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Rondo reconnected: Summit-University pursues the dream of bridging two sides of old neighborhood

By Kevin Driscoll

Excitement is rippling through the Summit-University neighborhood as local residents and business people and a variety of governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations begin working in earnest to realize the dream of a land bridge over I-94 reconnecting the two sides of St. Paul's old Rondo neighborhood.

"It's not just a bridge," said Marvin Anderson, president of ReConnect Rondo (RCR). "It's the correction of an injustice and the culmination of a 50-year dream that the Rondo community has hoped would reunite us and educate new residents in the culture and ways of the old neighborhood. This land bridge won't make up for the sorrow and loss caused by routing I-94 straight down the middle of Rondo back in the early 1960s. Hundreds of homes and businesses and an entire viable middle-class neighborhood were destroyed."

It was Anderson's "Herculean efforts to engage the community back in 2015 and begin ReConnect Rondo in 2016 that has us where we are today," said RCR executive director Walter C. Smith III.

RCR is coordinating every aspect of land bridge planning. However, the idea of a land bridge was discussed as far back as 2013 when the Friendly Streets Initiative surveyed people living near the Victoria Street and Dale Street bridges over I-94.

Land-use experts from the Urban Land Institute (ULI) recently completed an evaluation of the project and presented their findings at a public meeting

RONDO LAND BRIDGE ►3



Jeana Anderson of the Germanic-American Institute and Laura Zelle of the Jewish Community Relations Council pose amidst "Transfer of Memory," a traveling exhibit that tells the stories of Holocaust survivors from Minnesota. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Portrait of resilience: Memorializing Holocaust through stories of survivors

By Roger Barr

The Germanic-American Institute may seem an unlikely venue for an exhibit featuring the life stories of Holocaust survivors living in Minnesota. However, with "Transfer of Memory" the institute has partnered with the Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas to honor the survivors, tell their harrowing tales of endurance and escape, and capture the hope embodied in their rebuilt lives.

At a time when incidents of anti-Semitism

are on the rise around the world, "Transfer of Memory" has opened a three-week run at the Germanic-American Institute (GAI), 301 Summit Ave.

"It is an honor to join the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) in presenting this acclaimed traveling exhibit," said GAI executive director Jeana Anderson. "This is an important exhibit for our institute to host. German-Americans represent the single-largest European ethnic group in

'TRANSFER OF MEMORY' ►2

Merriam Park debates need for historic protections

City Council to consider nine-month moratorium on development April 11

By Jane McClure

More than 40 people attended an April 4 public hearing before the St. Paul City Council to debate a proposed nine-month moratorium on housing development in the Merriam Park neighborhood.

The majority of those in attendance were residents of the area who were there to support the moratorium, which is intended to protect one of the oldest neighborhoods in the city from losing any more historic homes until a study has determined which of the homes are worthy of historic preservation. The neighbors contended that they have a financial stake in maintaining Merriam Park's historic character.

Opponents of the moratorium said they have a financial stake in the matter as well. They included several local real estate agents and members of the Tierney family, who want to sell their

houses at 1905-1911 Iglehart Ave. for new residential development. The proposed redevelopment of that site is the subject of a lawsuit that was filed in mid-March by neighbors opposed to the demolition of those homes. Tierney family members said that their elderly parents, who have moved out of their home, had hoped to sell both of those properties to help pay for their new assisted-living housing and care.

The City Council is scheduled to vote on April 11 on the moratorium and study, which would

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1◀ 'TRANSFER OF MEMORY'

Minnesota."

"Transfer of Memory" was launched in 2011 when professional photographer David Sherman approached the JCRC with the idea of recording the stories of Holocaust survivors living in Minnesota. The JCRC provided seed money for the project and has continued to support it.

The exhibit includes 44 portraits by Sherman and the stories of 52 survivors, several of whom are married couples. Writer Lily Chester helped shape the stories for presentation. The exhibit is curated by Susie Greenberg and Laura Zelle, the latter a resident of Highland Park who is director of Holocaust education for the JCRC's Tolerance Minnesota program.

The survivors' stories relate their struggles in areas once controlled by the Nazis and describe "the amazing lives of meaning and purpose they built here in Minnesota," Anderson said. "It's inspiring for all of us."

According to Zelle, about 10 of the survivors are still able to attend receptions associated with the exhibit. "It's a way to recognize what they have done," she said. "These people rebuilt their lives in Minnesota. They're not stuck in 1945 or 1939."

The story of Zelle's mother, Mary Ackos, is featured in the exhibit, as is the story of Ackos' sister, Ester Winthrop. Ackos, her brother and three sisters were hidden by a woman in Athens during World War II. Mary's father and much of her extended family were killed in the Nazi concentration camp at Auschwitz.

