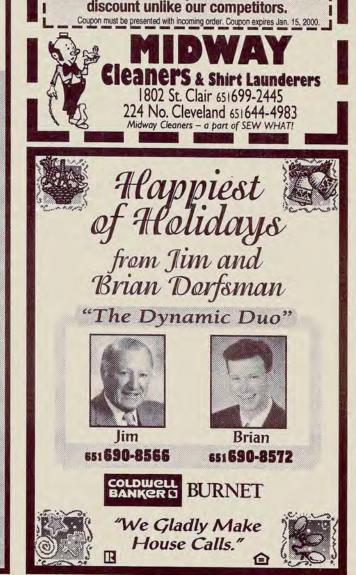
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I BUY VIOLINS, Violas and Cellos; call 651-698-4692 afternoons

WANTED ANYTHING OLD. Crocks, knickknacks, dishes, hunting, fishing, furniture. Paying you the most. Estates, pieces, collections. Dave, 612-724-8087; 612-308-8751. v

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Home Improvements

REMODELING. ALL TYPES: Carpentry and home repairs. Kitchen specialist, References, licensed, bonded, insured. Mark, 651-488-6625. gv

***WAGNER & LANG CONST., INC. *** Remodeling and home improvements. Kitchens, bathrooms, basements. Interior/Exterior. MN Lic. #20074260. Call Dennis or Tom, 651-224-3565. gv

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698-0531. gv ELECTRICAL. Quality work, reasonable rates, free estimates, complete rewires or small jobs; telephone jacks, smoke detectors, ceiling fans, service calls. Residential Electric, Inc. 651-645-6462, 612-427-4951. gv WALLPAPER HANGING; painting and

preparation. D. J. Bellandi, 612-502-1542. gv COMPLETE CERAMIC TILE service,

17 years' experience; call Mark, 651-439-0946. gv

ROGER'S PAINTING Service. licensed, bonded, insured; interior, exterior; free estimates; 651-699-4119.

Next Issue: December 15 Deadline: December 8 Classified Ad Rates

75 cents per word (\$7.50 minimum per ad)

5% discount for prepayment of 3 months

10% discount for prepayment of 6 months A discount is also available on the identical ad run in the Grand Gazette (our sister paper) when the ad is placed within 10 days of its Villager insertion, before or after.

All classified ads are payable in advance by cash, check or credit card and cannot be taken over the phone. Please mail or deliver your ad with payment to the Villager, 757 Snelling Ave. S., St. Paul, MN 55116-2296 or fax it with your credit card information to 651-699-6501.

For more information, call 651-699-1462.

Classified ads appearing in the Villager are coded with a "v" in the ad. Those in the Grand Gazette and Villager are coded with a "gv."

Home Improvements

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Home Improvements

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HOME REPAIRS, painting, plumbing, carpentry, electrical, reasonable: free estimates; Dave, 612-722-7965.

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CARPENTRY, general repairs, decks, porches, fences, new and rebuilt; painting, interior and exterior; Ron, 612-753-6974. SHEETROCK, TAPE, texture, plaster,

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mates; licensed/insured, Great Scott's Hardwood Floor Service, 651-674-4529.

AFFORDABLE PLUMBING; bathroom/ kitchen remodeling, pressure loss, water heaters, boilers, fixture repair, sewer/drain cleaning, basement bathroom specialist; John, 651-772-1546; free estimates

Home Improvements

MASTER PLUMBER, \$44/hour; small/ large project; 651-690-2782, Joe. Lic. 2398. v

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plumbing, electrical, carpentry; insured; references available; reasonable rates; 612-722-4087, Henry. v ELECTRICAL. QUALITY work, reasonable

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KEN BRISSON SEWING Machine Repair; home services, free estimates, work guaranteed; 651-464-3702. gv

BURTON'S RAIN GUTTER Service. Install, clean, repair; rainleader disconnects chimney caps; since 1973, licensed, insured; #20126373; Burton Johnson, 651-699-8900. WILLIE'S RUBBISH HAULING and small

