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St. Paul adopts ban on to-go containers

New rules to take effect in 2021

By JANE MCCLURE

The St. Paul City Council ended a debate that began three decades ago by approving a controversial ordinance on March 6 restricting carryout food and beverage containers that cannot be recycled or composted. The 5-2 vote came after about an hour of sometimes emotional testimony from people on both sides of the issue.

The measure, which will take effect in January 2021, requires all restaurants, delis and convenience stores in the city to package carryout items in recyclable or compostable containers. The delay is meant to allow businesses to use up existing inventory that does not meet

the new standards.

The ordinance bans such items as black plastic and Styrofoam, which are not collected at curbside as part of the city's contract with Eureka Recycling. It is possible that restriction will be amended if markets for recyclable materials change.

St. Paul passed a strict packaging ordinance in 1989, but never enforced it. The current push was renewed a few years ago, but the measure was voted down and then tabled in 2017. At the time, a majority of council members stated concerns about how it would affect small businesses facing other pending regulations, including earned sick and safe time

TO-GO CONTAINERS ►7



Going with the flow. A cross-country skier glides through an abundance of snow on the Highland 9-Hole Golf Course. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

CITY BEAT

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New charter school moving into old St. Francis

Values-driven place-based education will be offered to students in grades K-6

By ANNE HAUTH

Shortly after the 2016 presidential election, three mothers met for coffee to discuss what they described as their “call to action.” Rebecca Batalden of Macalester-Groveland, Anna Kudak of Merriam Park and Christina Sheu of Como Park wanted the next generation to learn how to build relationships with people of all backgrounds and abilities. Out of that conversation was born the St. Paul School of Northern Lights, a public charter school that will open this fall in the former St. Francis de Sales School, 426 S. Osceola Ave.

Northern Lights is currently enrolling students in grades K-6. The plan is to open with between 120 and 300 students next fall and expand to grades 7 and 8 and possibly high school and preschool in the future.

Cofounders Batalden, Kudak and Sheu all

have professional backgrounds in education, though they never expected to start a school. The three met through Highland Early Childhood Family Education where parent educator Lani Shapiro asked them to identify their values as part of the curriculum. According to Sheu, that values-driven approach to education fostered strong connections.

“We knew we wanted this to happen in schools—not just for our kids but for all kids,” Sheu said. “We later learned we were describing a progressive, Reggio-inspired education.”

Shapiro cofounded the Reggio-Inspired Network of Minnesota. The women invited her to one of their initial meetings, and she has been involved with plans for Northern Lights ever since. After many meetings and lots of research, the women developed a vision for Northern Lights as a progressive institution centered around equity. The school will draw from three instructional philosophies—the Finnish education system, the Reggio Emilia approach and “place-based” education.

Dreaming up a school was easy compared to what came next, the women said. Each step of the way presented a new obstacle. “As soon as

we’d get our feet underneath us, the path would change,” Batalden said. “It was always new and always a fresh challenge.”

Thus far the women have cleared every hurdle they faced. They wrote a proposal and were authorized by Innovative Quality Schools. They secured a \$600,000 Charter Schools Program grant, which is allocated by the state over three years to help a new school become established. They raised funds for the security deposit on the St. Francis building, and they engaged families across St. Paul through a host of events.

“In each phase of the process, we’ve had to learn a whole new skill set and body of knowledge,” Kudak said. “We just jumped in. We’re not going to judge ourselves if we have to ask a lot of questions and work extra hard because we don’t know the answers.” In fact, the process they followed is the kind of immersive learning that Northern Lights will encourage its students to embrace, Kudak added.

Jeannette Lutter-Gardella, a former assistant head of school at Friends School of Minnesota, learned about Northern Lights as its founders

NEW CHARTER SCHOOL ►3



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St. Thomas to break ground in April on new Faith Center

Construction of two new dorms on Cleveland Ave. will commence in June or July

By JANE MCCLURE

The University of St. Thomas will break ground this spring on three major construction projects that will give its St. Paul campus two new dormitories and a new spirituality center by the fall of 2020. The work will begin in April with the Iversen Center for Faith attached to the Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas. That will be followed in June or July by the demolition of the John Paul II dormitory and the Faculty Residence and the start of construction on the two dorms.

The Iversen Center will provide event space for the chapel as well as space for religious activities. The two five-story dorms will provide a net gain of 575 beds for students on campus and 157 more parking spaces. The beds will be needed as St. Thomas moves toward a two-year campus residency requirement for students.

St. Thomas officials unveiled the construction plans on March 6 at a meeting cohosted by the Union Park District Council. Many of the 60 people in attendance liked what they saw, despite the expected noise and disruption posed by months of



Scheduled to open prior to the start of the 2020-21 school year are two new dorms at St. Thomas—one for first-year students on the southwest corner of Cleveland and Selby avenues (left) and the other for second-year students on the west side of Cleveland near Portland Avenue (right).



construction. The plans will also be presented at a meeting of the Macalester-Groveland Community Council at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 14, at the Edgumbe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St.

"This is the most neighborhood-sensitive plan I've ever seen, and I've been a St. Thomas neighbor for 45 years," said Lincoln Avenue resident Bob Nechal at the March 6 meeting.

Leo Viktora, a St. Thomas graduate who represented the Macalester-Groveland council on the West Summit Neighborhood Advisory Committee, also praised the plan. While neighbors will have to get through "a year of hell" with construction disruption, he said, "I'm expecting great things to come out of these projects."

"I've been waiting a long time for this, the students have been waiting a long time for this, and the neighborhood has been waiting a long time for this," said Amy Gage, St. Thomas' neighborhood liaison.

Representatives of St. Thomas, Opus Group, Ryan Companies and ESG Architects presented the plans. Opus is working on the Iversen Center and the dormitory for first-year students on the southwest corner of Cleveland and Selby avenues. Ryan Companies and ESG are working on the dormitory for second-year students on Cleveland near its intersection with Portland Avenue.

The \$12 million Iversen Center will have about 23,000 square feet of space below grade in front of the chapel. In addition to campus ministry offices and a sacred art gallery, it will include a multipurpose space for wedding parties and other events. Jay Fournie, an architect with Opus Group, said the design is meant to spotlight the chapel as much as possible.

The \$55 million residence hall for first-year students will have 240 two-bedroom units, a 480-seat dining hall and 115 underground

parking spaces for faculty, staff and visitors. (St. Thomas does not allow first-year students to have motor vehicles on campus.) The \$35 million residence hall for second-year students will have 260 beds for students in pod-style apartments, several short-stay apartments for visitors and 85 underground parking spaces. Both dorms will have laundry, lounge and study areas and will be LEED-certified. The new dorms and the Iversen Center will be connected by tunnels to other campus buildings.

Construction will be carried out from 7 a.m.-4:40 p.m. on weekdays and possibly until 6 p.m. in the summer. If Saturday work is needed, it would start at 8:30 a.m.

St. Thomas' neighbors raised concerns about construction noise and the need to regularly clean nearby streets and the Cleveland bike lane. They asked that pile driving not be scheduled first thing in the morning. They also suggested that tem-

porary semaphores be considered on neighborhood streets affected by construction.

The construction sites will be fenced. Construction vehicles will arrive from I-94 via Cretin, Marshall and Cleveland avenues. Dust-control measures are planned, but Opus and Ryan representatives warned that the work will be noisy at times. Merriam Park resident Barb Thoman suggested directing trucks to Snelling Avenue instead of Cretin because of the narrower width of Cretin.

Another issue is the temporary loss of campus housing during the 2019-20 school year. Jim Brummer, St. Thomas' associate vice president for facilities management, said the university is working on that issue with students, the campus' Department of Residence Life and nearby landlords.

Lunds & Byerlys invites comment on plans for Grand Ave.

Grocery at Grand and Avon would occupy the first floor of new apartment building

By JANE MCCLURE

Preliminary plans for a new mixed-use development anchored by a Lunds & Byerlys grocery at the northeast corner of Grand Avenue and Avon Street will be presented at a "listening session" scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday, March 18, at Mount Zion Temple, 1300 Summit Ave.

A Lunds & Byerlys representative will be on hand to discuss the project, solicit comments and answer any questions. The meeting is being hosted by the Summit Hill Association (SHA) and Grand Avenue Business Association (GABA). St. Paul City Council member Rebecca Noecker and city planning staff are also expected to be there, though no plans or formal requests to redevelop the site have

been filed with the city.

"We're looking forward to having a neighborhood conversation about our plans to bring a grocery store back to 791 Grand Ave.," stated Tres Lund, president of Lunds & Byerlys, in a press release.

"We're excited about the opportunity to preserve the heritage and nature of this location with a vibrant development featuring a Lunds & Byerlys and market-rate housing," added Mitch Avery, vice president of real estate for Lunds & Byerlys.

The two buildings on the development site at 791-799 Grand Ave. were formerly occupied by three stores—Loft Ann Taylor, North Face and Fjallraven. Only Fjallraven, an outdoor and sporting goods store, remains. Restoration Hardware and Smith & Hawken were previously located there, and before that the buildings were home to McGowan's TV and Appliance Center and a succession of grocery stores—Klein's, Rooney's and Knowlan's.

This would be Lunds & Byerlys third St. Paul grocery. The first was the one in High-

Lunds & Byerlys' plan is to have underground parking, but the company has not indicated how tall it would like the building to be.

land Village. The second opened in May 2014 in the mixed-use Penfield apartment building in downtown.

The Grand Avenue property is owned by Avon Corner LLC, a company based in Columbus, Ohio. The site is zoned B2, for commercial use, and would likely require rezoning for traditional neighborhoods use to accommodate the apartments.

Lunds & Byerlys' plan is to have underground parking, but the company has not indicated how tall it would like the building to be. The plan faces several hurdles, including an East Grand Avenue zoning overlay district

designation that since 2006 has limited new buildings to a maximum footprint of 25,000 square feet, a maximum floor area of 75,000 square feet above ground (including parking), and a maximum height of 30 feet for commercial buildings, 40 feet for residential or institutional buildings, and 36 feet for mixed commercial-residential buildings. Developers who want to build any bigger or higher need to first secure a zoning variance from the city.

There is also a question of neighborhood sentiment. In January 2018 the owners of the property that includes Dixie's on Grand, Emmett's and Saji-Ya restaurants unveiled preliminary plans to replace the two-story building at 695 Grand Ave. with a five-story building that had the restaurants and additional retail space on the first floor and market-rate apartments above. The owners shelved that plan following a contentious neighborhood meeting at Dixie's that drew more than 90 people. While several people liked the project, most speakers contended that it was out of scale for that location.

Spruce up your home this Year!

33% of Villager readers plan on doing just that over the next 12 months with either a home improvement or lawn & garden update. While 56% have their focus on furniture or home furnishings.*

*2018 audit conducted by the Circulation Verification Council

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'Sno relief in sight

Twin Cities ban parking on one side of street in wake of record snowfall

By JANE McCLURE

The snowiest February in Twin Cities history has buried the landscape in more than 3 feet of the white stuff. With March—typically Minnesota's snowiest month—waiting in the wings, Minneapolis instituted a parking ban on one side of residential streets in the last week of February. St. Paul followed suit on March 4.

Parking in St. Paul has been banned on the even-numbered side of residential streets until April 1. "It's not a step we take lightly," said Kathy Lantry, director of the city's Department of Public Works. The only other time St. Paul has imposed such a parking ban was in March 2014.

The city's Public Works and Fire Department staff regularly monitor winter street conditions, according to Lantry. Earlier this month it became obvious that emergency vehicles would have a difficult time traveling down some side streets with cars parked on both sides, she said.

"The record-breaking snow we've experienced over the past month has significantly narrowed many of our residential streets, limiting passability for neighbors and first responders alike," said Mayor Melvin Carter. "Parking on one side of the street is a simple thing we can all do to make sure that an ambulance or a fire truck can get to all of our homes."

City officials acknowledged that the parking ban is an inconvenience for people who

do not have off-street parking and face a longer walk to their homes. "We've chosen public safety over convenience," Lantry said.

"The safety of residents is the city's top priority," according to St. Paul Fire Captain and public information officer Roy Mokosso. "The one-sided parking ban allows us to make sure our streets are safe and accessible for all emergency vehicles."

For information on which streets are included in St. Paul's one-sided parking ban, visit tinyurl.com/yytuctok. The parking ban could be lifted before April 1 if street conditions warrant it, but with the additional 3-5 inches of snow the Twin Cities received on March 9 and 10, it seems unlikely. However, in the event of future snow emergencies, the one-sided parking ban will be lifted for the duration of the emergency.

St. Paul has had seven snow emergencies in 2019, all of them between January 28 and March 11. During the March 1 snow emergency, 3,144 vehicles were ticketed for violating the snow emergency parking ban and 417 vehicles were towed away. The February 24 snow emergency yielded 2,770 citations and 418 tows. The snow emergency of February 20 saw 2,330 citations and 465 tows. February 12th's totals were 2,899 citations and 695 tows. There were 2,761 citations and 587 tows for the snow emergency beginning February 7. The snow emergency on January 28 resulted in 3,277 citations and 526 tows.

Snow emergency tickets cost \$56. Towing charges are \$202 for the actual tow and \$15



A cross-country skier escaped the snow-clogged streets of St. Paul and Minneapolis by fleeing to the rolling hills of the Highland 9-hole golf course.

per day for storage at the impound lot.

St. Paul budgets \$600,000 per snow emergency or \$2.4 million for four snow emergencies per calendar year. The impact of the additional snow emergencies on the budget is not yet known, but it is likely the city will be dipping into its general fund or budget reserves.

Public Works crews have been working nonstop, according to Lantry. "We just haven't been able to catch a break," she said.

Between snow emergencies, Lantry's crew has worked to remove snow piles along downtown streets and in neighborhood business districts. It has reached the point where Public Works is running out of places to put the snow, Lantry said. Snow has piled up so high along some streets that people are struggling to get in and out of their cars. City crews have also been working overtime to push back snow from bike lanes and parking lanes on arterial streets.

The Public Works Department oversees the

city's recycling and organized trash collection programs, and it has been inundated with complaints about missed pickups this winter. Most of the problems have been in alleys that are not regularly plowed. The city of St. Paul does not plow alleys, but relies on residents to arrange their own alley plowing. Truck drivers for Eureka Recycling and some trash haulers have had difficulty navigating some alleys. As a result, the City Council has been discussing whether to assume responsibility for alley plowing.

The city has been working with the contracted haulers to make sure trash is collected. According to Public Works staff and the Eureka website, Eureka has been sending out additional trucks on Saturdays for the last few weeks to clean up areas that have seen multiple missed recycling collections. Some of those have been smaller trucks with an additional worker riding along to service the more problematic alleys.

1◀ NEW CHARTER SCHOOL

were submitting their proposal for authorization in early 2018. She was immediately drawn to the school's philosophy.

Lutter-Gardella has studied the Reggio philosophy for many years and also has experience in the place-based approach and the environmental education that is emphasized in Finland's schools. She joined the team as a start-up coordinator and will serve as the school's executive director.

Lutter-Gardella described Northern Lights as "a place where children will come to school with their own ideas and experiences and realities, and we won't ask them to leave those things at the door. Our work is to ask, 'Who are you? Who are we going to be together? How can we learn to talk to one another and listen without trying to change one another?'"

According to Lutter-Gardella, a Reggio-inspired approach views children as competent and honors their rights. "If we can represent the image of the child at the decision-making table as we are planning for the future, I think we'll be making different decisions," she said. "All that we're struggling to address right now in our society—food, water, clean air, acces-



Northern Lights co-founders Rebecca Batalden, Anna Kudak and Christina Sheu stand outside the future home of their new charter school.

PHOTO BY
BRAD STAUFFER

sibility, health care, education—we want to center those conversations around the perspective of the child."

A crucial piece of that education is to integrate the school with a diversity of races, ethnicities, languages and abilities, Lutter-Gardella said. Toward that end, Northern Lights is committed to providing transpor-

tation to students from all over St. Paul. The school's application has been translated into Spanish and Somali and will soon be translated into Hmong. Lutter-Gardella has been working with recruiters to connect the school with families of all backgrounds.

As a place-based school, Northern Lights intends to build strong connections to the

surrounding neighborhood and to use the natural world in teaching all subjects. "To have a school building in this culturally vibrant neighborhood so close to the river is everything we hoped for," Batalden said.

Lutter-Gardella has met with the West Seventh/Fort Road Federation to introduce the school to its new neighbors. She said she plans to ask the neighbors, "what's the work these children can do? How can they help you find solutions to problems?"

In the coming months, the leadership team will continue reaching out to families, begin renovating the building, hire staff, provide professional development and welcome its first cohort of students and teachers. The school's long-term vision is to work with other schools, Kudak said. Their hope is to create a broad coalition of educators and families who are committed to organizing curricula around children and not the other way around.

"What if we never went for it? What if this just stayed an idea?" Sheu asked. The process of starting a school has taught her and her fellow founders that "when you take a risk, good people show up," she said.