The Ackos family is also featured in one of three free public events that will be held in conjunction with the GAI exhibit:

- Barbara Muller, honorary con-

sul to Germany, will discuss the challenges faced in present-day Germany with the recent increase in violence by neo-Nazi groups from 11 a.m.-noon on Saturday, April 14.

- *In the Shadow of the Acropolis*, a film created by Zelle of the impact of the Nazi Holocaust on the Ackos family, will be shown at 1 p.m. Sunday, April 22, and be followed by a discussion.

- Holocaust survivor Fred Amram, a retired University of Minnesota professor, will tell of his escape from Germany as a child and the rebuilding of his life in the United States from 11 a.m.-noon Saturday, April 28.

Amram is the author of *We're in America Now: A Survivor's Stories* (Holy Cow Press, 2016, 248 pp.). He was born in Hanover in 1933 in a Catholic hospital because the Jewish hospitals had been closed and Jewish women were not allowed in public hospitals.

Amram recalled as a child seeing a sign on a park bench in Germany that read "Only for Jews"—the only bench in the park that had such a sign. "Those were the good days," he said. "A year after that, Jews were no longer able to use the parks, and the year after that Jews were being hauled off to the death camps."

The Amram family escaped from Germany in 1939, traveling through Belgium to Holland and from there to New York City. Amram moved to Minnesota when he entered graduate school.

"I tell my story for the 6 million Jews who died in the Holocaust who can't tell their stories," he said. That number includes his first cousin, Aaltje, who perished at age 3½ in the gas chamber at Auschwitz. During his presentation, Amram will also explore the Hebrew concept of *tikkum olam*, or "repairing the world."



Photographs by David Sherman included in the "Transfer of Memory" exhibit show Minnesotans and Holocaust survivors Sabina and Ruben Zimering, left, and Curt Hort. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Minnesota has not been immune from the recent increase in anti-Semitism. The Anti-Defamation League, an international organization that opposes anti-Semitism and champions civil rights, documented at least 28 such incidents in the state in 2017, ranging from bombings to assaults and vandalism—an increase of 57 percent from the previous year.

"There's an undercurrent of Holocaust fatigue out there," Anderson said. "(Some people think) haven't we done enough, can't we move on? This exhibit helps fight that fatigue. Even though these are uncomfortable lessons, we have to teach them or else we're in danger of repeating

history."

The GAI was founded in 1957 as the Volksfest Association, a social club for German-Americans to celebrate their heritage in the face of enduring anti-German sentiment in America following World Wars I and II. In 1965 the organization purchased the limestone mansion on Summit Avenue that still serves as its headquarters.

The Volksfest organization became a nonprofit in 1994 and expanded its mission beyond social gatherings to German language education and cultural events. Although regionally focused, GAI is recognized nationally and even internationally for the depth of its

programming.

"As a leading repository of Germanic culture and history, we have an obligation to understand the roots of this terrible period," Anderson said, "and to share the uplifting and deeply hopeful message that is embodied in this exhibit. Germans can be the most credible voices when it comes to warnings of what can happen in society. When humans get to know each other on a personal level, when we come to know people's stories, it's harder for hate to take root."

For more information on the GAI and the "Transfer of Memory" exhibit, visit gai-mn.org or transferofmemory.org.

1◀ MERRIAM PARK MORATORIUM

affect 46 properties in the area bounded by Dewey, St. Anthony, Cleveland and Marshall avenues that were identified in past studies as potentially having historic significance.

The moratorium and study were proposed by Ward 4 City Council member Samantha Henningson. She said after the April 4 public hearing that she is still wrestling with the complicated matter, maintaining that she is "not a preservationist," but only trying to balance the issues involved.

The teardown of single-family homes and the development of new multi-family housing have become flash points in Merriam Park over the past few years. In March, the Historic Merriam Park Neighborhood Association sued the city of St. Paul for negligence after the City Council denied its appeal and upheld several variances for the construction of a five-story apartment building on the northeast corner of Marshall and Moore Street. The new building would replace two century-old residences at 1973 and 1977 Marshall Ave. The association and individual plaintiffs Mary Anderson, Dean Nelson and Scott Van Wert contend that the apartment building, which would include 61 bedrooms, is too dense and out of scale with the rest of the neighborhood.

Jon Schwartzman, the would-be developer of the Marshall-Moore Apartments, has argued that the demand for new multi-family housing is soaring and that the Merriam Park neighborhood's old single-family homes do not meet the needs of the many people who prefer to rent and live close to mass transit and want modern amenities.