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Visa, MasterCard accepted; 651

Home Services

ALL BRIGHT Window Cleaning. Gutter cleaning. Chandelier cleaning. Mike, ALL BRIGHT SERVICES carpet and

upholstery cleaning; 12 years' experience. Call Mike, 612-884-5063. gv PHILIPS GLASS & Gutter. Wash storms,

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specializing in interior finish. No job too small, just call 612-597-9246. gv

LATIV MOVING SERVICES. We pack, we clean, we move. 651-702-3204. gv HANDYMAN. Painting, hauling, stucco/ plaster, ceilings, sheetrock, carpet, plumbing. 612-875-8758; 651-646-0701; 651-637-3836, pager. gv

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Free estimates. 612-722-6039, Mike. v MILT'S HAULING and cleaning service. Specializing in: attic, basement, garage, yard cleanups. 612-585-0386; pager 612-206-1114.

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EXTERIOR MAINTENANCE SERVICES. Gutter cleaning/repair, roof snow removal, general exterior/roof maint. and repairs. Jerry, 651-690-5227. v

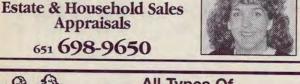
Housecleaning

PROFESSIONAL CLEANING COUPLE 15 years; housekeeping, office cleaning; window washing, carpet cleaning; move in/move out cleaning; insured, bonded; William, 612-823-2590. gv



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Residential and Commercial Wiring Change Fuse Boxes to Circuit Breakers

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HUGH WOLFF, MUSIC DIRECTOR Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra seeks music enthusiasts who need holiday income.

- Flexible Scheduling
- · Relaxed professional environment
- Free Tickets
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If you can share your enthusiasm for the arts with someone else, please call Lucy at:

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Brand new Senior Retirement Community Located in Eagan just minutes from the airport!

> Full & Part-time positions available:

-Dining Room Staff--Housekeepers--Cooks--Dishwashers-

Flexible Schedules, Excellent Benefit Package, & Paid Holidays! Employee Referral Bonuses!

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For more info, call Angle at ... 651/688-9999

Next Issue: Dec. 15

Deadline: Dec. 8

Associate Trainee

Do you have strong interpersonal skills, entrepreneurial spirit, and seek a career with challenge and income based on your effort?
Tremendous growth potential. We will train the right person. Now hiring. For a confidential interview, call Steve Ivaniszyn at & 695-4305
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TEACHERS & ASSISTANTS Needed Immediately

Full and parttime positions available.

Great benefits medical, vacation.

Friendly staff. 651698-8059



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individuals with DD in their homes and communities. Join our team of support staff in small, comfortable group homes and assist people in achieving their personal goals. We offer paid training, competitive wages,

St. Paul: Six men with DD in beautiful home near the airport and Mall of

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Edina: Six teens with DD who love to be active

FT eves & PT weekend hrs available. Call Lisa 612-925-3292

Bloomington: Three young adults with DD. PT weekend hrs.

Call Katie 612-893-9274

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Edgcumbe Montessori Highland and Eagan

Looking for a Relaxed Work Environment?

Luxury Sr. Retirement Community is looking for a cook from scratch individual w/ at least 3 years experience. Excellent pay, benefits, vacation and holidays! Hours are 10:30 - 7 pm. If interested please call Tom at 651-688-9999.

RESTAURANT

Dining Room Positions

Beautiful 106 unit Residential Home Care Community located in scenic Highland Park seeks full time:

Host/Supervisor

11am-7:30pm

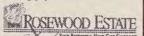
This position involves resident relations, staff supervision, & light paper work.

Line Cook

5:30am-1:30pm & 11am-7:30pm Scratch & batch cooking experience needed.

Both positions require good communicators who are self-motivated. We offer excellent benefits for our full time employees.