For more information about Northern Lights, visit schoolofnorthernlights.org.

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Commission objects to any single-family homes on Ford site

By JANE MCCLURE

The St. Paul Planning Commission on March 8 agreed with most of the 32 amendments being sought by Minneapolis-based developer Ryan Companies to the city's master plan for redeveloping the former Ford Motor Company assembly plant in Highland Park. However, it objected to a couple of key changes, including the development of up to 35 single-family homes on Mississippi River Boulevard just south of Ford Parkway. Ryan Companies' amended plan for the 122-acre Ford site is now headed to the City Council, which will hold a final public hearing and vote later this spring.

The master plan, which was initially approved by the City Council in the fall of 2017, was developed after a decade of study of the Ford site. It lays out new streets, biking and walking paths and parks along with zoning for close to 4,000 new homes in buildings of up to six stories tall and space for retail stores and professional offices.

Tony Barranco, Ryan's senior vice president for real estate development, said after the Planning Commission's vote that it was the comments at neighborhood meetings that convinced the master developer to include single-family homes in the plan as well as off-street parking above and beyond what the master plan calls for. Those changes will be emphasized during discussions with the City Council, he said. The single-family homes are



expected to be among the first structures built and would be a spark for the rest of the redevelopment, he added.

"We're happy to get through this milestone," Barranco said of the Planning Commission vote. The Planning Commission's review of the plan amendments began last fall. Ryan is now reviewing the commission's comments and considering how that affects its version of the master plan.

Ryan's master plan calls for a mix of 3,800 new housing units, or about 200 less than the number in the original master plan. Planning commissioners argued that allowing single-family homes on the site takes away needed density. However, Barranco said the master plan as amended has ample density and still meets the master plan's original goals.

Much of the debate before the Planning

The Planning Commission supported most of Ryan Companies' changes to the Ford site master plan, including the row-houses at left in this rendering.

Commission on March 8 focused on density and what the long-term goals of the redevelopment should be. The commission supported reductions in minimum building heights and floor area ratios that would allow for rowhouses on the blocks west of a planned man-made stream running north and south through the Ford site. Those amendments would allow heights of 30 feet instead of the minimum 40 feet in the master plan.

The Planning Commission rejected the idea of allowing single-family homes on Mississippi River Boulevard. The master plan called for two to six housing units per lot in that area just south of Ford Parkway, and the commission recommended against lowering that range to one to six units.

Lowering the allowable units there "goes against what we're trying to do with this site

in terms of density," said planning commissioner Luis Rangel-Morales. The lots closest to the river will be the most widely sought, he said, and some should be higher density.

Ryan and city staff reached a compromise on commercial parking. Ryan wanted to increase the amount of commercial parking from a maximum of one parking space per 400 square feet of gross floor area. Ryan contends that the additional parking is needed to attract retailers and accommodate people who are visiting the Ford site for public events and the public amenities it will offer.

City staff rejected the lower maximum. Instead, it recommended allowing more parking than the original maximum, but only with the approval of a conditional use permit.

The master plan also requires that parking structures on the Ford site be designed with flat floors and other features that make it easier to convert them to other uses if the parking is no longer needed.

The Planning Commission recommended approval of the street changes sought by Ryan. These include removal of the proposed extension of Saunders Avenue to preserve two of the three Highland Ball diamonds. Ryan wants to remove an extension of Hillcrest Avenue that would cut through the existing Highland Village Center. The developer is also asking for other street changes that would break up a large block in the northeastern corner of the Ford site.

Ryan requests \$107M plus in public subsidies for Ford project

By JANE MCCLURE

Ryan Companies has requested \$107 million plus in public subsidies to aid in the development of the 122-acre site of the former Ford Motor Company assembly plant in Highland Park. St. Paul officials declined to release any specifics of the request as it is being reviewed by the St. Paul Department of Planning and Economic Development (PED). However, the request is likely to include some amount of tax increment financing (TIF).

"Bringing this vision to life will require a long-term public-private partnership and investment," Ryan officials said in a statement. "To be clear, Ryan Companies is requesting public investment only for public spaces, infrastructure and affordable housing, not for

any privately owned projects unless they are to serve the mission of affordable housing."

The statement was issued by Mike Ryan, president of Ryan's North Region, and Tony Barranco, senior vice president for real estate development. "From the start of our involvement in the Ford site, Ryan has embraced the city of St. Paul's bold vision to balance economic, social and environmental values in a way that conserves and improves the unique qualities and characteristics of the Highland Park neighborhood while advancing the city and greater region's goals," Ryan and Barranco said. "Without the public investment, we don't believe this bold master plan, and the important goals within it, can be achieved."

Ryan estimates that the Ford redevelopment will generate more than \$400 million in additional property taxes over the next 25

years. With TIF, the additional property taxes generated by a development can be diverted for up to 25 years to help pay redevelopment costs.

The City Council took the initial steps to set up a TIF district on the Ford site in 2013, setting the maximum possible TIF award at \$275 million. City staff stated at the time that without "positive intervention" the Ford site is unlikely to reach its full potential.

Ryan's request for over \$107 million in public subsidy starts the due diligence process. City staff must evaluate the request, and it is up to Ryan to prove what level of public assistance is needed.

"From day one, I've said we need a public-private partnership to develop the Ford site," said City Council member Chris Tolbert, whose Ward 3 includes the Ford site. "We

could see a different number. I expect there will be changes."

Tolbert said he has received many requests for TIF assistance for projects in his ward. "I've told several developers 'no' outright," he said. What could tip the scales in Ryan's favor is the need for new streets, utilities, parks and other public infrastructure. Ryan officials have pointed out that parks and other public spaces will make up more than 40 percent of the Ford site.

The city's master plan for the Ford site requires Ryan to make at least 20 percent of the new housing affordable to households making close to half of the Twin Cities' median income. Of the \$107 million-plus requested, about \$48 million could go toward affordable housing. Ryan also must meet certain goals for environmental sustainability, Tolbert said.

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Landlords sue cities for requiring them to inform new tenants of how to register to vote

Ordinance is called unconstitutional

By JANE MCCLURE

A group of Twin Cities landlords and the Minnesota Voters Alliance (MVA) have sued the cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis in U.S. District Court, challenging the constitutionality of ordinances that require residential landlords to provide voter registration information to new tenants.

According to MVA executive director Andrew Cilek, the ordinances require landlords to convey ideological messages from the government and represent "compelled speech." Under the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, government cannot force an individual or group to support certain expression, Cilek said. The First Amendment not only limits the government in punishing a person for his speech, it prevents the government from punishing a person for refusing to articulate, advocate or adhere to the government's approved messages, he said.

"Minneapolis and St. Paul violate a landlord's right not to speak when the cities, as a matter of policy and ideology, require the landlord to inform and provide information to tenants regarding where to register to vote or to otherwise exercise that right," the lawsuit states. "It is compelled speech to engage landlords to act as couriers of the respective municipalities' ideological messages to prospective tenants."

Plaintiffs in the lawsuit include Well Maintained Apartments, Garfield Court Partnership, R & J Real Estate and landlords Marissa Skaja and Charles Halverson.

Minneapolis' voter registration ordinance has been in effect since March 2016. The St. Paul City Council adopted its ordinance in August 2018.

"We've heard a lot of anger among landlords over this," Cilek said. Landlords in St. Paul are especially fearful of retaliation, he noted.

St. Paul landlords who violate the voter registration ordinance can be charged with a petty misdemeanor. Minneapolis landlords who violate the ordinance face written violation orders, warnings or criminal charges and can have their properties condemned.

Officials from both cities have stated that they will challenge the lawsuit. "We stand with Minneapolis in support of the interests advanced by these ordinances and in protecting the funda-

"It is compelled speech to engage landlords to act as couriers of the respective municipalities' ideological messages to prospective tenants."

mental rights of all residents within the city of St. Paul," said St. Paul City Attorney Lyndsey Olson.

During deliberations on the proposed ordinances before the two city councils, the discussion centered on the virtue of reminding new residents and residents who change their address that they need to register to vote. St. Paul City Council members portrayed the requirement as a partnership with landlords.

Many landlords spoke out against the ordinance when it was proposed in St. Paul. Some said they already have many responsibilities they must abide by for their tenants. Others said the cities could easily distribute voter registration information themselves through the mail.

"I think it's insulting to renters to indicate they are less intelligent than non-renters about voting," said Merriam Park resident Nancy Hone.

MVA is a watchdog group that promotes voter rights. In recent years, it successfully challenged a state law that prohibited voters from wearing politically themed clothing, buttons or stickers to the polls, taking the case all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

With the voter registration ordinance, "St. Paul has acted either intentionally, recklessly or with callous indifference to the constitutionally protected First Amendment rights not to speak," the lawsuit states. "(It) has threatened landlords with penalties if they fail to be couriers of the city's policy."

The ordinance "is government overreach," said Merriam Park attorney Erick Kaardal, who is representing MVA and the landlords in the lawsuit. "I've noticed over time that the amount of regulation, especially in St. Paul, has increased and increased. It's a discouraging trend."

"You have to wonder what groups will be targeted next," Cilek said. "Uber drivers? Barbers?"



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IN THE TENT
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Paddy Wagon 3pm - 8pm
Brian Boru Pipe 6pm

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MH seeks extra \$1.2M to expand, upgrade fire station

BY KEVIN DRISCOLL

The city of Mendota Heights is scrambling to find another \$1.2 million to expand and remodel its only fire station at 2121 Dodd Road. A maximum of \$7 million was allocated for improving the 35-year-old station. However, City Council members learned at their March 5 meeting that the cost would be at least \$8.2 million after bids were opened on February 21.

"There are two reasons for that," said council member Ultan Duggan. "Construction costs have risen and many construction companies have their 2019 contracts already set."

City administrator Mark McNeil said the council has the option of rejecting the bids and waiting until fall. "But then you encounter another year's rise in construction costs," he said. "You can also call another public hearing to increase the bond sale, but that would also increase property taxes."

The station's expansion and remodeling was to be financed with capital improvement bonds over 15 years. Under the city's original plan, taxes would have increased by about \$91 per year on a median-priced home



A rendering of the remodeled Mendota Heights Fire Station on Dodd Road looking from the southeast.

of \$356,000 and around \$129 a year on a \$500,000 home.

McNeil said the council could take \$400,000 from another capital fund and sell three lots of land near the Village at Mendota Heights on Dodd Road and Highway 62 for mixed-used development. "That's estimated to draw \$800,000," he said.

Jill Smith of the Mendota Heights Community Resource Association suggested holding a referendum for the additional money in the name of "transparency." However, McNeil and council member Jay Miller stressed that

holding a referendum would cause more delay and likely higher project costs.

The council made no final decision on funding, but did unanimously vote to execute 20 of the 21 contracts needed for the project. Duggan said the council should be able to decide on funding at its March 19 meeting.

"The bids are only good for 30 days, so we need to move to get the best information about the lot sale and go ahead with the project," he said.

The current fire station is 18,000 square feet and operates with a staff of 36. The station

houses two fire engines, one ladder truck, one tanker, one rescue truck, and several support vehicles. Two HealthEast ambulances must now park outside.

The expansion calls for adding 15,000 square feet. An addition to the north of the current station would be used to expand the apparatus bay and add a mezzanine, according to Fire Chief Dave Dreelan. There will also be a new training facility, new classroom, gear washing and equipment decontamination facilities, upgraded heating and air conditioning, and complete upgrades of all technology equipment, including computers, radios and transmitters.

Dreelan said there will also be new administrative offices, a dayroom, dining area and kitchen, dorm rooms, restrooms, laundry and locker room.

Two smaller additions on the southwest and southeast corners of the existing building will provide space to build garage bays for the HealthEast ambulances, and to display the fire department's history and original fire truck.

Despite the financial challenges, the city hopes to have the main addition of the project finished by early next year, Duggan said.

Mendota Heights fine-tunes 2040 Comprehensive Plan

Latest draft explains reasons behind land-use proposals

BY KEVIN DRISCOLL

The Mendota Heights Planning Commission delayed its recommendation on a final draft of the city's 2040 Comprehensive Plan on February 26. It is now planning to hold a public workshop at 6 p.m. Monday, March 18, at City Hall to make final revisions to the plan prior to a vote.

One of the sticking points for some residents was the lack of an explanation for the eight proposed land-use changes. "Without such information, we citizens have no idea if these amendments should be supported or opposed," said resident Bob Bonine of the Mendota Heights Community Resource Association (MHCRA).

All cities in the seven-county Twin Cities area are required to provide the Metropolitan

Council every 10 years with a comprehensive planning document for future development. Mendota Heights' 2040 Plan covers eight areas, including land use, transportation, parks and trails, housing, economic development, natural resources, resilience and the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area.

Much of what is included in these comprehensive plans carries the force of law. Because of that, the MHCRA requested that public hearings be held for each of the eight land-use changes included in the proposed 2040 Plan.

Tim Benetti, Mendota Heights' community development director, said individual hearings for each of the changes are "not going to happen. We've gone above and beyond what the Met Council and state law require with several workshops, mailings, meetings and hearings about the plan. We've done way more than any other city has, and the process has taken us more than two years."

The Planning Commission did provide explanations for the eight land-use changes as

requested by the MHCRA. One of the changes addressed the isthmus between Lemay and Augusta Lakes, which was to be changed from parks and open space to medium density residential zoning. "Actually, this turned out to be erroneously added to the plan," Benetti told MHCRA members at the February 26 meeting. "This land will remain recommended for parks and open space."

Another proposal involved changing properties at Lexington Avenue and Highway 13 from low-density residential to medium-density residential. The three single-family lots that are there now are surrounded on three sides by medium-density housing.

The plan also recommends changing a parcel in the Ivy Falls area from low-density residential to parks and open space to reflect its current use.

The Ivy Falls proposal is something the MHCRA would "likely support," said member Bernie Friel. "I say likely because we didn't know what these amendments meant without

the explanations. We think each and every one of these changes deserved an explanation."

Another change the MHCRA questioned is more clearly described in the latest version of the plan. That involves a parcel at Marie Avenue and Victoria Road, the Eagle Ridge townhomes, which was recommended for low-density residential in Mendota Heights' 2030 Comprehensive Plan but is recommended for medium-density residential in the 2040 Plan, reflecting its actual use.

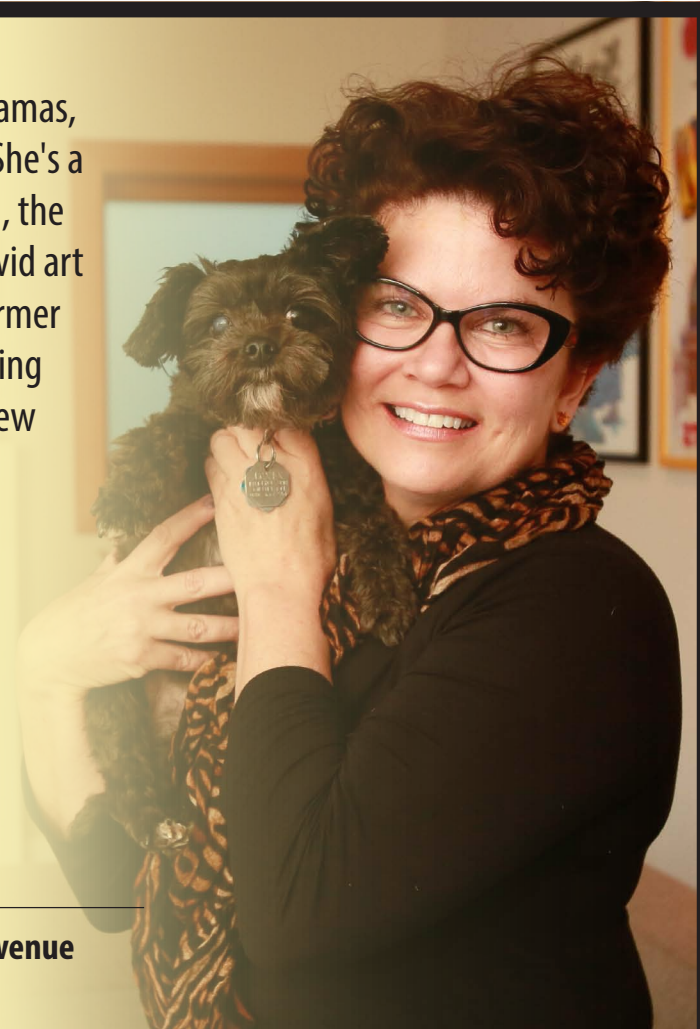
The remaining four land-use changes are all "housekeeping items," according to Benetti. All of them have been recommended for the land-use designation that reflects their current use.

Benetti expects that the Planning Commission will recommend the final draft of the 2040 Plan at its March 26 meeting, sending it on to the Mendota Heights City Council for approval on April 2.