Shaun McElhatton, who lives on Carroll Avenue, presented the City Council with a pe-



The black triangles above indicate the locations of 46 potentially historic buildings in the area of Merriam Park outlined above that would be included in the nine-month development moratorium now under consideration by the St. Paul City Council.

tition signed by 125 people in support of the development moratorium and historic survey. The signatures were collected on the weekend of March 31-April 1, McElhatton said, with 22 of them from the owners of the potentially historic properties in Merriam Park.

Like the developers and real estate agents, "all of us who signed the petition have economic expectations," McElhatton said. "We've invested well over \$100,000 above the purchase price in (fixing up) our homes."

"Slow down the process," said Rob Wheeler, who has owned his Moore Street home since

the 1980s. The historic survey, he said, would give the neighborhood time to consider possible protections for the properties identified as potentially historic.

"We're asking for the time to learn whether this neighborhood as a whole is more valuable than the sum of its parts," said Carroll Avenue resident Mark Morrow.

Chase Turner told the City Council that his family bought a condemned Carroll Avenue house in the early 1990s and restored it. Had the city not given the home an opportunity for preservation back then, he said, it would

be gone today.

"Look at the beauty of my neighborhood," said Charlotte Berres, whose family has owned a home on Iglehart Avenue for 70 years. She said it has been "amazing" to see people investing in Merriam Park's older homes. According to her, there are people who would like to buy and restore the Tierney properties if the family would sell the two properties separately.

Mark Tierney, whose parents own the homes at 1905-1911 Iglehart, argued that the City Council should allow the historic survey to proceed without the development moratorium. Acknowledging that the issues are complicated, Tierney said that his parents nevertheless need to be able to sell the houses, one of which has been owned by the family for 79 years.

"Please don't do this to my aging parents," the Tierneys' daughter, Jean Holt, said to the City Council. Her parents are now in their late 80s, she said, and the family recently convinced them to move into senior housing in Highland Park because their longtime home was no longer safe for them.

"They need the money from the sale of houses to live what's left of their lives," Holt said. "Please let them sell this to the buyer who has plans to tear it down, because that is what it is, a teardown."

Real estate agents Charlie Niemeyer and Sara Hanrahan also testified against the moratorium. Niemeyer said he has a buyer for the Iglehart properties who wants to build four single-family houses there. According to Hanrahan, efforts to sell the two properties separately have not worked. All of the offers have been from developers wanting to tear the houses down, she said.

Protected bike lanes debated for new Summit Ave. bridge

By JANE MCCLURE

As planning continues for the construction of a new Summit Avenue bridge over Ayd Mill Road in 2019-20, the separation of traffic lanes from bike lanes has become a topic of debate. Some bicycle advocates would like to see protected bike lanes provided along all five miles of Summit in conjunction with the \$7.24 million bridge project.

The St. Paul Department of Public Works has been working on the bridge plans with the Canadian Pacific Railroad, the Minnesota Department of Transportation and several historic preservation agencies. Once those details are worked out, a public hearing will be held, probably late this spring or early this summer, according to Brent Christensen, the city's project engineer.

The bridge passes over Canadian Pacific's railroad tracks, and that company has a say regarding the clearance beneath the bridge. The bridge is also located in the Summit Avenue West Historic Preservation District, which is regulated by local, state and national historic preservation organizations.

The railroad and historical agencies will help determine what, if any, bridge design details are open for public debate. The Summit Hill Association, Union Park District Council and Macalester-Groveland Community Council are being consulted. The bridge is also under the purview of the Summit Avenue Residential Preservation Association, and the project is being reviewed by the St. Paul Planning Commission's Transportation Committee and the city's Department of Parks and Recreation.

The existing bridge is 102 feet wide. Under current plans, the new bridge would be 76 feet 10 inches wide with two 12-foot traffic lanes, two 8-foot bike lanes, a 14-foot raised median and two 10-foot sidewalks.

The bridge is crossed each day by about 9,000 motor vehicles, 550 bikes and 550 pedestrians. The bike lanes connect with the Griggs Street Bikeway just east of the bridge, and one issue that must be addressed is how eastbound bicyclists can safely get onto northbound Griggs.

The Macalester-Groveland Community Council's Transportation Committee has joined the call for protected bike lanes along

all of Summit. However, Christensen said, that is not likely to win the approval of St. Paul's Heritage Preservation Commission. The curbs or bollards that are used to separate bike and motor-vehicle traffic run counter to Summit Avenue's historic design standards, and it is not considered safe to have protected bike lanes just on the bridge.