To apply contact:



Tasha at (651) 696-3160 750 Mississippi River Blvd. St. Paul, MN 55116

Equal Opportunity Employer

Minneapolis (on 22 bus line): apply Jeanne Drew Surveys, 50051/2 34th Av. S.

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(PART-TIME)

Conduct telephone

surveys from our office. No

selling. Hours 2-9 or 5-9

weekday eves. and occa-

sional Sats., 10-3; 3+ eves./ wk. (612) **729-2306** 10:30-5:00. Office located

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PLACES TO GO. People to see. Things to do. That's why Merry Maids cleans our house. Since 1980, bonded, in-sured. 651-552-4979. gv

CLOVERLEAF CLEANING Service Commercial and residential. Insured Free estimates. 651-730-4124. gv

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QUALITY CLEANING. Serving Highland area for 15 years. Rita, 651-699-7022.v HOUSECLEANING, Excellent references Call Betty, 651-690-1599 or leave

ST. KATE'S STUDENT interested in housecleaning, Highland Mac-Groveland area; great references; rea-sonable; 651-905-1845.

A BRIGHTER DAY cleaning has immediate openings available; moveins/move-outs welcome. Will do Saturday cleanings. Rates and estimates done by interview or phone depending upon job. 651-451-3282, Laura, Steve

VALUE YOUR free time. Personalized, professional cleaning; thorough, in-sured, references and supplies provided; free estimates. Call Clean by Jean, 651-552-8720.

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SURE CLEAN professional housekeep ing, 12 years' experience, excellent references; 1-888-299-8076.

COME HOME TO a clean house and enjoy; excellent references. Holiday schedule. Ann, 651-774-6396. v

HOUSECLEANING: 17 years' experience, reasonable rates, excellent refer ences; Vicki, 651-730-1636.

KNOWLEN'S CLEANING. We're a small family-run company specializing in homes of distinction. We're detail-minded and take pride in our work. Excellent references and insured. Call Jack at 651-257-8961.

CHADDERDON MAINTENANCE House-cleaning/Handyman Services. Reliable, personalized, 8+ years' experience. References available. Lisa or Mike, 612-869-2498(H); 612-987-9582(C). **v**

EXPERIENCED house and office cleaner; call Laura, 651-748-8488.

I CLEAN CORNERS: Accepting one able, thorough, references; Eva, 651-

Housecleaning

EXPERIENCED, HOUSECLEANING. Reasonable rates, honest, reliable and dependable. References. 651-699-5805.

Commercial Cleaning

HODGES CLEANING CO. Complete office, business, home cleaning; 612-518-3371; 651-698-7149. gv

Snow/Lawn/Landscape

MURPHY'S LAWN & LANDSCAPING. COMMERCIAL SNOWPLOWING, hauling, bobcat work. Lawn maintenance. Free estimates, licensed, insured; Visa/MasterCard; 651-645-1441. gv ***SIGNATURE LAWNS***

Commercial and residential lawn maintenance. Snowplowing, aeration, fall cleanups, power raking; 651-

THE BEST FALL cleanups and snow re-moval. Seasonal contracts starting at \$110/month. Landscaping services. Bluhm Brothers, Inc. 651-227-2584.gv TIM'S SNOWPLOWING, alleys, driveways, parking lots. Free estimates Call now, 690-1284. **gv**

Call now, 690-1284. gv SNOW REMOVAL. Gutter cleaning/ repair. Best rates; service guaranteed 651-699-2832. gv

WESTLUND TREE SERVICE. Professional tree and shrub maintenance, stump and brush removal; insured and free estimates; immediate response; Larry, 651-459-7552. gv

RESIDENTIAL SNOW removal. Roof snow/ice dams. Gutter cleaning, tree trimming. Jim, 651-698-9492. gv

trimming. Jim, 651-698-9492. gv SNOWBIRD SNOWPLOWING is offering free estimates and season discounts for plowing and shoveling residential and commercial accounts. Please call

ROOF SNOW and ice removal; sidewalks/drives shoveled, Licensed, insured, #20126373. Burton's Rain Gutter Service; 651-699-8900.