Meet Dr. Jaime Davis. Born in the Bahamas, she now calls Minneapolis her home. She's a graduate of the Mayo Medical School, the caretaker of beloved rescue dogs, an avid art collector, a certified scuba diver, a former Miss Northern Bahamas body building champion, and a huge fan of her new Spectacle Shoppe glasses.



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and a higher minimum wage. A resolution was then passed to revisit the issue in a year.

Council members Amy Brendmoen, Mitra Jalali Nelson, Jane Prince, Dai Thao and Chris Tolbert voted for the new ordinance on March 6, and Rebecca Noecker and Kassim Busuri voted against it.

Supporters of the ordinance cited protection of the environment and the need to promote recycling and composting. They noted that Ramsey County offers programs to assist businesses in replacing carryout containers and urged opponents of the ordinance to get involved in those efforts. More than 100 restaurants in St. Paul reportedly have switched to recyclable or compostable containers.

Prince, who worked on the ordinance with Nelson, said the intent is to give businesses as much time as possible to make the change. Another goal is to have residential organics collected curbside by the time it takes effect.

Climate change was also cited as an impetus for the ordinance. "There is no other Earth," Thao said.

Busuri called the ordinance "simply unfair." While he supports environmental sustainability, he said the ordinance unjustly targets small businesses, many of which are family- and immigrant-owned, while hospitals and large corporations that manufacture prepackaged food are exempt.

Noecker said companies that make and sell plastics should be regulated, instead of asking small businesses to take on environmental issues.

Hospitality Minnesota, the Minnesota Restaurant Association, the Minnesota Retailers Association and Van Paper held a news conference at Mancini's Char House the day before the council meeting to oppose the ordinance, citing the burden it places on small businesses.

"Alternative products are on the market,

but they're at double the cost," said Liz Rammer of Hospitality Minnesota and the Minnesota Restaurant Association. She and others pushed the city to find markets for black plastic and foam packaging, arguing that they can be recycled.

Pat Mancini of Mancini's Char House said it is unfortunate that the city has chosen a recycler that does not have the ability to recycle black plastic. Mancini's will do its part to change its carryout packaging after the ordinance takes effect, he said, but the leakproof, cost-effective options it needs are unavailable.

Scott Van of Van Paper said the ordinance will take only 2-3 percent of materials out of the waste stream. "This isn't the big issue it's been made out to be," he said.

Dave Cossetta of Cossetta's restaurant spoke for several minutes and ignored Brendmoen's requests to stop. He said he was speaking for several other small businesses as well as his.

Other restaurant owners spoke in favor of the change, saying making the switch has not hurt their businesses and is good for the environment.

"I'm a business owner and I understand the costs, but before everything I'm a father," said Moussa Douleh of Afro Deli.

Several environmental groups, the faith-based group Isaiah, Eureka Recycling and citizens rallied in support, citing the ordinance's environmental benefits. Eureka and other groups asked for more specific amendments at a later date, because of the removal of product labeling standards from the ordinance.

Erin Pavlica and Kristina Mattson, co-founders of Zero Waste St. Paul, urged the council to adopt the ordinance, noting that 12 out of 17 of the city's district councils signed on in support.

Pavlica said Zero Waste has worked tirelessly to get the measure passed. She cited the toxicity of materials such as black plastic and Styrofoam, and questioned why people would even want to eat off of "trash."



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Bringing a new sense of style to West 7th

St. Paul's Fort Road/West Seventh neighborhood is stepping out with style and confidence. At 1564 Seventh Street West, just east of I-35E, elle Salon Spa is now among new businesses that are energizing the area.

Christine Wengler, elle Salon Spa's owner, said, "Many people are moving to the West Seventh Street area, but what the neighborhood has been missing is a stylish hair salon."

Wengler hails from the neighborhood. She used to live on Osceola near the Schmidt brewery. Today, she lives over her new salon on the corner of West Seventh Street and Montreal Way.

"I found this building that had been gutted but work on it had been stopped. I had a vision of what it could become," she recalled.

Chris shared that vision with her father, Jim Wengler, an architect and developer known for his various projects on Grand Avenue. Together, the father-daughter team transformed the building into a home for Wengler and her nine-year-old son upstairs, above her sunny, contemporary salon.

With more than 20 years of experience, Wengler has a sensibility that mixes trendy and classic hairstyles. A graduate of the Aveda Institute in Minneapolis, she learned from the late Horst Rechelbacher, founder of the Aveda. She took advanced training in Women's Creative Styling and Men's Barbering at Vidal Sassoon London. She owned her own Aveda Concept Salon in St. Anthony Park and worked in the Juut

Salon, Roseville.

"I'm committed to helping customers define their own personal style and providing them with choices to fit their individual needs. I like to talk with my clients and ask



Owner and stylist Christine Wengler tends to a client at elle Salon Spa.

questions about what they're looking for. Having a good haircut is about having confidence."

Wengler plans to include dyes, coloring, and massage therapy services.

To learn more about elle Salon Spa, and to make an appointment, go online, www.elleSalon.com, or call 651-204-0600.

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Viewpoint

TIF request demands a reappraisal of Ryan's Ford site plan

BY TOM GOLDSTEIN

A little more than three years ago, Ryan Companies completed construction of the Vintage on Selby, a luxury apartment complex with rooms named for Hollywood stars of a bygone era, a swimming pool and lots of other amenities, all sitting atop a Whole Foods grocery store.

According to the building's website, rents for studio apartments start at \$1,250 per month, and the cheapest one-bedroom apartment goes for \$1,700. I don't know a lot of people who can afford those rents, but clearly there's a segment of the population who can. Demand is so great that most of the apartments there have a waiting list. Of course, if money's no object, there's a vacant three-bedroom penthouse that can be yours for \$6,890 per month.

No one would pretend that the Vintage is doing anything to address the affordable housing crisis in St. Paul. It's certainly not helping to alleviate the rush-hour traffic mess at Selby and Snelling avenues. But one can't deny the huge amount of shopping taking place inside Whole Foods every day. Or the \$1.147 million in property taxes that the Vintage generates each year, of which the city's take is \$324,641. Whether those benefits are an appropriate tradeoff for the negative impact neighbors may be experiencing is debatable. However, this much is true: The city now receives an additional \$300,000 in revenue each year from the property compared to what it received in 2015.

Contrast those gains with what the city

might realize from the redevelopment of the Ford site in Highland Park. Backers of the Ford site project claim it will be an enormous boon for the city, citing all the housing that will be provided and all the jobs that will be created. They talk as if property tax coffers will be overflowing with new revenue thanks to the alleged \$1.367 billion the property will be worth upon completion. Unfortunately, this rosy scenario is greatly overstated.

To begin with, the \$1.367 billion valuation was provided by Springsted Company, an adviser on many local government projects. However, to date, the city has been unwilling to release any details to substantiate that figure.

Then there's the question of tax increment financing (TIF). That's a public subsidy that allows a property owner to divert the additional taxes generated by a property's increased value to cover infrastructure costs associated with the project.

In the case of the Ford site, the city has limited the possible TIF to a maximum of \$275 million spread over 25 years. The city claims that the project will yield \$366 million in new property taxes over that period, which in theory means the city will net \$91 million once the Ford site is fully built out. Think that's a good deal? If the same \$275 million were lent at a mere 2 percent interest for the next 25 years, it would generate a

\$175 million return for the city. At 5 percent, that return jumps to \$655 million.

But what about all the housing the site will produce? Surely that's worth forgiving \$275 million in taxes, right? If the project was going to turn a blighted brownfield into 4,000 units of affordable housing, one could make that argument. But not when you're dealing with a parcel that has frequently been described as "the most desirable in the Midwest."

If Ryan Companies' project is going to tie up a substantial amount of property tax revenue for the next 25 years, it must include far more than 750 affordable housing units and 1,000 minimum-wage jobs.

The Ford site project is designed to make money. Ryan knows how to do that. That's why the company is proposing an upscale urban village with 2,250 market-rate apartments, 280 rowhouses selling for \$300,000 to \$500,000 apiece, and 35 single-family homes on Mississippi River Boulevard that will presumably sell for upwards of \$1 million each. The city might get 750 affordable housing units out of the deal, but at the cost of a \$275 million subsidy, that works out to \$366,000 per apartment—more than double what a unit of affordable housing typically costs.

And contrary to what some so-called density experts believe, increasing the supply of market-rate housing doesn't create more affordable housing. That's because housing operates in discrete markets; if you want affordable housing, it needs to be affordable from the start.

Ryan hasn't made a formal request for TIF yet, but a recent article in the *StarTribune* quotes Ryan vice president Tony Barranco saying: "It's likely the largest development in the city.... It needs to be the largest (TIF) district."

No manufacturing or tech-oriented businesses are contemplated for the site, which suggests that retail stores will be the main focus of whatever commercial development happens there. Most retail jobs don't pay a living wage.

Like it or not, the Vintage was a traditional real estate play, done with reasonable care. A developer partnered with a private property owner to turn a previously underused parcel into something that met a community need, didn't significantly alter the architectural character of the surrounding neighborhood and even managed to save several houses in the process.

If Ryan wants to build a similar project in Highland Park that dramatically increases the property tax base in St. Paul, let that company and Ford work out whatever deal they want. But if the project is going to tie up a substantial amount of property tax revenue for the next 25 years, it must include far more than 750 affordable housing units and 1,000 minimum-wage jobs. Any other scenario is just one more massive giveaway of taxpayer resources for a project of dubious value to the city at large.

Tom Goldstein, a lawyer, former St. Paul School Board member and candidate for mayor in 2017, lives in the Hamline-Midway neighborhood.

Inbox

A nonsensical plan for streetcars

Thank you, Jerome Johnson, for your comprehensive research, analysis and recommendations on the Riverview Corridor transit line ("Misplaced desire for streetcars on W. 7th," *Villager Viewpoint*, February 27). I couldn't agree more. Over months of reading about various aspects of the Riverview streetcar plan, I've wondered about nearly every one of the points you raise about its shortcomings. Streetcars make no sense for St. Paul. I sincerely hope this plan can be derailed before more time and money are expended.

*Elena Sunland
Highland Park*

Build new housing downtown

Why have we St. Paulites thrown in the towel where our downtown is concerned? The current trend is to build six-story high-rises in neighborhoods wherever we can fit them in an attempt to accommodate seniors or people with low to median incomes. Whatever happened to the discussion about a vibrant downtown St. Paul? That's where we need affordable housing.

Public transportation radiates from our downtown hub to everywhere in the Twin Cities and Minnesota. Pedestrian zones can be easily created downtown and so can bike paths. Downtown St. Paul is underutilized and already includes infrastructure. The buildings to a great extent are already there and are mostly vacant or sparsely populated.

City planners continue their efforts to put their personal stamp on our neighborhoods, while downtown languishes beneath their feet. Downtown can be a spectacular neighborhood where all kinds of activities can be reached within walking distance. Let's not mistake what should be our real focus and forgo this terrific opportunity for the future of St. Paul.

*Gregory Nayman
Highland Park*

Les étoiles du nord

This winter has been a record breaker, taking us back in time for temperatures and snowfall. It's times like these that remind us that without the 24/7 efforts and skills of the men and women who design, build, operate and maintain our metropolitan infrastructure, we would not be able to enjoy life here in the Upper Midwest. Thank you for keeping us safe, warm, connected and otherwise able to carry on.

*Tom Reasoner
West End*

Corruption in a one-party town

I've been a consistent DFL voter for more than 45 years. I consider the Republican Party a greater danger to our country than ISIS, the Taliban and North Korea combined. I've instructed my children that in the event I take to voting Republican, they are to have me put away. And yet in the last election for state Legislature in District 64A, I voted for a Republican.

I blame the city DFL. When Representative Erin Murphy got the DFL endorsement for governor last summer, her seat in the Legislature became open. Did the city DFL hold an open process to choose a candidate to succeed her? It did not. Instead, within hours, in a completely closed process, a few dozen DFL insiders installed Kaohly Her as the candidate—a person I venture to say was utterly unknown in this district, but known to the mayor. She is his policy director.

Ms. Her made no effort to get my vote. Not a single mailing. Not a single flier. Not a single door-knock. Who is she? What are her positions? The Republican candidate, by contrast, made an effort. We got a mailing, and his positions, though Republican, seemed within the realm of reason. So I voted Republican. It was a protest vote. While I would 1,000 times prefer to live in a one-party DFL town than a Republican town, there is something corrupt about how closed the city DFL is, run by the mayor and a handful of

insiders.

So now Kaohly Her represents our district in the Legislature. At the same time she has a full-time job as the mayor's policy director. She's on two public payrolls. When she's at the Capitol, working for the mayor full-time, does she represent the mayor or District 64A? One-party rule leads to such contradictions. If Republicans were doing this, we Democrats would be howling.

I'm not going to vote Republican regularly—I hope never again. But I'm rooting for the arrogant St. Paul DFL to get a bloody lip one of these days for its own good.

*Paul Nelson
Merriam Park*

Defending a democratic DFL

For the second time in six months, I see *Villager* commentary written by prominent citizens who incorrectly characterize the local DFL as a machine (purportedly because we don't run alternative candidates against our already-endorsed incumbents) and spread misinformation about why and how we hold conventions. As a hard-working lower-level DFL Party volunteer in St. Paul, it greatly disappoints me.

The local DFL is an all-volunteer, democratic organization. Each convention costs thousands of individual donors' dollars and hundreds of hours of volunteer time. Holding an expensive convention with the intention of replacing a candidate who was already endorsed by the DFL at a previous expensive convention would be truly self-defeating.

The DFL districts in St. Paul receive no money from the state DFL or national Democrats. We raise it all ourselves. Is it a good use of our time and our donors' money to spend it \$5,000 at a crack on a convention that isn't needed and is essentially an insult to our DFL-endorsed public servants?

As an active volunteer, I find extremely hurtful the criticism of the DFL as a "machine." The DFL in St. Paul has been a machine in the past. The Republicans figured out how

Highland council elects new board with new grid map

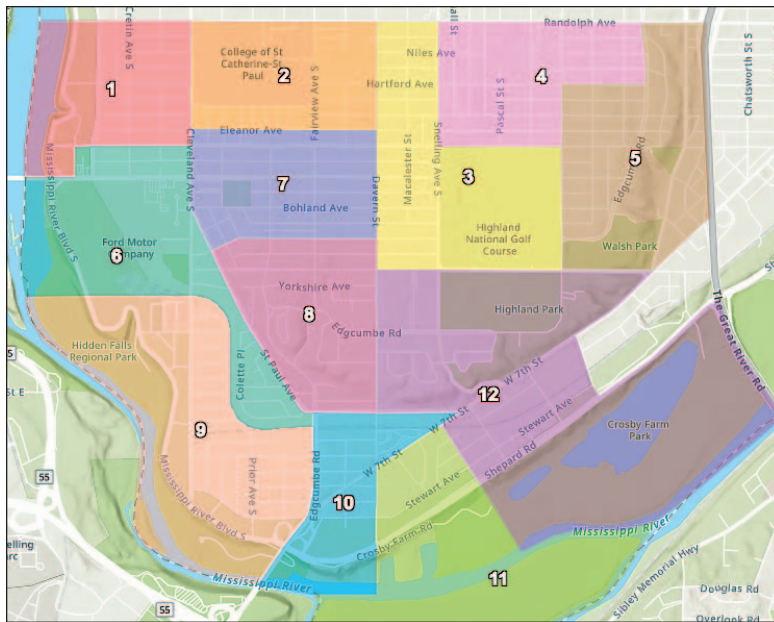
Highland area residents and business people will gather on Wednesday, April 10, for the annual meeting of the Highland District Council. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. at Highland Middle School, 975 S. Snelling Ave. It will include the election of new members to the HDC's board of directors. Twelve directors will be elected from the various grids defined in a new map of the Highland District (right).

The new grid map replaces one that had been in use for more than 30 years. The updated grid boundaries are the result of months of work by current members of the HDC board working with St. Paul city staff. Our intent was to establish a map that accurately reflects changes in the neighborhood and evenly balances the populations of each of the 12 grids. The new grid map is available on the HDC website at highlanddistrictcouncil.org (click on "board"). By entering their address, residents may determine in which grid they live.

In light of our new map, all grid representatives will be up for election on April 10. Those elected from odd-numbered grids will serve a two-year term. Those elected from even-numbered grids will serve a one-year term initially. Elections at our 2020 annual meeting will return to the HDC's usual format of electing even grids in even years and odd grids in odd years, all for two-year terms.

In addition to 12 grid representatives, the HDC board includes four at-large representatives. Two at-large representatives will be elected at our April 10 meeting.

Highland residents who are interested in running for the HDC board as a grid or at-large representative are encouraged to attend a



The new grid map for the Highland District.

meeting for prospective board members at 6:30 p.m. Monday, April 1, at the Highland Café and Bakery, 2012 Ford Pkwy. (For more information, visit highlanddistrictcouncil.org.) I look forward to seeing you at our annual meeting.