"We recognize that people want protected bike lanes, and that discussion needs to continue," Christensen said. "It may need to be a citywide discussion."

Protected bike lanes are a fairly new concept in St. Paul and they can take many forms. Construction of the \$16 million Capital City Bikeway continues this summer along Jackson Street in downtown St. Paul with curbs separating the bike lanes from the street. Last year, the Public Works Department installed white plastic bollards to separate the Pelham Boulevard bikeway from motor vehicles.

"In St. Paul we seem to find reasons not to do protected bike lanes," said Jessica Treat, executive director of Transit for Livable Communities/St. Paul Smart Trips and a member of the Planning Commission's Transportation Committee. According to her, the reasons for

not providing protected lanes "don't hold water."

The new Summit Avenue bridge will have other features bicyclists will welcome, according to Christensen. While the current bridge has four spans, the new bridge will have two, reducing the number of joints bicyclists have to rumble over. Bicyclists will also have more space to ride. The bike lanes on the bridge will be three feet wider than the bike lanes on the rest of Summit. Christensen said that additional space may come into play in the event protections for bicyclists are added later.

The existing Summit Avenue bridge was completed in 1962 when the Short Line Road (now Ayd Mill Road) was constructed on the west side of the Canadian Pacific Railroad tracks. It replaced a much shorter span that was constructed in 1897 to carry Summit Avenue traffic over the railroad tracks.

The existing bridge is considered deficient. Also, the clearance between the bridge and railroad tracks below does not meet current standards. In fact, the underside of the bridge has been hit by trains in the past.

1 ◀ RONDO LAND BRIDGE

on March 23 at the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center.

A nonprofit research and educational organization with offices around the world, ULI invites local organizations to request that one of its advisory service teams analyze a prospective land bridge or "freeway lid" and recommend uses for the bridge that could catalyze development in the surrounding neighborhood, according to Lyneir Richardson, who chaired the ULI advisory services team that studied the Rondo land bridge.

RCR applied for the ULI service and was selected. "Whomever they choose, ULI pays for everything, and we were honored to welcome them here," Smith said.

The land bridge is a huge undertaking. Anderson said, one that could cost more than \$1 billion, depending on the number of blocks included in the targeted area between Victoria and St. Albans streets. Much has yet to be decided, including what will be developed on the land bridge—affordable housing, small or large businesses or park land. "These are all viable options that will be considered over the next couple of years," Smith said.

Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) staff have met several times with RCR representatives over the past two years, "helping them move from concept toward implementation," said project planner Cyrus Knutson of MnDOT. "We believe this is a doable project. Though ULI recommends that MnDOT build and maintain the land bridge, so far we've committed to assisting RCR with the next step, which is two years of planning meetings and so forth to determine the feasibility of the project."

Building a basic structure over I-94 "is relatively easy," Knutson said. "But RCR wants

more than that, and we want to help them make that happen. We'll continue with meetings over the next two years on what all of ULI's recommendations mean."

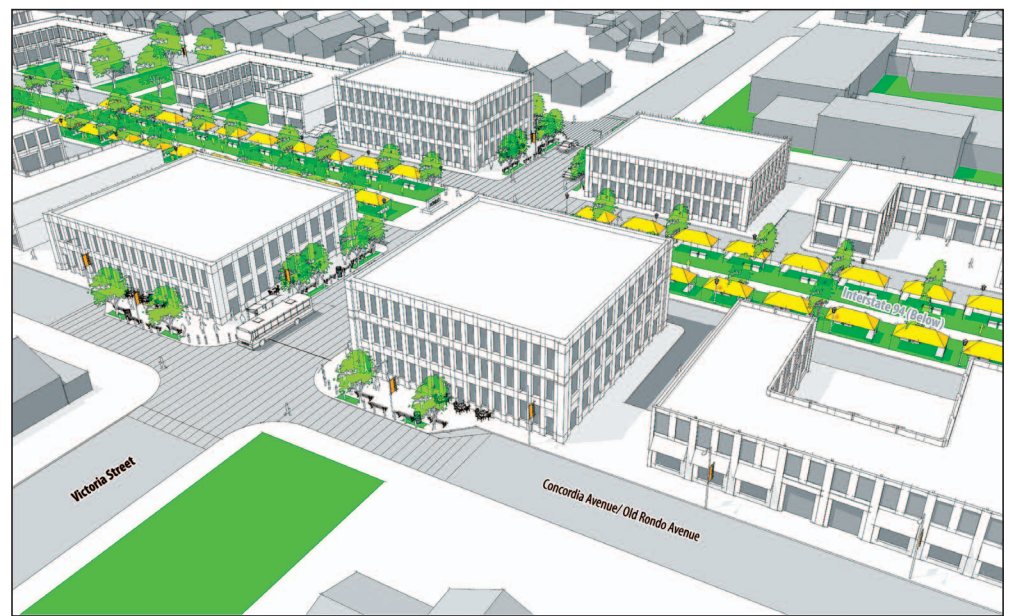
During those two years, RCR and its partners will need to raise \$6 million or more to bring the land bridge project to the design and engineering stage, according to the ULI advisory team. Funding commitments have already been received from the Knight Foundation, the St. Paul Foundation, the Bigelow Foundation, the Bush Foundation, the University of Minnesota Office of Community Engagement, the Metropolitan Council and the city of St. Paul's Cultural STAR Program. More is expected to come from other local foundations.