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11:00am-1:00pm, 5:00-8:00pm 300 South 6th Street, Minneapolis

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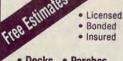
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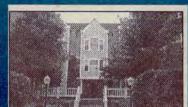


Jpdate Decor!!

Spacious and open floor olan. Living room with fireplace and dining room, both have hardwood floors and views of beautiful yard. Lower level family room,

3/4 bath, workout room. 1-car garage.

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Condo!

Fabulous condo in historic Ramsey Hill! Secure buildng, heated underground parking, central air, total convenience!

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3-BR home with spacious kitchen, hardwood floors, enclosed porch, fenced yard, 2-car garage!

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4128 46th Avenue South. \$164,900. Stunning addition to a classic Craftsman home will melt your heart!

2 BRs, 2 baths. Mint!

Beth
Richardson

\$164,900

Tudor-style home complete with fireplace, lovely woodwork, 3+ BRs, quiet street! Call Beth Richardson Richards

New Listing!

1615 Watson. Darling

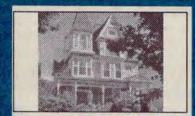
651 646-2100 \$169,900



Picture Your Family Here!

1011 Douglas Road: 5-BR, 4-bath home with all the amenities... and then some! Ideal for entertaining,s easonal recreation and fun.

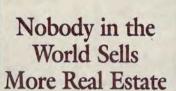
651 696-0882 \$419,000



Beautifully Improved!

415 Laurel Avenue: Vintage Victorian renovated from top to bottom. Truly one-of-a-kind! For a virtual And tour, go to realtor.com, #1455867.

651696-0882 UpperBracket





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568 Holly: Brick Colonial Revival with inlaid wood floros, leaded and stained glass, grand porch and entrance. Noteworthy architectural detailing. Virtual tour: realtor.com,#1455843. Virtual

651 696-0882

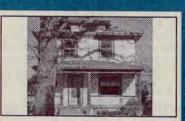
\$475,000





Andrea Burmeister **Rory Anderson** We'll help you find your nest.

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Suprisingly Priced!

1525 Hague: Hurry! Motivated sellers have adjusted the price on this vintage 3+ BR family home with oak flrs., wdwk. & buffet. Spacious modern kitchen, nice yard! 651 251-4825 \$159,900

651 251-4825



Executive Multi-Level

Fabulous master suite, gourmet kitchen, contem-porary family and dining room, panelled office, for-

mal living room, potting shed, and playhouse — outstanding 651 696-0857 \$342,900



New! Charming Arts & Crafts

style — presently a duplex, easily a 4-BR, 2-bath sin-gle family home! Beautifuly maintained, refinished floors, gas fireplace, newer roof, double garage, prime location, large lot!

651 696-0866 \$159,900



Stunning Executive Home

Featuring: 3 BRs, 3 baths, dramatic vaulted spaces, an open and airy floor plan, tastefully appointed, quali-ty craftsmanship, plus all the extras.

651 699-4269

\$349,900



Hurry to Save

Due to a transfer this impeccable 4-BR, 3-bath Eagan home is offered. Priced well below market value. Sellers are motivated and able to accommodate a quick

possession.

651 686-8895 \$235,900



Large Lot in Como

Totally new roof, maintenance-free exterior and windows, wood floors, front porch, deck in backclose to Como Lake and zoo!

www.stpaul-girl.com

651 696-0846 \$99,900

Where Do You Begin?

You need someone you can trust and someone who will keep your best interests in mind. You need a Realtor who is an Accredited Buyer Representative!





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Çlassic Brick \$159,900

Near Como Park & Golf Course. 3 BRs, fireplace, 3-season porch & 2-car gar-age. Maple cabinets & floor in kitchen. Upper level has sheetrock, skylights & walk-in closets. I.L rec rm.

\$159,900 651 696-0856