**Mike Lindsay, Vice President
Highland District Council**

8◀ INBOX

to take over the machine. Remember Norm Coleman and Randy Kelly who worked their way up through the St. Paul DFL until they were prominent enough to show their true color—Republican red? Once activists figured out what was happening and took the party back, we started seeing better candidates and better policies.

When respected officials and citizens criticize our very democratic DFL process, there is something more at work. What think tank or newsletter, what forum of thought has suddenly elicited this chorus of criticism in one of the most democratic eras in St. Paul DFL politics? I doubt I'll find out, but I'm certain they're part of the forces that seek to divide and conquer progressive activism.

**Sharon Sudman
Macalester-Groveland**

Editor's note: The letter-writer is a longtime DFL activist. The opinions expressed above are her own.

A helping hand on wintry streets

We're going through a winter for the record books. Everybody's sick of the snow and the cold, and we'd all like to quit shoveling. But we have to keep on keeping on.

In my neighborhood there's so much snow packed onto the sidewalks, or frozen into sheets of ice, that being out and about can present a real challenge for the elderly or the impaired who depend on public transit. The corners where city plows have heaped snow

have hardened into chunky mounds, making crossing a busy street nearly impossible.

Recently, with a ski pole in one hand and a parcel in the other, I asked a young man at a Snelling Avenue bus stop if he could give me a hand up and over. He was happy to oblige, going so far as to take my elbow to assist me all the way across the street while waving at the motorists honking their horns for the inconvenience of being stopped. Coming home I was lucky enough to encounter a fellow pedestrian who took a firm grip on my arm as I grabbed the bus stop pole to get up and over the same mound.

Who's responsible for clearing away that nearly immovable icy mess after the plows go by? The corner lot owners? The city? Metro Transit?

I'm grateful to those who lent me helping hands.

**Kay Deming
Macalester-Groveland**

The irritants of organized trash

A recent letter writer made the statement that in many cases the cost of trash collection in St. Paul has gone down. I am not sure which part of organized trash collection irritates me the most: the apologists, the loss of choice, the more than double the cost of collection, the loss of seven or eight private haulers and the attendant jobs and taxes, or the fact that I now send my payment to Chicago.

How does anyone think this was a good idea?

**Robert Bushard
Merriam Park**

VILLAGER

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Maurice F. Mischke, 1920-1991

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District Council News

Highland Park

highlanddistrictcouncil.org • 651-695-4005

Tour de Highland — Registration is now open for the 2019 Tour de Highland that will take place from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, May 18. Participants may take part in a 10- or 20-mile bike ride either on their own or with a guide. There will also be an informative walk to learn about the history of Highland Park. Food and beverage samples from a variety of local eateries will be available throughout the event. Visit the HDC website to register.

Prospective board members — A meeting for prospective HDC board members will be held at 6:30 p.m. Monday, April 1, at the Highland Cafe & Bakery, 2012 Ford Pkwy. Board elections will take place on April 10.

Upcoming meetings — Community Development Committee, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 19; and Community Engagement Committee, 6:45 p.m. Tuesday, March 26. Both meetings will be held at the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy.

Macalester-Groveland

macgrove.org • 651-695-4000

New executive director — The Macalester-Groveland Community Council has welcomed Alexa Golemo as its new executive director. She previously served as community organizer for the Union Park District Council.

Annual meeting and elections — The Macalester-Groveland Community Council will hold its annual meeting and board elections from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, April 11, in the Smail Gallery at Macalester College. During the meeting, St. Paul City Council members Mitra Jalali Nelson and Chris Tolbert will share their plans for the city and answer questions from the public. Elections will be

held for all odd-numbered grid seats and two at-large seats on the board of directors. Visit macgrove.org/annualmeeting.

Mac-Grove mini-grants — The community council is hoping to award two to four mini-grants this year to increase involvement in activities that benefit the neighborhood. Applications are due by April 29. Visit macgrove.org/minigrants.

Get involved — The community council has an opening for a Grid 5 representative on its board of directors. The board also has three standing committees that meet once a month. Visit macgrove.org/committees.

Mark your calendar — Transportation Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 25, Edgumbe Recreation Center; and Housing and Land Use Committee, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 27, Groveland Recreation Center.

Union Park

unionparkdc.org • 651-645-6887

Union Park micro-grants — Residents and small groups of neighbors in Union Park are being invited to apply for grants of \$200-\$600 to complete improvement projects in the neighborhood. The application deadline for the grants is April 30. Visit unionparkdc.org/micro-grant.

Upcoming meetings — Committee on Land Use and Economic Development, 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 18, 1821 University Ave. W., Suite 330; and Environment and Parks Committee, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 20, Merriam Park Recreation Center, 2000 St. Anthony Ave.

Stay in touch — The public is invited to “like” the UPDC on Facebook, follow it on Twitter @UnionParkDC and subscribe to its e-newsletter, “Neighborhood Matters,” by emailing info@unionparkdc.org.

Met Council reaffirms support for streetcars along West Seventh St.

By JANE MCCLURE

The Metropolitan Council voted unanimously on February 27 to approve a modern streetcar line as the preferred alternative for the Riverview Transit Corridor in the Twin Cities region's 2040 Transportation Policy Plan. The vote makes the estimated \$2.1 billion project eligible for Federal Transit Administration funds, which local officials hope will cover almost half of the project's cost.

The 12-mile Riverview streetcar line would run from downtown St. Paul's Union Depot to Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and the Mall of America in Bloomington. It would travel on light-rail Green Line tracks in downtown St. Paul and Blue Line tracks between Fort Snelling and the Mall of America. The route would include nine new transit stations and 11 stations shared with the Blue and Green Lines. Construction is expected to begin by 2028 and take three to four years to complete.

The new streetcars would cross the Mississippi River near the Highway 5 Bridge and pass underneath Historic Fort Snelling by enlarging an existing tunnel or digging a new one. The tunnel work has raised red flags for American Indian leaders and historic preservationists who are concerned about what it would mean for the fort and adjacent areas. Fort Snelling is located on land that was home to the Dakota Indians for many years and is considered to be culturally and spiritually significant.

“We all know that Fort Snelling is a sacred area,” said Met Council chair Nora Slawik.

Met Council member Barbara Munt has asked repeatedly at recent meetings why the

Riverview line does not extend to the former Ford Motor Company property in Highland Park. The 122-acre Ford site is poised for redevelopment with close to 3,800 new homes. “Someday people will ask, just like they asked with the NorthStar commuter rail and St. Cloud, why didn't we go to the Ford site?” Munt said.

According to Met Council staff, the Ford site will be included in a future study of transit options in that area.

“There's a lot of interest in future transit options to serve the Ford site,” said St. Paul City Council member Chris Tolbert. “We're confident that there will be a good process and lots of community engagement on that issue.” However, the intent with the February 27 vote, he added, was to let Riverview plans proceed to the next step and not slow the process down with the Ford issues.

“This major milestone for Riverview comes after years of planning and engagement with our communities,” said Ramsey County Commissioner Rafael Ortega, who chairs the county's Regional Railroad Authority. “Today we're one step closer to connecting these two Twin Cities employment and activity centers with high-service, dedicated rail transit.”

Inclusion in the Met Council's 2040 Transportation Policy Plan launches a three-year environmental analysis that will include intensive study of the Riverview line's impact on local roadways and intersections, the “built” environment, and cultural and natural resources.

The next major step in the process will be the solicitation of contracts for engineering design, station area planning, project management and outreach. Those contracts are expected to be awarded by the middle of 2019.



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DATE: Saturday, March 30th
TIME: 9 A.M. - 3 P.M.
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27th Annual
Macalester-
Groveland & Highland Park
Home Improvement Fair
Saturday, March 16 • 8:30 am – 1:00 pm
Gretin-Derham Hall

SPECIAL HOME IMPROVEMENT ISSUE

VILLAGER • 2019



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Young home improvement enthusiasts enjoyed getting a close look at the Restoration Window Systems' display at a previous fair.



Joe (left) and Bob Buck of Buck Brothers Construction were busy greeting visitors to last year's Macalester-Groveland & Highland Park Home Improvement Fair. At right, Johnson Creek Landscaping owner Cindy Fraser listened as Julie Ledermann asked for advice on paver walks.

PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

Right tool for the job

Fair offers a solid foundation of info for home fixer-uppers

BY FRANK JOSSI

People who are looking to fix up their home-sweet-homes after one of the snowiest Minnesota winters on record will be able to get some needed inspiration at the 27th annual Macalester-Groveland & Highland Park Home Improvement Fair from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, March 16, at Cretin-Derham Hall, 550 S. Albert St.

Nearly 60 exhibitors will be on hand that day to offer advice for people ready to take on their next remodeling project—everything from building contractors, financial institutions and architects to recyclers, nonprofit organizations and neighborhood businesses. There will also be 15 workshops on subjects ranging from windows and roofs to environmental design and improved home safety.

"We have something for everyone in terms of the topics being covered in the morning and early-afternoon workshops" said Kathy Carruth, executive director of the Highland District Council, which once again is cosponsoring the fair with the Macalester-Groveland Community Council. "We're seeing more and more interest in energy efficiency and the environment, along with workshops on remodeling kitchens, general home improvements and even vertical gardening."

Dunn Realty Group will be presenting a workshop at 9 a.m. on housing trends in the Macalester-Groveland and Highland Park neighborhoods. Company co-owner Sean Dunn said there are lots of good reasons to undertake a home improvement project, but the primary one should be whether it will increase the current inhabitants'

comfort.

"Homeowners should look at projects from the perspective of whether it's worth doing it for their own enjoyment," Dunn said. "There's a good chance if an improvement makes you feel good, it'll make someone down the road feel the same way."

Reducing energy costs is a common theme for the workshops at this year's fair. All Energy Solar will address the addition of solar energy to homes and Restoration Window Systems will focus on repairing old windows during the 9 a.m. workshops.

At 10:15 a.m., the Center for Energy and Environment will present a workshop covering the benefits of energy-efficient homes. Terry Chaney, outreach specialist for the center, will speak about improvements that can decrease ice dams



and improve air quality, comfort and a home's durability. His session will look at how homeowners can make smart investments that can increase the value of their houses and offer environmental benefits, too.

The center operates the Home Energy Squad, which visits homes to test water heaters and furnaces; install weather stripping, programmable thermostats, water saving showerheads and aerators; and offer other services. The center's booth drew "plenty of signups" at last year's fair, Chaney said, and he ex-

pects just as many this year because of the abundance of older homes in the area.

Applied Energy Innovations will conduct a workshop at 10:15 a.m. on high-performance homes and energy retrofits. Company CEO Dustin Denison will cover air source heat pumps that use electricity to heat and cool homes, condensing boilers that offer greater than 90 percent efficiency, and heat pump water heaters that are two to three times as efficient as electric resistance wa-

HOME IMPROVEMENT FAIR ► 13

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Home Improvement Fair workshop schedule

— 9-9:45 a.m. —

- **New Life for Old Windows** by Restoration Window Systems (Room A101)
- **Housing Trends in the Macalester-Groveland/Highland Area** by Dunn Realty Group (Room A102)
- **How to Maintain and Repair Stucco** by Smith Cole Stucco & Stone (Room A105)
- **Solar 101: What You Need to Know About Home Solar** by All Energy Solar (Room A106)
- **Remodeling 2019-Four Keys to Success** by Sylvestre Remodeling & Design (Room A107)

— 10:15-11 a.m. —

- **Scandinavian Kitchens** by Puustelli USA (Room A101)
- **HVAC—High Performance Homes and Energy Retrofits** by Applied Energy Innovations (Room A102)
- **Transparency in Estimating** by Otagawa Anshel Design+Build+Architect (Room



Ginny Pease passes around a device during a workshop at last year's fair.

A105)

- **Home Selling Workshop** by Ferndale Realty (Room A106)
- **Benefits of an Energy-Efficient Home** by the Center for Energy and Environment (Room A107)

— 11:30 a.m.-12:10 p.m. —

- **Green Up Your Energy Use** by Citizens Utility Board of Minnesota (Room A101)

- **Metal Roofing** by Austad Construction (Room A102)
- **Vertical Gardening: Small Yards, Big Results** by A Backyard Farm (Room A105)
- **Bathroom Remodeling** by Ohana Home & Design (Room A106)
- **Crime Prevention through Environmental Design** by the St. Paul Police Department (Room A107)

12◀ HOME IMPROVEMENT FAIR

ter heaters. A family of four using heat pump water heaters could pay as little as \$110 a year in electric costs, he said.

"Our niche is integrating these new technologies that are piggybacking on each other and trying to maximize the efficiencies of what these systems can do," he said.

At 11:30 a.m., the Citizens Utility Board will discuss green energy options for Minnesota homeowners. Citizens outreach director Carmen Carruthers said this year will be the first time her nonprofit organization will be both presenting a workshop and hosting a booth. Called "Green Up Your Energy Use," the workshop will offer tips on saving money in a typical Minnesota home in such categories as space heating and cooling, water heating, appliances, lighting and electronics.

"We're going to let people know where their biggest opportunities are to reduce their costs," Carruthers said.

One way for homeowners to decrease their energy bills is to allow Xcel Energy to place a Saver Switch on their central air conditioning, she said. The switch cycles air conditioning on and off during peak demand times in return for a



Harriet Mulinix with children Angie and Felix got into the remodeling spirit during a previous fair.

15 percent reduction on their Xcel bills.

Renewable energy options, such as Windsource and Renewable* Connect through Xcel, will be described during the workshop, along with how community solar gardens work and what savings they may offer, Carruthers said.

The Citizens Utility Board will also have a booth where fairgoers can learn more about its free services, such as a call-in number to learn how to reduce their utility bills.

During this year's fair, Tech Dump will once again be collecting cellphones,

cords and other small electronic devices for free.

All fairgoers can enter a drawing for prizes and are being asked to bring donations for the Francis Basket food shelf operated by Neighborhood House.

Korean comfort cuisine will be available for purchase at the fair from a food truck operated by K-Town Street Foods.

For more information on the fair, visit highlanddistrictcouncil.org or macgrove.org/hif or call the councils' offices at 651-695-4005 or 651-695-4000, respectively.

Find these exhibitors at the Home Improvement Fair

- A Backyard Farm
- A. DeTomaso Construction
- Applied Energy Innovations
- Authentic Construction
- Beissel Window & Siding
- BodyMind Chiropractic Center
- Borden Window
- Center for Energy and Environment Lending Center
- Citizens Utility Board of Minnesota
- City of St. Paul—Department of Safety and Inspections
- Craftsman Radiator Covers
- dREamodel Inc.
- Ferndale Realty
- Francis Basket
- Friends of Highland Arts
- Great Garage Door Co.
- Griffith Design Build
- Handyman @ Your Service
- Handyman Matters

- Hanson Building & Remodeling
- Highland Block Nurse Program
- Highland Business Association
- Highland District Council
- Johnson Creek Landscaping
- Lake Area Mortgage
- Lundberg's Bobcat Service
- Macalester-Groveland Community Council
- Michael Teibel Design
- Moose Construction Company
- Natural Ways Chiropractic
- New Windows for America/Luxury Bath
- Northeast Tree
- Ohana Home & Design
- Quarve Contracting
- Refined Homes
- Renewal by Andersen
- RetroGreen Energy
- St. Paul All In Recycling

- Smith Cole Stucco & Stone
- St. Paul Police Department
- Stage it Wright
- Sunrise Design & Construction
- Sylvestre Remodeling & Design
- Tech Dump
- Window Concepts of Minnesota
- Zen Windows Twin Cities

Home Improvement Fair sponsors

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Homeowners get pumped up over heating, cooling option

BY FRANK JOSSI

Rather than relying solely on boilers or furnaces for heating and air conditioners for cooling, a small but growing number of homeowners are embracing air source heat pumps for keeping their living spaces comfortable.

The pumps run on electricity and use a refrigerant system that transfers heat from outside to inside a building, or vice versa. They use less fossil fuels and are safer because they will not accidentally blow up or create fatal gas leaks.

Air source heat pumps, which are often marketed as “mini-splits,” offer cost-saving advantages, too. They can heat spaces when it is up to 20 below outside and cool spaces more efficiently than central air or window air conditioning units, said John McQuillan, general manager of McQuillan Bros. The installation of air source heat pumps can be done by running air through existing ducts or going ductless by installing air handlers in different rooms of a home.

“There are a variety of ways we can install them,” McQuillan said. “We don’t have to put in soffits everywhere or open up every wall.”

Air source heat pumps are sometimes referred to as reverse action air conditioners. They pump refrigerant through coils in a complex process that involves turning gas to liquid for heating and reversing the process for cooling. Commercially, the systems are often called ductless or ducted mini-splits because they have an outdoor compressor connected to indoor air handlers.

McQuillan said his company installed its first heat pump 12 years ago. “I didn’t think it would work, but it works incredibly well,” he said.