While not recommending any specific land uses for the land bridge, "more job creation through new businesses should be a goal," according to ULI's Beth Callander. "Currently, 33.9 percent of all Twin Cities households pay 30 percent or more of their income on housing, but that number jumps to 62.7 percent of U.S.-born African-American households."

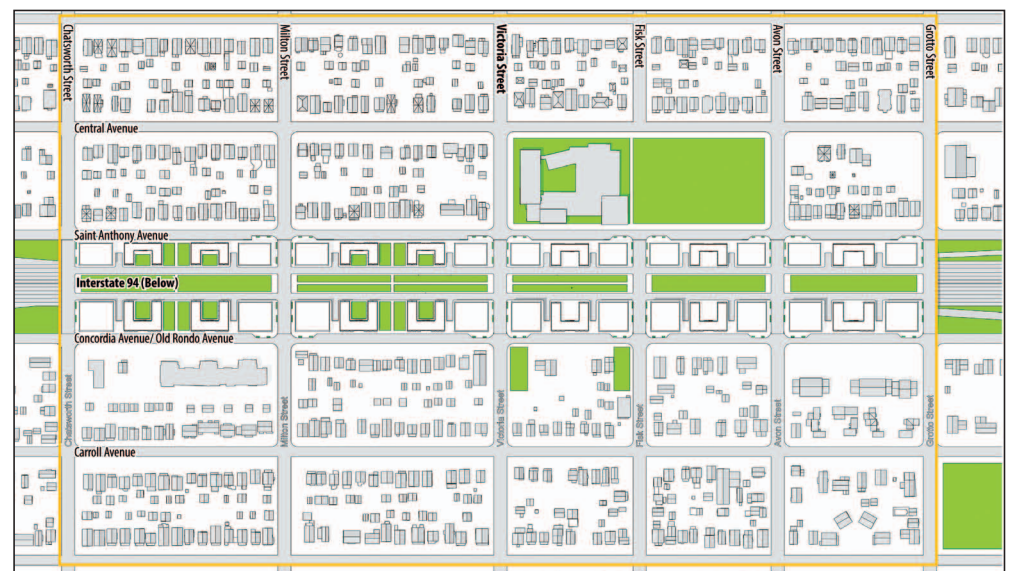
As for the development of a new park on the bridge, ULI has brought in several national urban living organizations to help guide the planning for land bridge amenities. One of their standards is that everybody should live within a 10-minute walk of a park.

"We have a huge road ahead," Anderson said. "Just taking this all on has been recuperative for us. That's what they called the Hoover Dam. This is our Hoover Dam."

A community dialogue on the Rondo land bridge will be held from 5-7 p.m. Thursday, April 19, at the Rondo Library, 461 N. Dale St. For information, visit reconnectrondo.org.



One of the alternatives for a land bridge over I-94 linking two sides of the old Rondo neighborhood would extend from Chatsworth to Grotto streets (above and below).



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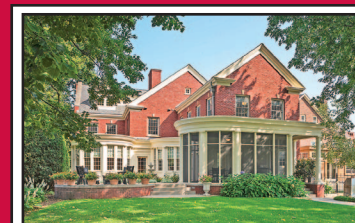
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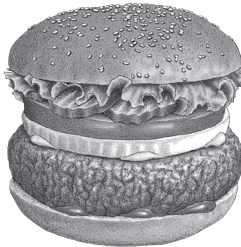
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Looking toward the southeast, an artist's rendering of TJL Development's proposal for a stepped-back apartment building on the southeast corner of Snelling and St. Clair avenues.

A new design on Snelling and St. Clair

Developer unveils plan for six-story, 118-unit apartment building at Mac-Groveland corner

By JANE MCCLURE

Plans for constructing a six-story apartment building on the southeast corner of Snelling and St. Clair avenues drew more than 70 neighbors to an April 5 forum sponsored by the Macalester-Groveland Community Council's Housing and Land Use Committee.

Jim LaValle of TJL Development introduced the plans for 118 market-rate efficiency, one- and two-bedroom apartments on the current site of a surface parking lot and the now-closed Sweeney Cleaners and Rosemark Bakery. Almost all of the apartments would be on floors two to six. The first floor would have 4,100 square feet of retail space at the Snelling-St. Clair corner, 28 enclosed parking spaces and three large apartments. The apartments on floors two to six would have decks or balconies incorporated into the building's stepped-back design.

St. Paul city officials will begin their review of plans for the project this week. The property will require a site plan review as well as a conditional use permit to allow for heights that exceed the maximums allowed in its traditional neighborhoods (TN) zoning. The northern portion of the property is zoned TN3 and the southern portion TN2.

TN3 allows buildings of up to 55 feet in height. TN2 allows buildings of up to 45 feet. The proposed building would have heights of four, five and six stories with the 68-foot-high sixth story at the

Snelling-St. Clair corner.

The project could be reviewed by the St. Paul Planning Commission as early as this spring, and construction could start later this year. What could delay matters is a legal dispute over the title and use of the corner parking lot. That dispute is now in the hands of the Minnesota Supreme Court, which is scheduled to act on it in May. LaValle said the case could delay development or force TJL to consider a much smaller development on the site.

While Macalester-Groveland neighbors raised many questions on April 5, TJL's plans did not draw the vehement opposition met last year by Florida-based LeCesse Development and its plans for a seven-story, 182-unit apartment building on the block. That project, which would have extended further south, was ultimately rejected by the St. Paul City Council.

TJL Development's design sets back several portions of the upper floors from the Snelling Avenue right-of-way. The facade would feature a mix of materials, including brick and metal or fiber board panels. "We're trying to break up the building's mass and give it character," LaValle said.

Kathy McGuire, a member of the Macalester-Groveland Housing and Land Use Committee, said she would like to see more brick and less fiberboard on the facade. "To me, it's sitting there saying, 'we're new,'" she said.

McGuire and others cited the Vintage at Selby and Snelling avenues as an example of good design with ample use of brick to complement the surrounding neighborhood. However, others said they like a modern design and want to see something different.

Committee member Mike Moore said

he likes some aspects of the design, but suggested more detailing and perhaps an additional setback at the corner. "It really seems monolithic from the north," he said.

According to LaValle, the apartments would be marketed to people who want the convenience of living near the bus stations at Snelling and St. Clair. Two off-street parking spaces in the development would be dedicated to a car-sharing program. The building would also have ample bike parking and a bike repair station on the first floor.

With a total of 98 off-street parking spaces, the proposed building meets the city's off-street parking requirements. Seventy parking stalls would be provided underground for tenants. The first floor would have 17 parking spaces for tenants and 11 spaces for retail customers.

"There could be more than one car per unit," said Warwick Avenue resident Peg Flanagan. "Where will those people park?"

One idea being considered by the developers is stacked parking, where vehicles park behind each other. While stacked parking spots are not included in the total parking, they do accommodate more cars.

The building's main entrance would be on Snelling, as would the entrance for underground parking.

Under the previous plan, LeCesse had devoted most of the first floor of the building to parking because of the area's high water table. However, Jeff Wrede of Momentum Architects, which is working with TJL Development, said the water table is not a big issue. A greater concern is removing the pollution that was left by the gas station that once occupied the Snelling-St. Clair corner, he said.

Open house set on Smith, Dodd construction

The Minnesota Department of Transportation will hold an open house on April 25 to review construction plans for Highway 149 (Smith Avenue/Dodd Road) between West Seventh Street in St. Paul and I-494 in Mendota Heights. The event will be held from 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, April 25, at Cherokee Park United Church, 371 W. Baker St.

Construction on Highway 149 is scheduled to begin this spring and continue through the end of the year. Work

includes resurfacing Smith Avenue and Dodd Road; improving drainage, sidewalks and pedestrian accessibility; replacing traffic signals at five intersections; constructing an additional left-turn lane from westbound I-494 to southbound Dodd Road; and resurfacing Annapolis Street between Smith and Cherokee Heights Boulevard. Motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists who use Highway 149 should expect to encounter delays during construction.

The work is part of a larger project

that includes reconstructing the deck of the Smith Avenue High Bridge. Open house attendees can learn about the bridge project and weigh in on preliminary plans for Highway 149 landscaping. Representatives from the state and project staff will be on hand to answer questions.