Most homeowners who opt for heat pumps use them for heating several months a year, but still turn on their boilers or furnaces when it gets really cold. They save money and wear and tear during less cold months when boil-



John Jr., John Sr. and Matt McQuillan of McQuillan Brothers pose alongside an air source heat pump installed on Summit Avenue. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

ers tend to cycle on and off more frequently, consuming energy and limiting their life span in the process, according to McQuillan.

“Heat pumps in spring and fall only use as much energy as a blender,” he said. “A window air conditioning unit uses as much energy as three mini-split systems.”

The air handlers are located above windows, at the top of stairs and elsewhere. While lines do have to be run on the exterior of a house, they can be made attractive, McQuillan said.

Josh Savage, owner of Hero Plumbing, Heating & Cooling, said that while mini-splits heat and cool much of the world, they remain a bit of a novelty in the United States. One drawback here is that homeowners must maintain a backup heating system in case of extreme cold.

The initial expense also is an issue, even though utilities offer rebates and the systems are less costly to operate at temperatures above 40 degrees than furnaces or boilers, Savage said. The cost of installing a mini-split system is roughly \$3,000-\$4,000 a room or from \$12,000-\$30,000 for a house, depending on its size.

Air source heat pumps face tough competition because natural gas prices have plummeted of late. “Natural gas is really, really cheap and it burns clean,” Savage said. “The cheaper natural gas is, the less likely someone is to buy an air source heat pump. If it’s a strictly financial decision, there’s not enough incen-

tive to go with an air source heat pump.”

One other issue with air source heat pumps is the quality of the heat. Furnaces and boilers send heat out at higher temperatures and move air around more slowly than air source heat pumps, creating a more comfortable indoor environment, Savage said.

“Moving air is good for cooling a house down and cooling the body, but radiant air helps the body stay warmer,” he said.

Snelling Company president Phil Krinkie said ductless systems have become popular for air conditioning homes that have hot water heat. They also work well for heating and cooling additions where a separate system is either too expensive or impractical.

Even though newer mini-split models can heat at low outdoor temperatures, Krinkie said the state’s building code requires a secondary source of heating if a homeowner has a heat pump. “The state building codes are sometimes fairly antiquated,” he said.

Nearly every heating and air conditioning manufacturer has mini-split models available at a variety of price points, Krinkie said. Most local heating and cooling firms offer free estimates and a list of options and costs for every budget, along with utility rebates.

“I don’t think we have too many high-pressure sales companies in town,” Krinkie said, “but get a couple of bids and get some free estimates. Explore what’s going on in the local heating and cooling industry.”

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The sky's the limit

Mac-Grove pair show city gardeners how to get big results in small yards

By MARY MAGUIRE LERMAN

When Joan James and Coleen Gregor first moved to the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood, they looked for a place to garden and joined the Eleanor Graham Community Garden located near the intersection of Ayd Mill Road and Hamline Avenue.

However, they noticed that new gardeners who struggled with planting, weeding and other tasks rarely returned the following season. So they cultivated the idea of installing organic vegetable, fruit and herb gardens for individuals, businesses, schools and non-profit organizations as a way to nurture urban gardening.

That is how James and Gregor began A Backyard Farm in 2008. They provide the coaching and materials to insure success, while their customers enjoy the benefits of harvesting fresh, organic foods in gardens that are designed to provide the most yield in the least amount of space.

Since then, they have installed dozens of gardens in the Twin Cities for customers that have included the Jewish Community Center, Center for Victims of Torture, C&E Flats, school districts, camps and individuals. In recognition of their work, James and Gregor were awarded the Small Business Excellence

Award from the city of St. Paul in 2018.

Those who are looking to tap into that expertise are invited to attend their workshop on "Vertical Gardening: Small Yards, Big Results" from 11:30 a.m.-to 12:10 p.m. Saturday, March 16, during the 27th annual Macalester-Groveland & Highland Park Home Improvement Fair at Cretin-Derham Hall, 550 S. Albert St.

During their workshop, James and Gregor will explain the importance of creating vertical gardens to conserve space and light and maximize food harvests. Tomatoes that grow all season are best suited to vertical structures. Peas, climbing nasturtiums, beans, cucumbers, zucchini and Malabar spinach are other crops that grow well vertically. James and Gregor also will describe the various ways to corral climbing crops to optimize growth.

In addition to coming out to gardens to work with customers on growing vegetables and herbs in raised beds, A Backyard Farm will show them how to install ground beds to grow small berry crops and rhubarb.

Using a Solar Path Finder, they first evaluate each customer's property for the best locations for installing the beds. Then they custom-build raised beds to make gardening easier and more accessible.

Vertical components, such as trellises, are incorporated into each garden to insure maxi-



Joan James and Coleen Gregor will conduct a workshop on the benefits of vertical gardening during the Macalester-Groveland & Highland Park Home Improvement Fair.

mum production. A fine soil mix is provided by organic suppliers, then supplemented with fish emulsion produced from invasive species that have been trapped from lakes.

They raise plants from organic seed and use drip irrigation systems to conserve water. Mentoring times with customers are scheduled to insure their success. A Backyard Farm uses the French intensive method of succession planting to insure fresh produce all season.

James and Gregor will also offer lessons

for children to get their hands in the dirt and learn the lifelong benefits of gardening.

In addition to the workshop during the fair, James will speak on how to get more produce from a vegetable plot during the next meeting of the Garden Club of Ramsey County at 7:25 p.m. Monday, March 18, at St. Luke Lutheran Church, 1807 Field Ave.

For more information on vertical gardening, including recipes for making use of that fresh produce, visit abackyardfarm.com.

Spring will arrive soon—on film at least

By MARY MAGUIRE LERMAN

This has been a long, punishing winter for Minnesotans and it's still not over. So what are you going to do while waiting for all the snow to melt? How about seeing a movie that will get you in the mood to plan your garden before spring arrives?

Perhaps you've heard about the fabulous High Line and Battery Park gardens in New York City or the Lurie Garden at Millennium

Park in Chicago, all designed by Dutch gardening master Piet Oudolf. This summer, he is installing another major garden on Belle Isle in Detroit. A documentary film about his many gardens was released last summer and is now being shown at select locations around the world.

Locally, the internationally renowned movie will be presented at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 14, at the Riverview Theater, 3800 42nd Ave. S. in Minneapolis, and at 1 p.m. Sunday, April 7, at Temple of Aaron, 616 S. Mississippi River Blvd. in St. Paul.

Those who see the film can learn how Oudolf designs these fabulous gardens using many native Midwest grasses and perennials, and how his design principles can work in anyone's garden. Local horticulturists will lead discussions following the movie.



A still from the film *Five Seasons: The Gardens of Piet Oudolf*.

Tickets to the movie are \$10-\$15. People can order them online and see the trailer for the film at northerngardener.org/mshs-

events/five-seasons.

Any remaining tickets will be sold on site on the day of the screenings.

"I like the windows so much I bought the company"



Craftsman restores original windows

Paul Schmidt figures he's installed close to 10,000 storm windows since he started Restoration Window Systems in 1999. He is very keen on high quality products and he's had virtually no problems with the storm windows made by Allied Aluminum in Fridley, Minnesota. So when the owners of Allied decided to sell they approached Schmidt about buying. In November 2013 Schmidt became the fourth owner of a company that's been around since 1953.

The two companies fit together very well. The combination of restoring the interior wood window and a high-quality storm window rival the

performance of many new replacement windows.

"I've looked at storm windows all over the country and specifically those available in the Twin Cities area and I can't find a better storm window than those made by Allied" says Schmidt whose engineering background gives him insight into what really does make a good window. "I've had such a good experience with Allied windows that I really do like the windows so much I bought the company!"



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When they don't make them like they used to

Local reupholstering shops give new life to quality old furniture

By ANNE MURPHY

Reupholstering is anything but a lost art in these parts. There are more than a half dozen local shops that give new life to old couches, chairs and the like. And like much of the furniture they restore, several of these shops have been passed down from previous generations of the same family.

"I grew up with an appreciation for history and popular culture," said Helen Miller, who has owned Miller Upholstering at 3614 E. Lake St. in Minneapolis since 2001. "My parents and extended family were avid collectors, decorators and antique hunters. We all had a thirst for detective work regarding the source of things. In my early adulthood, I was a professional chef who came home and sewed for myself and two daughters. But I found I had a better hand for larger work."

Stripper's Furniture Restoration, 1698 Selby Ave., has been in business since 1963. In addition to reupholstering, "we do stripping, refinishing, repairs, regluing and caning," owner Jane Bobzin said. "I started working here full-time in the late 1980s and purchased the business from my dad in 1991. Both of my daughters, Bethany and Amanda, work here part-time, and I have six other employees, including full-time upholsterer Herb Foster. He's been an upholsterer for over 50 years."

Bargain Upholstery has been in business

for 35 years, according to Diane Revoir, who owns the shop at 797 Raymond Ave. with her husband Jerry Meusburger. "We've seen fabric and furniture styles come and go and repeat themselves," Revoir said. "The one thing that hasn't changed is that quality furniture can be reupholstered again and again to update your home and reflect your changing tastes."

Advanced Furniture and Leather Repair at 2242 University Ave. got its start in Highland Park. "My uncle, Robert LeClair, was an upholsterer," owner Lonnie LeClair said. "When he retired in 1985, I took over. I moved the business to University Avenue about eight years ago."

Custom Professional Upholstery, 758 Highway 62 in Mendota Heights, has also changed its name and location over the years. Will Hernandez has owned the shop for 28 years, but he started out managing the business when it was known as Custom Crafted Upholstery on Grand Avenue.

Although new furniture can be found at reasonable prices, the reupholstering business is as strong as ever, according to Susanne Garnier, a residential sales and design specialist for Custom Professional Upholstery.

"More people are reupholstering today than in 2001," Miller said. "I do a lot of family pieces. I love it when a young person brings in something of their grandmother's or a newlywed couple wants a family piece reuphol-



Herbert Foster reupholsters an 80-year-old, solid-oak rocking chair at Strippers Furniture Restoration on Selby Avenue.

PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

stered in their own style. I also love it when somebody finds a piece of furniture on the curb or in an alley and wants to restore it."

"A lot of the pieces we work on have sentimental value," Bobzin said. "Other customers are just wise to the higher quality of older furniture and are willing to invest in a well-made

piece. We get a lot of Craig's List finds."

LeClair concurred. "People are interested in quality craftsmanship," he said. "Anyone who has an eye for quality and is conscious of the environment, not wanting to participate in a

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16◀ REUPHOLSTERING

disposable society, realizes reupholstering is the way to go."

"Reupholstering is one of the original forms of recycling," Revoir said. "It saves precious resources from landfills." Among the heirlooms her shop has restored are a sofa once owned by Alexander Graham Bell, a chair used by President Howard Taft in the Oval Office and a chair that was a favorite of the Tiny Woman in Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus.

According to Garnier and Miller, the economics of reupholstering is evident when one compares prices. A well-made sofa from 1972 would likely cost about \$5,000 today, Miller said, or much more than the cost of adding new springs, webbing, padding and fabric to that sofa.

Working with fabric that revitalizes a piece of furniture and reflects the owner's taste is one of the most enjoyable parts of the reupholstering business, the shop owners agreed. "Upholstery allows an almost limitless choice of fabrics," Revoir said. "And at times changes can be made to the frame style to suit your taste. If you'd like your furniture to look Danish, we can give it that look. If you'd like the piece to look Arts and Crafts, we can do that, too."

Miller told of a young couple who came into her shop wanting an ottoman reupholstered in Kente cloth, a traditional fabric from the wife's native Ghana. "Anytime I can be involved in a personal choice that is emotionally

"Reupholstering is one of the original forms of recycling," Revoir said. "It saves precious resources from landfills."

gratifying to the client, that's the best part," she said.

Miller stocks her shop with fabric she has purchased during her travels abroad. "I have a lifelong love of textiles of all kinds, from Persian rug scraps to hand-loomed fabric from Africa and South America," she said. "But I also try to keep upholstery fabric on hand that is practical for clients."

Foster at Strippers enjoys working on particularly challenging furniture, according to Bobzin. "He likes Art Deco pieces because they usually have a lot of detail," she said. "He enjoys working on wingback chairs. Ten years ago we saw more Mission furniture, and 20 years ago we'd get more Victorian and Eastlake. Now '50s Modern and Scandinavian pieces are popular."

"The fun thing about reupholstering is that you get to select a fabric that you love," Bobzin said. "I'll offer my opinion, but ultimately it's the customer's decision. They're the ones who will see it every day. The range of colors, textures and styles is nearly limitless. And if we don't have the fabric they're looking for, they're welcome to bring in their own fabric for us to work with."



Strippers Furniture Restoration handy-man George Gallagher prepares to stabilize the legs of a rotating rocking chair that has been reupholstered.

PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

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The Villager's upcoming Home Improvement issues will reach over 106,000 readers at a time when they're ready to start getting busy around the house. According to a recent survey of Villager readers,* 56% planned to purchase home furnishings in the next 12 months, 33% home improvements, 26% major home appliance, and 33% lawn and garden supplies. And they'll be looking to the Villager for ideas on where to go to purchase them. Placing your ad in front of them now would be like hitting the nail on the head.

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*2018 Villager Audit conducted by the Circulation Verification Council



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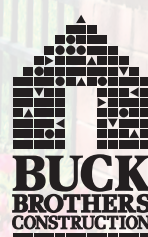
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Thursday, March 14

MENDOTA VFW, 1323 Sibley Memorial Hwy., will hold a garage sale from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Thursdays, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Fridays and noon-5 p.m. Saturdays, today through April 6. Donations are welcome. For information, call 651-688-7408.

THE AIR WAR IN EUROPE and the use of intelligence in targeting the Third Reich will be discussed by author Rob Ehlers and local veterans in a World War II History Round Table at 7 p.m. at the Historic Fort Snelling Visitor Center. Admission is \$5, free for students and WWII veterans.

Friday/March 15

A FISH FRY with fresh beer-battered fish and mac and cheese will be served from 5-8 p.m. in the cafeteria of St. Mark's School, Dayton and Prior avenues. Meal tickets are \$10 for adults. Craft beer and wine will be available for purchase. Games will be played in the gym.

THE ST. PAUL SEMINARY School of Divinity Chorale and organist Michelle Plombon will accompany the Stations of the Cross, commemorating Christ's sacrifice in words and music, from 7-8:30 p.m. in St. Mary's Chapel, 2260 Summit Ave.

Saturday/March 16

"SOUP FOR THE HOMELESS SOUL," a benefit for Union Gospel Mission featuring free soup and dessert from four St. Paul restaurants and a pottery sale by 13 local artisans and schools, will be held from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Union Gospel's men's campus, 435 E. University Ave. Visit ugmtc.org.

A TOUR OF THE STATE CAPITOL focusing on the Minnesota women who played significant roles in securing the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1919 guaranteeing women the right to vote will be offered from 1-2:30 p.m. The cost is \$10, \$9 for seniors, veterans and college students, \$8 for children ages 5-17. Call 651-259-3015 or visit mnhs.org/events.

A CORNED BEEF AND CABBAGE dinner will be served by American Legion Post 99 Auxiliary and Fort Snelling Lions from 5-7 p.m. at Post 99, 5600 34th Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Boiled potatoes, carrots, Irish soda bread and assorted desserts will also be served along with milk and coffee. Meal tickets are \$10, \$5 for children under age 7. Bring a donation for the Minnehaha Food Shelf and have your name entered in a prize drawing.

Sunday/March 17

TIMELESS LOVE, an emotional film about caregiving, family dynamics and the power of music, will be screened in a free program from 9:30 a.m.-noon at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. Lori La Bey, an advocate for those living and dealing with dementia, will lead a group discussion. A continental breakfast will be served. For reservations, call 651-698-0751.

"NUCLEAR NEGOTIATIONS: Back to the Future?" a 20-minute film and discussion on the proliferation of nuclear weapons across the world, will be presented in a Great Decisions program at 1:30 p.m. at the Waters of Highland Park, 678 S. Snelling Ave. Admission is free. Call 651-363-3040.

Get your green on in celebration of St. Pat's

Sure 'n' Irish eyes will have plenty to be smiling about this week as folks hereabouts tip their hats to St. Pat's. The following are just a few of the activities that have been scheduled for the annual wearin' o' the green:

The Worst Irish Tenor Contest will be held from 7-10 p.m. Wednesday, March 13, at Mancini's Char House, 531 W. Seventh St. Come hear the singing and see the newly crowned Miss Shamrock and Shamrock Princesses. Call 651-224-7345.

Irish historian Irene Whelan will speak on "Building the Irish Spiritual Empire" at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 14, in the O'Shaughnessy Education Center at the University of St. Thomas. The free program is sponsored by the university's Office of Mission and Center for Irish Studies. Contact James Rogers at 651-962-5662 or jrogers@stthomas.edu.