For information or to sign up for email updates, visit the project website at mndot.gov/metro/projects/hwy149highbridge.

Even more applicants are wishing on Neighborhood STAR

Local projects among those vying for piece of nearly \$2M in funds

By JANE MCCLURE

Forty-one applications seeking a total of \$5.47 million in grants and loans are being reviewed this spring by the city of St. Paul's 2018 Neighborhood Sales Tax Revitalization (STAR) Program.

The number of applications is up more than 30 percent over last year, according to Bruce Corrie, director of the city's Department of Planning and Economic Development. Corrie attributed the increase to a new provision that allows small for-profit businesses to apply for a grant without applying for a loan as well, and a new provision that eliminated the need for matching funds on the first \$50,000 of a loan.

"We're seeing more businesses apply (for STAR grants)," Corrie said.

A citizen panel will begin reviewing the applications in May. Among the 41 applications are 27 requests from small businesses or small-business revolving loan programs.

Larger for-profit businesses may apply for loans or a combination of loans and grants through the STAR program. All grant applications require a dollar-for-dollar match of private funds. This year the city is giving priority to proposals that would fill vacant commercial storefronts.

The STAR Program typically has about \$2 million available in grants and loans each year. Local applicants vying for funds include the following:

- Pimento Incorporated, which is seeking a \$25,000 grant and a \$50,000 loan to build and equip a 5,000-square-foot commissary for its ethnic food products at the Keg & Case Market that will be opening this year in the former Schmidt Brewery keg house at 928 W. Seventh St. Pimento is offering to match those funds with \$200,000 of its own.



The St. Paul Conservancy is seeking a \$250,000 STAR grant as part of its ongoing renovation of Rice Park in downtown St. Paul. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

- Gazta & Enhancements, which is seeking a \$50,000 grant and a \$50,000 loan to build a cheese bar at the Keg & Case Market. It has proposed matching that with \$250,000 of its own.

- Developer Travis Temke, who is seeking a \$100,000 grant and a \$125,000 loan to purchase and renovate St. Paul's former Fire Station 10 at 754 Randolph Ave. for a new craft brewery and restaurant. Temke is offering a \$1.95 million match.

- Art Farm Advertising, 310 Sherman St., which is seeking a \$30,000 loan to make needed repairs without any matching funds.

- St. Paul Guitar Repair, 1101 W. Seventh St., which is seeking a \$15,000 grant with a \$15,000 match to build a space for restoring and finishing stringed instruments.

- Expo Elementary parents and teachers, who are seeking a \$100,000 grant to replace

the Treasure Island Playground behind the school at 540 Warwick St. The group is planning to match those funds with a \$286,470 match in private contributions and school district funds (see story below).

- Running Tiger, a kickboxing gym, which is seeking a \$75,793 grant and a \$75,793 loan to renovate a vacant building at 1040 Selby Ave. A \$151,585 match is proposed.

- Taste of Rondo, which is seeking a \$100,000 grant and a \$100,000 loan with a \$150,000 match to renovate a former private club at 976 Concordia Ave. as a new restaurant.

- St. Clair Properties, which is seeking a \$82,500 grant and a \$82,500 loan to remove a heating oil tank, make security upgrades and improve common areas in the residential and commercial building at 1580 St. Clair Ave. and 245-251 S. Snelling Ave. A \$165,000

match is proposed.

- Selby Maker Space, 1161 Selby Ave., which is seeking a \$20,150 grant with a \$20,150 match for tuckpointing, a new security system and accessibility improvements.

- Capital City Properties, an arm of the St. Paul Port Authority, which is seeking a \$24,500 grant with a \$24,500 match to convert vacant space into offices at the Treasure Island Center, 400 N. Wabasha St.

- Afro Deli, 5 W. Seventh Place, which is seeking a \$37,500 grant and a \$37,500 loan with a \$75,000 match to renovate a storefront at 56 E. Sixth St.

- Black Hart Properties, owner of the Town House bar and restaurant, 1415 University Ave., which has applied for a \$50,000 grant with a \$51,770 match for facade and accessibility improvements.

- Guild 842, which has applied for a \$50,000 grant and a \$50,000 loan with a \$50,000 match to improve a working space at 842 Raymond Ave.

- Vivienne's Joy Foundation, which is seeking a \$50,000 grant with a \$245,816 match for playground improvements at Boyd Park, 335 Selby Ave.

- The Family Place, which is seeking a \$50,000 grant with a \$50,000 match to improve a garden and add a greenhouse to its shelter for homeless families at 722 Concordia Ave.