St. Paul's St. Patrick's Day Parade will step out for the 53rd year at noon Saturday, March 16, along Fifth Street from CHS Field to Rice Park. The 2019 St. Patrick's Day button is available for \$5 at participating businesses and helps support the parade. Visit stpatmn.org.

Minneapolis' St. Patrick's Day Parade will mark its 51st year beginning at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, March 16, along Nicollet Mall. The annual Blarney Blast will follow at Westminster Presbyterian Church at 12th Street and Nicollet Mall. Admission is by either a 2019 Minneapolis St. Patrick's Day button/bead set or \$5. Visit mplsstpats.org or call 763-234-0669.

DISTRICT 64B REPRESENTATIVE Dave Pinto invites constituents to share their concerns with him from 1:30-3 p.m. in the Village View Room at the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy.

Monday/March 18

MOBILE MENDERS will offer its free sewing services, mending up to three items per person, between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. at the West Seventh Community Center, 265 Oneida St. Visit mobilemenders.org.

"THREE-SEASON PLANTING," how to get more produce out of your backyard garden, will be addressed by Joan James of A Backyard Farm at a meeting of the Garden Club of Ramsey County at 7:25 p.m. at St. Luke Lutheran Church, 1807 Field Ave. Admission is free and open to all.

Tuesday/March 19

INTERGENERATIONAL PLAY TIME with stories, songs and live ukelele music will be offered for babies, toddlers and preschoolers from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the Minnesota Veterans Home, 5101 Minnehaha Ave. S. in Minneapolis. All are welcome. For information, contact Erin Betlock at 612-548-5751.

SOMALI FINGER WEAVING, a technique that uses no loom or frame, will be taught in a free, hands-on class from 6-8 p.m. at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. Call 651-259-3015.

SIMPLE SEED STARTING, an easy technique for starting annual plants in plastic containers outside, will be taught from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Dodge Nature



Jennifer Dougherty and cousin Jennifer Lang adjust a banner held by Anthony Lang while parading in St. Paul during a previous St. Patrick's Day. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

The Irish heritage of the late railroad tycoon James J. Hill and wife Mary Mehegan Hill will be explored during tours between 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, March 16, at the historic Hill House, 240 Summit Ave. Stories of the Hills and their servants and their favorite Irish songs will engage visitors in the history of Irish-Americans in Minnesota. Admission is \$6-\$10. Call 651-297-2555.

The annual Get Lucky races will be held on Saturday, March 16, beginning and ending at CHS Field in St. Paul. A half marathon and 14K will begin at 8 a.m., followed by a

7K timed at 9:45 a.m. and 7K untimed at 9:55 a.m. Runners will wend their way along Shepard Road before heading back. Visit tinyurl.com/yyns54um.

The Irish Music and Dance Association will host its 38th annual Irish Celebration from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, March 16, and its 16th annual Day of Irish Dance from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, March 17, at Landmark Center. Both events will feature traditional Irish music and dance, food and beverages, speakers and children's activities. Admission is \$5-\$7. Call 651-292-3063.

Center, 1701 Charlton St. in West St. Paul. The cost is \$10 including materials. To register, visit dodgenaturecenter.org or call 651-455-4531.

Wednesday/March 20

PANORAMAS, the 1,200-plus-foot-long rolls of landscape paintings that were a popular form of entertainment in the mid-19th century, will be explored by former Augsburg University librarian Bill Wittenbreer in a free program from 7-9 p.m. at the Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave. Call 651-642-0385.

Thursday/March 21

PREVENTING SUICIDE by using the question, persuade and refer method will be taught in a free class from noon-1 p.m. at the National Alliance on Mental Illness, 1919 University Ave., Suite 400. To register, call 651-645-2948 ext. 198.

Friday/March 22

"THE HIDDEN LIFE OF TREES" will be addressed by writer Emilio DeGrazia and son Dante at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the Weyerhaeuser Building at Macalester College, Grand Avenue and Macalester Street. Sponsored by the Institute of Theological and Interdisciplinary Studies, the free program will be preceded at 6:30 p.m. by a free buffet dinner. For dinner reservations, call R. Alan James at 651-430-0361.

Saturday/March 23

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS will be accepting blood donations from 9 a.m.-3

p.m. at St. Stanislaus Church, 395 Superior St. Walk-ins are welcome, but reservations are recommended. Visit redcrossblood.org or call 800-733-2767.

A TOWN HALL MEETING for Senate District 64 (Highland Park, Macalester-Groveland, Merriam Park, Summit Hill, St. Anthony Park and the west Midway area) will be conducted by Senator Dick Cohen and Representatives Kaohly Her and Dave Pinto from 9-11 a.m. at Central High School, 275 N. Lexington Pkwy. Local residents and business people are invited.

Sunday/March 24

THE ST. PAUL HIKING CLUB will gather for a five-mile jaunt on the West End and West Side beginning at 2:30 p.m. outside Waldmann Brewery & Wurstery, 445 N. Smith Ave. New members are welcome. Call Charlotte at 651-455-0052.

Monday/March 25

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS will be accepting blood donations from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at Unity Church Unitarian, 733 Portland Ave. Walk-ins are welcome, but reservations are recommended. Visit redcrossblood.org or call 800-733-2767.

Tuesday/March 26

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL Court, its jurisdiction, current cases and relationship with the U.S. will be addressed in a World Without Genocide program from 7-9 p.m. in the Kelley Board Room at Mitchell Hamline School of Law, 875 Summit Ave. Admission is \$10, \$5 for students and seniors. Call 651-695-7621.

Crime Report

The following crime incidents were compiled from St. Paul and Mendota Heights police department reports and other sources.

Highland Park

Burglary—A home break-in occurred on the 600 block of South Lexington Parkway between February 14-20.

Theft—Cash and a Bluetooth speaker were stolen from a vehicle at the Highland Target between 2:30-5 p.m. Tuesday, February 19.

—A vehicle was stolen on the 1400 block of Randolph Avenue between February 28-March 1.

—A MacBook Pro computer was stolen from a vehicle on the 2200 block of Ford Parkway between 8:02-9:55 p.m. Sunday, March 3.

Sex crime—A rape was reported on the 1700 block of Graham Avenue at 1:28 p.m. Wednesday, February 20.

Weapons—People were seen arguing in a parking lot on the 1600 block of Ford Parkway when one person pulled out a gun at 8:35 p.m. Friday, February 15. The person wielding the gun fled before police arrived.

—Police responded to the 1800 block of Juno Avenue on a report of a male who had been shot in the leg at 4:59 a.m. Friday, March 1. Two other males also arrived at Regions Hospital that morning with gunshot wounds. The injuries were not life-threatening.

Miscellaneous—A student was taken to the hospital after vaping an unknown substance at Highland Park High School at 11 a.m. Friday, February 22. A second student who was high from vaping, and a third student who provided the substance, were suspended from school.

Lexington-Hamline

Theft—The catalytic converter was stolen from a vehicle at the Midway Target between 4:50 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Monday, February 18.

—Vehicles were reported stolen on the 1200 block of St. Anthony Avenue on February 20, on the 1300 block of Dayton Avenue on February 22-23 and on the 1200 block of Carroll Avenue on February 23-24.

—A wallet and laptop computer were reported stolen from a vehicle at Concordia University at 4:44 p.m. Thursday, February 21.

—A boy was cited for trying to steal more than \$500 in merchandise from the Midway Target at 5:45 p.m. Friday, February 22. He was released at the scene at his mother's request.

Macalester-Groveland

Theft—The catalytic converter was stolen from a vehicle on the 1200 block of Palace Avenue between February 14-20.

—Vehicles were reported stolen on the 1200 block of Randolph Avenue on February 19, at the Walgreens on Randolph Avenue on February 25 and on the 400 block of South Snelling Avenue on March 1.

—A MacBook, calculator, wallet and other items were reported stolen from a vehicle at the Olin Rice Science Center at Macalester College at 9:15 p.m. Thursday, February 21.

—A cellphone was stolen from a vehicle on Howell Street and St. Clair Avenue between 4:30-5 p.m. Saturday, February 23.

Assault—A victim was taken to the hospital after being hit on the head with a beer bottle or window glass on the 300 block of South Hamline Avenue at 3 a.m. Sunday, March 3.

Mendota Heights

Theft—A suspect was arrested for driving a stolen vehicle on the 700 block of Manomin Avenue at 1:40 a.m. Tuesday, February 19.

—Tools were stolen from a vehicle on the 700 block of Mohican Court during the evening of February 26-27.

Merriam Park

Theft—Vehicles were reported stolen on the 400 block of North Snelling Avenue on February 19, on the 200 block of Moore Street on February 19-20, on the 1600 block of Hague Avenue on February 21-22, on the 1600 block of University Avenue on February 23 and on the 1900 block of University on February 27.

—Around \$1,000 in tools were stolen from a storage container at Wendy's, 1778 University Ave., during the evening of February 26-27.

Snelling-Hamline

Robbery—A robbery at gunpoint was reported on the 1400 block of University Avenue at 10:07 p.m. Wednesday, February 27.

Burglary—An apartment was burglarized on the 1400 block of Portland Avenue on March 1-2.

Theft—A 43-year-old woman was cited for trying to steal nearly 40 items concealed in a backpack and duffel bag at 12:43 p.m. Wednesday, February 20, at the Midway Walmart.

—A vehicle was stolen from the Midway Walmart the evening of February 25-26.

Assault—A man who had been stabbed

several times was taken to the hospital from the Midway McDonald's, 1570 University Ave., at 2:33 p.m. Saturday, February 23.

Summit Hill

Burglary—A burglary was reported on the 400 block of Grand Avenue at 6:49 p.m. Tuesday, February 19. A 39-year-old man was later arrested in the area for possession of burglary tools and a felony warrant for theft.

—Garden and hand tools were reported stolen from a garage on the 800 block of Fairmount Avenue at 6:53 p.m. Wednesday, February 20.

—Two bicycles and a weed whip were stolen from a garage on the 900 block of St. Clair Avenue during the evening of February 27-28.

Theft—A vehicle was reported stolen on the 1100 block of Grand Avenue at 11 a.m. Tuesday, February 26.

—A laptop computer was reported stolen from a vehicle at the Red Rabbit, 788 Grand Ave., at 8:58 p.m. Thursday, February 28. A 21-year-old man was arrested for the theft a short time later.

Summit-University

Fatal shooting—Raytrell Benjamin, 23, was shot in the head while sitting in a vehicle outside his family's home on the 700 block of Carroll Avenue at 8:45 p.m. Thursday, February 22. He was pronounced dead at the scene. No arrests were announced by police.

Robbery—A male tried to rob the occupant of a vehicle at gunpoint at 7 p.m. Friday, February 22, on the 800 block of Iglehart Avenue. The victim knocked the gun out of the suspect's hand and drove off.

—A strong-arm robbery was reported on the 400 block of Dayton Avenue at 8:57 a.m. Monday, February 25.

Theft—A laptop computer, iPhone and headphones were stolen from a vehicle on the 400 block of Selby Avenue between 5-9 p.m. Tuesday, February 19.

—A laptop computer was stolen from a vehicle on Ashland Avenue and Dale Street between 4-6:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 20.

—A bag with business information, blank checks and personal items was stolen from a vehicle on Mackubin Street and Selby Avenue between 2:30-8:33 p.m. Monday, February 25.

—A briefcase and laptop computer were reported stolen from a vehicle at the Dacotah Building, 374 Selby Ave., at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 26.

—A vehicle was stolen on Selby Avenue

and Virginia Street the evening of March 1-2.

West End

Burglary—Joe & Stan's Pub & Grill, 949 W. Seventh St., was broken into at 5:30 a.m. Wednesday, February 20.

—A home break-in was reported on Douglas Street near Forbes Avenue at 10:45 a.m. Wednesday, February 20.

—Brake Bread, 1174 W. Seventh St., was broken into the evening of February 23-24.

—The Holy Mackerel, 196 Forbes Ave., was broken into between 4:30-6:30 a.m. Wednesday, February 27.

Theft—A moped was reported stolen from a vehicle on Douglas Street and Forbes Avenue on Tuesday, February 19.

—Around \$750 worth of personal items were reported stolen from a vehicle on the 200 block of West Seventh Street at 11:43 p.m. Thursday, February 21.

—Police arrested a 30-year-old man for auto theft after chasing a stolen vehicle from the Grand Stop Station, 236 Grand Ave., at 8:26 p.m. Sunday, February 24.

—Vehicles were reported stolen on James Avenue and Webster Street on February 25, and on the 800 block of West Seventh Street on February 25-26.

—Female suspects ran off with more than \$500 in clothing from Run N Fun, 868 Randolph Ave., at 2:27 p.m. Friday, March 1.

Sex crime—A rape was reported on the 400 block of Banfil Street at 8:27 a.m. Friday, February 15. Another rape was also reported on the same block at 2:53 p.m. Wednesday, February 20.

Fire Calls

The following local calls were gathered from recent reports by the St. Paul Fire Department and other sources.

Highland Park—A fire was reported in the attic of a residence on the 2000 block of Scheffer Avenue during the early morning of Monday, February 25.

Snelling-Hamline—A pedestrian was struck by a vehicle at the Midway Walmart at 6:30 p.m. Friday, February 15. Another pedestrian also was struck by a vehicle there at 6:28 p.m. Tuesday, February 19.

West End—A pedestrian was struck by a vehicle on West Seventh Street and Tuscarora Avenue at 10:40 p.m. Friday, February 22.

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On the Town

A mentor at heart

Carter tells his story as a testament to overcoming the obstacles in life

BY ROGER BARR

Melvin Carter Jr. describes himself as an “obsessive serial mentor.” Throughout his 28-year career in the St. Paul Police Department, he mentored fellow officers in the ways of policing and racial justice. In 1994 he founded and is still the executive director of Save Our Sons, a nonprofit organization that recruits black men to mentor young African-American males. And now, with the publication of his autobiography, *Diesel Heart* (Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2019, 267 pp.), he has taken his obsession for mentorship to a new level, using his life story as an example of how to overcome obstacles.

Carter credits his own mentors during his youth for steering him away from behavior that could have landed him in prison or cost him his life. “It’s a debt I owe to the people who came before me,” Carter said of the task of writing the book. “I have no higher priority than how, in my twilight years, to prepare the youths who come after me. They need to know that we struggled, we failed, we climbed and we lost. We issued some whuppin’s and took some whuppin’s.”

Carter has always been a storyteller, but he did not take up writing until five years ago. Novelist Mary Gardner, an instructor at the Loft in Minneapolis, read some of his writings and encouraged him. Under Gardner’s mentorship, Carter began writing his autobiography in 2014.

“America had given me a script that my spirit was rejected,” Carter said. “In the book I wrote my own story and gave myself the best script.”

“Melvin is a superb storyteller with great material,” said Ann Regan, editor in chief at the Minnesota Historical Society Press. “He’s full of bravado and vulnerability, and they both draw you in. Because he doesn’t write

for the white gaze, his work cuts through all the arguments and just stands, with integrity, as his own deeply powerful story. The book is funny, smart and challenging. It’s a real contribution to Minnesota history.”

Born in 1948, Carter grew up in St. Paul’s Rondo neighborhood when it was being bulldozed to make way for I-94. In the book, he recalls exploring the interiors of houses that had been vacated by families before the bulldozers came through. The empty houses filled him with images of ruin that haunt him to this day.

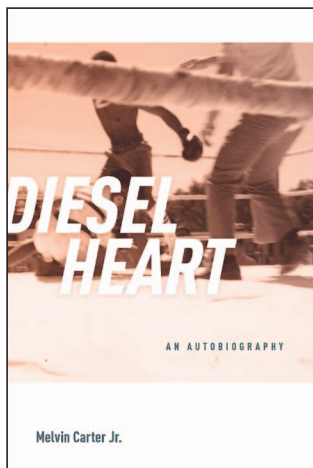
Carter seemed to court trouble throughout his formative years. His tendency to grow angry quickly and resort to his fists was fueled by the racism he encountered on the streets. He had learned the fundamentals of boxing from the father of a childhood friend. Even so, he looked to his father, jazz musician Melvin Carter Sr., as his role model.

“I watched my father never resort to violence or raise his voice,” Carter

recalled. “So I tried to change. I once took a beating out of a commitment to be like my father and wound up in the hospital.”

Carter devotes over a quarter of *Diesel Heart* to his two-year hitch in the U.S. Navy. He enlisted in April 1968 and following basic training was stationed at a naval base in Morocco. The title of the book is derived from a medical exam Carter had in the service. A doctor who listened to his heartbeat said it sounded like a diesel engine in a Mustang body.

Although the American military had been integrated nearly 20 years before, Carter encountered the same racism in the Navy that he had in St. Paul. He channeled his anger into boxing. In one match, he fought a much taller and heavier white opponent to a draw. In a second, he faced a member of Morocco’s Olympic boxing team and fought



Longtime Summit-University resident Melvin Carter Jr. stopped by his neighborhood coffee shop, Golden Thyme, to promote his new autobiography. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

him to a draw as well.

The boxing matches proved to be a turning point for Carter. “I went over there confused about whether I was worthy to live on the earth,” he recalled. “I discovered my innate awesomeness as a man and a human being and came back a person who knew that he could stand up to the world, kick ass and get some respect.”

Back in St. Paul, Carter still struggled to move forward with his life. He landed a job at Northern States Power Company, but soon realized he had a desire to serve others and make a difference in the world. Several police officers, including future St. Paul Police Chief William Finney, encouraged him to apply to the Police Academy. At first he resisted, but the murder of two cousins changed his mind. He joined the force in 1975.

As a cop, Carter worked in several St. Paul neighborhoods, including the East Side, Rice Street and Rondo. He served on the department’s SWAT team and in its juvenile division. On the St. Paul force he contended with the racism of some white officers, especially in the early years. When Carter called a police dispatcher for backup, white officers did not always respond. Carter also faced the racism of citizens. On one domestic abuse call, a battered woman rejected his help, requesting a white police officer instead.

Carter alternates passages about police

work in his book with descriptions of his life as a family man. He and his wife, Ramsey County Commissioner Willetha (Toni) Carter, were married in 1975. They raised three children: daughters Anika and Alanna and son (and current St. Paul Mayor) Melvin Carter III. “Home was my refuge,” he writes. “Sometimes I’d race home just to see my baby sleep, hear her breath, burp or snore.”

Nine years into his police career, Carter became so frustrated with the resistance he faced that he resigned from the force. When Finney came to his house one night with Carter’s old badge, he agreed to return and eventually retired from the force in 2003.

“It was an honor to be a St. Paul police officer,” Carter said. “I never wanted to be a cop anywhere else. People in St. Paul live together better than in other places. We’re a community-led city.”

Through the years Carter has seen racial tensions ease on the police force and in St. Paul generally, though he would be the first to say that the city still has a long way to go in achieving racial justice.

“The world is a confusing, mad place,” Carter said. “It’s hard not to be angry. The trick is to utilize your anger-energy toward love, justice and respect. I’m just telling people what happened to me. I’m trying to illustrate how I stumbled through with the help of friends, mentors and God.”

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On the Town Briefly

Theater

Silent Sky, the true story of 19th-century astronomer Henrietta Leavitt, will be staged from March 13-16 by the students of St. Catherine University. The play explores a woman's place in society at a time of great scientific discovery. The curtain rises at 7 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday in Frey Theater at St. Kate's. Tickets are \$10. Visit oshag.stkate.edu.

Roe, a play by Lisa Loomer that dramatizes the complex and often fiery debate over legal abortion, will be staged from March 15-31 at Mixed Blood Theater, 1501 Fourth St. S. in Minneapolis. Directed by Mark Valdez, it stars Tracey Maloney as Norma McCorvey, the hard-living bartender from a broken home who, in seeking to end her third pregnancy, agreed to be plaintiff Jane Roe. Tickets are \$35. Call 612-338-6131.

Sisters of Peace, a new play by Doris Baizley about sisters and antiwar activists Brigid, Jane, Rita and Kate McDonald, all members of the Sisters of St. Joseph, will open on March 23 at the History Theater, 30 E. 10th St. From the gates of Honeywell in Minneapolis to the School of the Americas in Georgia, the sisters devoted their lives to teaching and nonviolent protest against injustice. Directed by Barbra Berlovitz, the drama stars Sue Scott, Peggy O'Connell, Katherine Ferrand and Wendy Lehr. Sixteen performances are scheduled through April 14. Tickets are \$20-\$42 with discounts for seniors and students. Call 651-292-4320.

Exhibits

Les Farrington's Best 100, a juried exhibit by the best 100 high school artists in the St. Paul area, is being displayed through March 24 at AZ Gallery, 308 Prince St. Gallery hours are 5-8 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays and 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

"Lest We Forget," visual art by Sandra Brick inspired by Minneapolis resident Fred Amram's stories about his early life in Nazi Germany and as a refugee in the U.S., is being displayed through May 21 at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 S. Snelling Ave. Brick will give a presentation at 9 a.m. Sunday, March 17. Admission is free. For gallery hours, call 651-699-1378.



"Simply Illuminating." The 2019 edition of the annual Art in a Box featuring the round-robin creations of eight area artists will be exhibited on March 15-16 in the Fireside Room at Pilgrim Lutheran Church, 1935 St. Clair Ave. Admission is free and open to all from 6-8:30 p.m. Friday and from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday.

"Ideal Made Real," clay works by 16 alumni and affiliate artists of the Minnesota New Institute of Ceramic Education, are on view through April 7 at Vine Arts Center, 2637 27th Ave. S. in Minneapolis. A reception will be held from 5-9 p.m. Thursday, March 28. Call 612-728-5745 or visit vineartscenter.org.

"Mingeisota: Merging Nature and Culture," functional pottery by Lee Love and pottery, murals and sculpture by Matthew Krousey, is on view through April 19 at Raymond Avenue Gallery, 761 Raymond Ave. An opening reception will be held from 5-9 p.m. Friday, March 29. Call 651-644-9200.

"Bloom Away," painted memories by blind artist Annie Young of a garden she once loved, are on view through April 27 at Frameworks Gallery, 2022A Ford Pkwy. Glass artist GERALYN Thelen is showing her latest two-dimensional creations as well. Admission is free. Call 651-698-3372.

"Trading Post: Exchange and Sojourn," works by ceramicists Monica Bock, Undine Brod, Chotsani Elaine Dean, Dawn Holder and Jill Foote-Hutton, are being displayed through April 28 in the Galusha Gallery at Northern Clay Center, 2424 E. Franklin Ave., Minneapolis. A reception for the artists will be held from 5-9 p.m. Thursday, March 28. Admission is free. Call 612-339-8007.

"The Good Making of Good Things," a celebration of the American craft movement

in wood, metal, fiber, ceramics and glass, is on view through June 2 at the Minnesota Museum of American Art, 350 N. Robert St. Contemporary pieces as well as mid-century craft from the museum's permanent collection are featured. Admission is free. Call 651-797-2571.

"Strange Place," contemporary ceramics that traverse imagined realities by drawing on video, audio, photography, performance, sculpture and mixed media, are on view through March 31 in the Law Warschaw Gallery in the Fine Arts Center at Macalester College. A closing reception will be held from 7-9 p.m. Friday, March 29. Admission is free. Call 651-696-6416.

"Underwater," a whimsical exhibit of paintings, sculpture and fiber art that celebrate water as a source of life and inspiration, will close with a public reception from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, March 14, at the Interact Center, 1860 Minnehaha Ave. The show highlights the talents of artists with physical and developmental disabilities. Speaking that evening will be Paralympic gold medal swimmer Mallory Weggemann. Admission is free, and refreshments will be served.

"Eternal Beauty," more than 30 landscape paintings by Minnesota artist Nicholas Brewer, will open on March 16 in the gallery of the James J. Hill House, 240 Summit Ave. Admission is free. For gallery hours, call 651-297-2555.

Film

Polina, the fictional tale of a young ballerina who trains to join the Bolshoi Ballet until she discovers contemporary dance (In French with English subtitles), will be screened free of charge at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 20, in Best Buy Theater at Northrop Auditorium. Anastasia Shevtsova stars.

A Ballerina's Tale, a documentary about Misty Copeland, who overcomes injuries and stereotypes to become the first African-American principal dancer for the American Ballet Theatre, will be shown free of charge at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 27, in Best Buy Theater at Northrop Auditorium.

Family

Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy., will offer the following free programs: Baby Storytime at 10:15 and 11:15 a.m. Wednesdays; Children's Storytime, 11 a.m. Saturdays and 10:30 a.m. Mondays; a workshop in West African textiles, 6 p.m. March 19; Createch, high-tech fun for teens, 3:30 p.m. Thursdays; Yarn Night for all ages and abilities, 6:15 p.m. Thursday, March 21; Bring Your Own Ukelele Workshop, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 26 (registration required). Call 651-695-3700.

Young-adult authors Tricia Levenseller and Alexandra Christo will chat about deities, sirens, romance and adventure at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 20, at the Red Balloon Bookshop, 891 Grand Ave. Admission is free. Call 651-224-8320.

Receive A Year Full of Stories by Angela McAllister, create art about your favorite folktale and play art discovery games from 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday, March 22. The first hour of the free program will be held at the Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave. The last hour is at Weisman Art Museum, 333 East River Pkwy. in Minneapolis. For information, call 651-642-0385.

A history of the women who built Minneapolis will be told in a Family Day program from 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, March 23, at Mill City Museum, 704 Second St. S. in Minneapolis. History Players will portray the female flour packers who worked in the Washburn A Mill. Visitors can explore the

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exhibits, dress up as a 1950s mill worker and make a paper hat like the flour packers wore. Admission is \$6-\$12. Call 612-341-7555.

Books

Consider the Women: *A Provocative Guide to Three Matriarchs of the Bible* author and pastor Debbie Blue will discuss how Scripture, faith and the image of God look different when focusing on such figures as Hagar, Esther and Mary the mother of Jesus at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 14, at House of Mercy, 436 N. Roy St. The free program will also feature the work of artists Hend Al-Mansour and Rebekah Crisanta de Ybarra and the music of Lady Kok.

Common Good Books, 38 S. Snelling Ave., will play host to free readings by Elizabeth Ann Duclos-Orsello from her book, *Modern Bonds: Redefining Community in Early 20th-Century St. Paul*, 7 p.m. March 14; Kiersten Hall and her novel, *The Lies We Live*, 2 p.m. March 16; and Heidi Barr and her personal account of unemployment, *What Comes Next: Between Beauty and Destruction*, 7 p.m. March 28. Call 651-225-8989.

Got to Be Something Here author Andrea Swensson will discuss her book on the rise of the Minneapolis sound through political upheaval, rebellion and artistic passion at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 14, at Waldmann Brewery & Wurstery, 445 N. Smith Ave. Admission is free, but reservations are requested. Call 651-222-0701.

Have your words etched in concrete. Enter St. Paul's Sidewalk Poetry Contest between March 15 and April 15. Winners will receive \$100 and have their poems stamped into city sidewalks starting this summer. Only St. Paul residents are eligible. Poems may be no longer than 300 characters including spaces. Entrants may submit up to three poems. For more information, visit publicartstpaul.org.

Barbara Sommers will discuss her oral history of the women who were on the front lines of the HIV/AIDS crisis in a free program at noon Wednesday, March 20, at Landmark Center.

SubText Books, 6 W. Fifth St., will play host to spoken-word and musical performances by Adina Burke, Jasper Rubin Hardin and Wendy Johnson at 7:30 p.m. March 20; and a discussion with Halle Butler, author of *The New Me*, at 7 p.m. March 26. Admission is free. Call 651-493-2791.

Music

Willow Brae, the duo of Celtic instrumentalist Laura MacKenzie and harpist Andrea Stern, will perform from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, March 14, in the Ratskeller at Summit Brewing, 910 Montreal Circle. Admission is free.

Pianist Konstantin Krasnitski will perform pieces by Rachmaninoff and Croatian composer Davor Bobić in recital at 7 p.m. Friday, March 15, at the St. Paul Conservatory of Music, 1524 Summit Ave. The world premiere of a piece by Bobić will be played by pianist Ivan Konev and violinist Natalia Moiseeva. Admission is by donation.

"When I Grow Up," songs of adolescence, companionship, parenthood and mortality, will be sung by the male vocal ensemble Cantus in concerts from March 15-24. The music will begin at 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 15, in Antonello Hall at the MacPhail Center for Music in Minneapolis; 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 16, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Stillwater; 2 p.m. Sunday, March 17, at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis; 11 a.m. Thursday, March 21, at the Colonial Church of Edina; 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 22, in the Ordway Concert Hall in St. Paul; and 3 p.m. Sunday, March 24, at Wayzata Community Church. Call 612-435-0055.

Bach's St. John Passion, a multi-layered expression of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and its resonance for all humankind, will be performed by the Bach Society of Minnesota and the Choral Arts Ensemble of Rochester at 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 15, in Sundin Hall, 1531 Hewitt Ave. Soloists includes Anna Christofaro, Nerea Berraondo, Nicholas Chalmers and Alan Dunbar. The audience will be invited to sing along on Chorale Nos. 11, 22 and 28 with a short rehearsal 15 minutes prior to the concert. Tickets are \$25, \$20 for seniors, \$5 for students, free for children under age 12. Call 612-440-6219.

Atlantis Quartet—Brandon Wozniak, Zacc Harris, Chris Bates and Pete Hennig—will perform live jazz at 7 p.m. Saturday, March 16, in Studio Z, 275 E. Fourth St., Suite 200. Tickets are \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door. A master class will precede the concert at 6 p.m. Call 651-755-1600.

Lyra Baroque Orchestra, guest soloists and the 45-voice Grinnell Singers will perform Bach's Lutheran Mass in A Major and Handel's Dixit Dominus at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 16, at the St. Paul Conservatory of Music, 1524 Summit Ave. Soloists include Maria Jette, Angela Young Smucker, Roy Heilman and Thomas Meglioranza. Tickets are \$25, \$20 for seniors, \$5 for students. Visit lyrabaroque.org or call 651-321-2214.

Canadian organist Aaron Tan, winner of the 2018 American Guild of Organists Young Artist Competition, will be featured in a free recital at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 17, on the Gabriel Kney organ in St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel at the University of St. Thomas.

Singer Connie Evingson, pianist Jon Weber, bassist Gordy Johnson and saxophonist Dave Karr will perform favorites from 10 years of Jazz at the Jungle beginning at 4 p.m. Sunday, March 17, at the Jungle Theater, 2951 Lyn-dale Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Tickets are \$30. Call 612-822-7063 or visit jungletheater.com.

The Ordway will present concerts by Cherish the Ladies, an all-woman ensemble of traditional Irish musicians and dancers, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 21, in the Concert Hall; Classic Albums Live performing the Beatles' Abbey Road in its entirety, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 23, in the Music Theater; Red Hot Chilli Pipers, a nine-piece Scottish rock band, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, March 24, in the Concert Hall; the progressive heavy metal of Dream Theater, 8 p.m. Thursday, March 28 in the Music Theater; and Boys II Men, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, March 31, in the Music Theater. For tickets, call 651-224-4222.

"Island Baroque," rarely heard choral music from the Caribbean Islands, will be performed on March 22 and 23 by Border CrosSing, a chamber choir accompanied by recorder player Clea Galhano, harpsichordist Asako Hirabayashi and an ensemble of the Twin Cities' top early music performers. The concerts will begin at 8 p.m. Friday at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, 401 Concord St., and at 8 p.m. Saturday at Our Lady of the Presentation Chapel, 1880 Randolph Ave. Tickets are \$10-\$20 suggested. Visit artful.ly/border-crossing.

The world-renowned Choir of King's College in Cambridge, England, will perform at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 28, at the Cathedral of St. Paul. Tickets are \$45-\$59. Call 651-290-1200.

Et cetera

Highland Arts Spring Showcase, a free evening of visual art, crafts, music, theater and dance featuring the talents of over 200 Highland Park High School students, will be held from 6-9 p.m. Thursday, March 14, at the school, 1015 S. Snelling Ave. The choirs, orchestra, band, jazz ensemble, Chinese theater and Asian, Latino and contemporary dance troupes will perform beginning at 7 p.m. Refreshments will be available.



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Sports



The Wright Call

By Dave Wright

Hope bubble doesn't burst for Gopher men

Whether the University of Minnesota men's basketball team will play in the Big Dance, also known as the NCAA Division I men's basketball tournament, depends a lot on how the Gophers fare in the Big Ten tournament this week.

Minnesota is considered a bubble team. It has some impressive victories on its resume, most notably a solid triumph over Purdue at Williams Arena in the final home game of the regular season. Unfortunately, as memorable as that win was, there are also some ugly losses to consider, most notably a shellacking at the hands of second-division Illinois in the middle of the season.

All of which leads to this question: Now in his sixth season, is coach Richard Pitino no longer an up-and-comer in college hoops and the right man to lead the U program? Is it time to admit that up-and-down seasons like this are about as good as it'll get here? Or can the U do better, even if it means spending a lot of money on a big-name coach to do so?

When he came to town, Pitino was clearly known better for his (in)famous father. Nobody knew for sure if he knew what he was doing. His first team won 25 games and an NIT championship. That was acceptable, but to many it wasn't what he was hired for. A decent season at 18-15 overall was followed by a lousy one at 8-23. The Gophers turned it around the following year, won 25 games, got a good NCAA seed and promptly got bounced in the first round of the tournament. Minnesota slipped back a bit the year after that, but the team has been better this season, finishing the regular season with 19 wins.

Pitino's overall winning percentage is around .550, but his record against Big Ten teams is an unimpressive 40-70. The Gophers finished in the middle of the conference pack this year. A few wins in the Big Ten tournament would probably get Minnesota an NCAA invitation, but few people expect the team to do better than win one or two games.

In six years, the program seems neither better nor worse than it was when Tubby Smith was the head coach. Attendance at Williams Arena is spotty. The Wisconsin home game packed the Barn, but the other games there ranged between 9,000-11,000 fans on hand. (The game at U.S. Bank Stadium only drew 12,357. The Purdue home finale drew only 10,062.)

Perhaps the most disconcerting note is that, in an era when Minnesota is producing more Division I quality basketball players than ever before, Pitino has a hard time keeping local prospects home. Former Cretin-Derham Hall star Daniel Oturu is a notable exception. He has been a very good first-year player for the Gophers.

The grumblers always surface at this time of year. They raise some credible points, but what they can't offer up is a reason why things should be better. While there are always a few upstart teams who poke their way into the top 25—Wofford, a school few people around here have ever heard of, is currently rated 22nd in the country—it's likely that we'll see a lot of familiar faces when the Final Four comes to Minneapolis in early April.

Writer Cleveland Amory once observed, "One thing you have to say for the system—there is one." The current system doesn't favor schools like Minnesota because players who want to play in the NBA tend to go where they can win the NCAA tournament and then get paid to play professionally. For now, Minnesota isn't considered one of those schools.

That might change if the Gophers can persuade a player of the caliber of Minnehaha Academy's Jalen Suggs to stay in town. Until then....

Tubby Smith was a well-known name. In six seasons at the U, his overall percentage was slightly better than Pitino's (.605

WRIGHT CALL ► 25

End of an era: Cadets go 1-2 in last state hockey tourney under longtime coaches

BY BILL WAGNER

St. Thomas Academy fell short of winning its first state hockey title last weekend since moving up to Class AA six years ago. The Cadets beat Duluth East 3-1 in the opening round of the tourney at Xcel Energy Center, but fell to top-ranked Edina 6-3 in the semifinals and then to second-seeded Blaine 5-1 in the third-place game.

The tournament signified the apparent end of the STA co-coaching regime of brothers Tom and Greg Vannelli. It had been reported that they would not be behind the bench next year, although Greg Vannelli indicated after the Blaine game that there was a small chance he would return if a still-to-be-named successor is on board with such a move.

The Cadets, who had won five Class A state titles under the Vannellis, had reason for optimism heading into their third straight Class AA tourney. The team was 24-3-1 this year and had five players with 30 or more points. They included Ryan O'Neill, who led the club with 49 points, Rob Christy, Brendan McFadden, Luke Herzog and Nico Vega.

Senior goaltenders Muzzy Donohue and Wes Gervais had similar save percentages at .929 and .941, respectively. Donohue also had three shutouts. Only five times all season had the STA defense yielded three goals or more, and the club was riding an 18-game winning streak going into state.

However, Edina and Blaine simply did not allow the Cadets to play their



STA goalie Muzzy Donohue keeps his eye on the puck during a 6-3 loss to Edina in the semifinals of the state boys' hockey tourney. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

game. In both losses, STA got off to sluggish starts that set the team back early. The Cadets climbed out of those holes to play some pretty good hockey, but the bad starts were too much to overcome. Some ill-timed penalties also didn't help.

Vannelli tried to put the season in perspective after the tournament. "We lost to the No. 1 and 2 teams in the state," he said. "That's nothing to be ashamed of."

STA's Herzog, who entered state with

41 points, also tried to put a happy face on the season. Herzog said the team got fired up following a 6-2 loss to Hill-Murray in December. Shortly after that, the Cadets went on their impressive winning streak, including a 4-1 win over the Pioneers in a rematch on January 31.

"After we played Hill-Murray, we took it to 'em," Herzog said. "I thought that we

STA HOCKEY ► 25

STA takes fourth in Class A state swim meet

BY BILL WAGNER

St. Thomas Academy was hoping its solid regular season would give it momentum going into the Class A state boys' swim meet from February 28-March 2 at the University of Minnesota Aquatics Center. However, it wasn't enough. The Cadets finished fourth with 162 points, well behind first-place Breck-Blake's 423. Northfield was second with 188 points and Winona was third with 177.

Breck-Blake swimmers performed with such precision that all Cadet coach John Barnes could do was congratulate them. "That team has been outstanding all year," he said.

Barnes knows something about outstanding squads. He has led the Cadets to 14 state championships, but hasn't been able to break Breck-Blake's string of winning the last three titles in a row. STA finished second in 2017 and third in 2018.

Still the Cadets hung in there at this year's state meet the best they could, logging one second place, two fourths and three fifths. Breck-Blake, meanwhile, scored points in every event, winning three individual races and sweeping the three team relays.

There wasn't much else for Barnes to do but compliment his swimmers for

Minnehaha's Karpenko sets two state records

Minnehaha Academy junior Andrew Karpenko stole the show in the Class A state boys' swim meet with his individual performance.



Karpenko defended his title in the 200 individual medley by setting a new Class A state meet record time of 1:48.05. He also set a new all-time state meet record in the 100 breaststroke with a 54.41. He had previously set state records in both events in the preliminaries with times

of 1:49.02 and 54:49, respectively.

"It's really exciting," Karpenko said about breaking the state records, adding that he appreciated all of the fans who turned out to cheer him on in the finals.

Karpenko said he still gets nervous before an event. "I try to harness that nervousness," he said. "Once I get up on the blocks, I'm completely absorbed in the race."

Class AA meet

Central High School senior Aiden Fairman took third in the 100 backstroke with a time of 49.47 at the Class AA state boys' meet. He also placed sixth in the 100 butterfly with a time of 49.90.

giving it their all. "This is life. Things like this happen," he said. "I can't find anything to be upset about. The boys did their jobs."

STA senior Toby Sullivan was at the top of his form, taking second in the 100-yard butterfly with a time of 51.12 and fifth in the 50 freestyle with a 21.48. Barnes said Sullivan was consistent all season and was chosen the team's MVP. "He had an awesome year," Barnes said.

Cadet junior Alexander Adams took fourth in the 500 free and senior J.T. Howard was fifth in the 100 backstroke.

The Cadets' 200 medley relay team of Howard, senior Lorenzo Figueroa and juniors Evan Santrizos and Mitch MacDonald took fifth. The 400 free relay team of Howard, junior Max Stewart, Santrizos and Sullivan came in fourth.

Editor's note: STA swim coach John Barnes was unavailable to attend the final day of competition at the state meet because of a complaint over alleged improper behavior. Attempts to learn more from league and school officials were unsuccessful by press time.

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could make a run at state after that game.”

The Cadets' sole victory at state in the first round against Duluth East came in a closely contested game that found the Greyhounds pulling their goalie in the final stages of the third period to try to erase a 2-1 deficit.

STA had gotten two goals from O'Neill from near the slot that looked like virtually identical plays. Vega and Thomas Wings had assists on O'Neill's second goal that made it

2-1 STA. McClain Baudette was credited with an empty net goal, which went in off a Duluth East player just before time ran out to make it 3-1.

Edina, which went on to beat Eden Prairie 3-2 in overtime to claim the state championship, simply schooled the Cadets in the second round. STA couldn't do much of anything for the first period while the Hornets built a 3-0 lead. The Cadets eventually got goals from Herzog, Christy and Carter Henry, but every time STA scored Edina responded with a goal

of its own.

The third-place contest against Blaine featured a seldom-seen event—two penalty shots in the same game. Blaine scored in the first period on the power play after stealing the puck in the STA defensive zone.

“You don't want to see Blaine on the power play—that's their strength,” Vannelli said.

Then the Bengals got another one on the first penalty shot to make it 2-0. The Cadets got back into the game on their own power play with 5:59 to play in the first period on

a sizzling slap shot from Christy. The assists went to McFadden and Herzog. However, that was the only goal the Cadets could muster for the afternoon.

Late in the third period, STA suddenly went from having a power play of its own to being shorthanded, which resulted in Blaine's third goal.

“I thought we were playing well until that point,” Vannelli said. “I thought we could make a run, but (the advantage) just switched to them.”

24◀ WRIGHT CALL

overall, .426 Big Ten). Still, the general feeling was that he'd never get the team into the upper tier of the Big Ten, (his best finish was sixth) so he was fired.

It may well be the next course of action will be no action at all. If the product entertains, the players and coaches don't do anything to embarrass the school and attendance isn't falling to embarrassing levels, that might be all we can expect these days. A win or two a year over a well-known name could be enough for hoop junkies to survive winter in these parts.

That is, until the Gophers win a recruiting war with Duke or Kansas for a stud. Then, it's Final Four or bust.

Expectations differ at different schools

In the end, it's all about what the hierarchy and alumni at a college think the program is capable of achieving. Macalester went 7-18 in men's basketball this past season. That's generally not considered a very good season. Still, when you take into consideration the Scots were 3-22 the year before and that new head coach Abe Woldelessie is a Mac alum, folks around Leonard Center were satisfied that progress was being made.

The same was true up Snelling Avenue where Hamline's women's team, which had won only 12 games in the previous three seasons combined, won 13 in 2018-19, thanks in part to a freshman guard from Cretin-Derham Hall named Chanel Anderson-Manning. The Pipers didn't make the MIAC playoffs, but it was still a satisfactory season for all concerned.

It's all in the expectations and what one thinks can reasonably be accomplished with the program.

Lindsay Whalen, a newbie at the college coaching game, is about to discover this as well. She got the job coaching the Gopher women's basketball team late and had to deal with a roster that was, for all practical purposes, already in place. A soft schedule that wasn't of her making helped Whalen launch her coaching career with 12 straight wins. However, when the Big Ten schedule came around, life got considerably tougher. Minnesota scrambled to a 9-9 conference mark and got knocked out of the Big Ten Tournament in the first round.

The Gopher women are 20-10 this year and are unlikely to get an NCAA bid. Heck, they may not even get a WNIT bid. But it doesn't matter. Knowledgeable women's hoop fans will give Whalen a pass on this season as a learning curve. However, they'll likely demand to see improvement next year. Nobody is expecting the Gophers to challenge Connecticut

or Notre Dame for the NCAA women's hoops title, but folks remember when Whalen was a player and helped the Gophers get to the Final Four.

Why not again, right?

The only problem with that theory is it might mean Whalen would have to find a player who plays at the same level that she did.

RIP Jim Fritsche

Jim Fritsche, who spent a quarter of a century coaching basketball, cross-country and baseball at Central, passed away recently at the age of 87. Fritsche was the last survivor of the Joe Hutton teams at Hamline that were so good that even the Gophers wouldn't go near them. He played in the NBA for three seasons. When he took over the basketball program from Coleman Kelly at Central, he had the good fortune to inherit some players from Wilson High to go along with the Central cast. The Minutemen won five hoop titles in a seven-year span at one point.

His funeral will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, March 23, at United Methodist Church with visitation an hour before.

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

Sports Shorts

Indoor flat track motorcycle racing will return to the Twin Cities for the second year on Friday, March 22, to kick off the Donnie Smith Show Bike and Car Show that follows on Saturday and Sunday, March 23-24, at St. Paul River-Centre. Tickets are now on sale for the War of the Twins II racing event. Tickets are \$15 in advance online. The first 500 children accompanied by a parent will receive free entry. Reservations can be made at IndoorFlatTrack.com/tickets. Visit DonnieSmithShow.com.

The Fred Wells Tennis and Education Center near Fort Snelling recently celebrated the completion of Phase I of its \$1.7 million capital campaign with a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new walkway between the front and back tennis domes. The campaign is financing improvements that include replacing its two tennis domes, resurfacing and adding a ninth court, installing air conditioning and new lighting in both domes, expanding the parking facilities and constructing the new walkway and

entrance. For more information, visit fwtec.org/capital-campaign.

The annual Northland Cup, a charity hockey game to benefit the St. Paul and Ramsey County Domestic Abuse Intervention Project, will be played at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, April 6, at the Highland Arena, 800 S. Snelling Ave. Along with the game played between St. Paul and Ramsey County employees, there will be a raffle, silent auction and other activities. Admission is free. Call 651-645-2824 or visit stpaulintervention.org.



Joe Mather, shown here with his parents Sue and Darin, recently signed to play football for the University of South Dakota. A three-year starter at Highland Park Senior High School, Mather was a wide receiver and quarterback for the Scots. He plans to major in special education while playing as a long snapper for the Coyotes.

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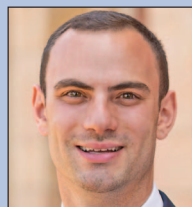
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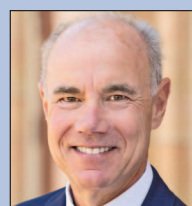
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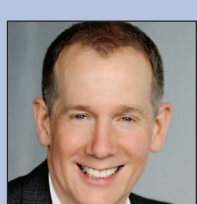
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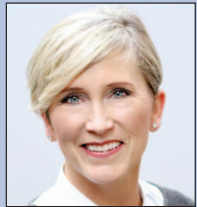
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In the heart of Macalester Groveland is this charming 20's built 3BR, 2BA, 2-story. All new windows, gleaming hrdwd floors, granite and maple kitchen, updated baths, finished lower level, large back porch and conveniently located to everything! Call Lolly for details.

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IN THE HEART OF LONGFELLOW!

Solid, charming, and well cared for home. Great, quiet residential neighborhood. Modernized with all new BA, newer kitchen with a dishwasher and disposal, and C/A. Fenced backyard, deck, patio, built-in gas grill and landscaping make spring and summer even more delightful in this home. Call Lolly for details.

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Surprisingly spacious 3BR rambler on 1/3 acre, with easy access to Cherokee Park & downtown St. Paul. Enjoy hardwood floors, kitchen with breakfast room/den, inviting 3-season porch with vaulted ceiling. 2-car garage+. 541 Miriam Street. *click on www.teamedelstein.com

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COMING SOON!!!

1010 Winslow: Charming Craftsman Bungalow featuring beamed ceilings, updated kitchen and bath, newer windows, delightful front porch and oversized double garage.

JIM BURTON
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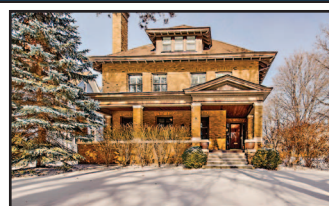


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PERFECTION!!!

2019 Itasca: Immaculate 3 bedroom, 2 bath home featuring a delightful four season porch to enjoy the nicely landscaped yard, oversized double garage, hardwood floors, and all new windows.

JIM BURTON
651-690-8556 • \$297,500



EXPECT TO BE ENVIED!!!

743 Goodrich Ave: Stunning 5 bedroom brick home designed by Clarence Johnston with a recent addition and kitchen complete renovation designed by Charlie Simmons and constructed by John Kraemer. Amazing home for entertaining as well as every day living.

JIM BURTON
651-690-8556 • \$1,600,000

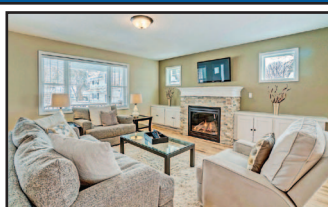


COMING SOON!

TANGLETOWN CHARMER!

4BR, 3BA home on an extra large lot in the Tangletown neighborhood of Mac-Groveland. The home features 3BR's on one level, recently remodeled kitchen with granite countertops and an updated lower level. Great value in a wonderful location.

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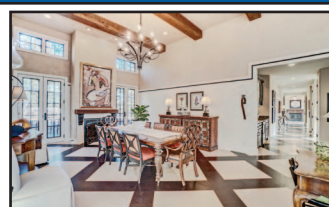
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Interior Designer's home that has been featured in many publications including Perspectives in Design & built by Cates Fine Homes. This Italian Farmhouse is detailed beyond compare & sits just off Deep Lake and features an open floor plan with abundant light. www.NorthOaksPrivateEstate.com

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This stately Crocus Hill home features 9,000 sq ft, breathtaking interiors, inlaid and pegged floors, a 1/2 acre lot with reflecting pool and a carriage house. This was an ASID showcase home in 2004 and is a designated National Historic Landmark. 633 Fairmount Ave.

SARAH KINNEY
651-282-9621 • \$2,295,000



SUNNY 2ND FLOOR CONDO!

This 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo has fabulous views. Hardwood floors, wood burning fireplace, 3rd floor guest suite. 302 Summit Ave unit F.

SARAH KINNEY
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This classic features 3BRs, 2BA, fireplace, sun room, hardwood floors & over 1700 finished square feet in Cochran Park Condominiums. You will enjoy the sunny & bright open floor plan with many large windows on 3 sides and beautiful natural woodwork. 436 Holly Ave #3.

SARAH KINNEY
651-282-9621 • \$329,000



HISTORIC COMMODORE CONDO!

Complete renovation in 2016, this Historic Commodore Condo features 2 bedroom 2 bath and underground parking, in-unit washer and dryer. Close to shops and fabulous restaurants.

SARAH KINNEY
651-282-9621 • \$395,000