- The St. Paul Parks Conservancy, which is seeking a \$250,000 grant with a \$1.34 million match for the ongoing renovation of Rice Park in downtown St. Paul.

- The African Development Center, which is seeking a \$100,000 grant and a \$300,000 loan with a \$400,000 match to establish a small-business revolving loan fund.

- African Economic Development Solutions, which has applied for a \$200,000 grant with a \$305,000 match to provide loans for African-American entrepreneurs.

- The Asian Economic Development Association, which is seeking a \$250,000 grant with a \$250,000 match to offer small-business improvement loans.

STAR grant sought to help create new 'destination playground' at Expo

By JANE MCCLURE

Proposed designs for a new Treasure Island Playground at Expo Magnet School will be unveiled at a fundraising kickoff event from 6-7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 12, in the school's cafeteria, 540 Warwick St. The intent is to discuss ideas and start raising money for a new playground to be built next year to replace the wooden structure constructed by volunteers in 1992.

A design committee has been meeting since last October and has worked with St. Paul Public Schools staff to propose ideas. Expo parents and teachers are seeking \$100,000 from the city of St. Paul's Neighborhood Sales Tax Revitalization (STAR) program and plan to use a \$250,000 allocation from the school district and around \$36,470 in private contributions to build a "destination playground."

The Highland, Union Park and Macalester-Groveland district councils have written letters of support for the project to receive STAR funding, which comes from the city's extra half-percent sales tax. One notable vote of dissent last month came from Highland District Council member Sally Bauer, who sits on the Neighborhood STAR Board. She said the school district's allocation is plenty.

"Other schools get the same allocation and it's sufficient," she said.

That response was disappointing to playground supporters. "I think that community members have spoken loud and clear about their desire for a replacement for Treasure Island that is a destination playground," said Expo parent and playground planning chair Megan Boldt Murphy. "This is a playground

Yerama said rebuilding the current Treasure Island Playground today would cost \$1 million or more. In 1992, the price tag was \$90,000.

that serves a community above and beyond Expo."

Expo principal Darren Yerama said the school supports raising funds for a larger playground. "The playground is reaching the end of its useful life," he said. "Wooden playgrounds like Treasure Island usually last 12-15 years. This one has stood for much longer."

The current playground is showing its age and does not comply with federal standards for handicapped accessibility. Expo had hoped to have the playground replaced in time for the 2018-2019 school year, but Yerama said the fundraising and planning are pushing the project to next year.

Padraic McGuire was one of hundreds of volunteers who helped build Treasure Island nearly 26 years ago. He is now on the advisory committee helping to plan the new playground.

"My children are grown, but Treasure Island was their favorite place to play when they were little," he said.

Treasure Island was designed by New York-based Leathers & Associates, which specializes in custom-designed outdoor play areas. Yerama said rebuilding the current Treas-



Expo Elementary students, parents and staff pitched in to clean up damaged portions of the school's Treasure Island Playground following an arson fire in 2011. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

ure Island Playground today would cost \$1 million or more. In 1992, the price tag was \$90,000. The Macalester-Groveland and Highland district councils worked together to obtain a \$32,000 city grant for the project. Families also sold raffle tickets and area businesses were asked to chip in.

Neighborhood residents got involved in planning the playground. Children suggested such ideas as a pirate ship, tree fort, haunted castle, bridge, swings, slides, ladders and a gi-

ant tic-tac-toe game.

Northern States Power (now Xcel Energy) lent boom augers to drill holes for the 160 wooden poles needed to support the structure. Food, beverages and other supplies were also donated for the job.

Treasure Island was essentially a large kit, McGuire recalled, and hundreds of volunteers showed up in shifts to help assemble it. "Putting it together was a pretty impressive effort," he said.

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Parking ban for Lexington bikeway plan still unsettled

By JANE MCCLURE

Only a handful of hardy souls braved an April 3 snowstorm to attend a second open house on plans to install bike lanes on Lexington Parkway from James to St. Clair avenues this summer.

Still unresolved is where on-street parking would be banned to make way for the lanes. Parking is currently allowed on both sides of Lexington between James and Jefferson avenues. St. Paul and Ramsey County public works departments proposed to remove parking on the east side of Lexington along that stretch at an open house in January.

However, after receiving comments from the public, a parking ban is now being considered on either the east or west side of Lexington between James and Juliet. From Juliet to Jefferson, parking would be banned on both sides. Parking on Lexington would continue to be banned on both sides from Jefferson to St. Clair.

Luke Hanson of St. Paul Public Works and city and county staff will continue to sort through several weeks of public comments before making their final recommendations. Both the city and county are expected to hold hearings on the project later this spring.

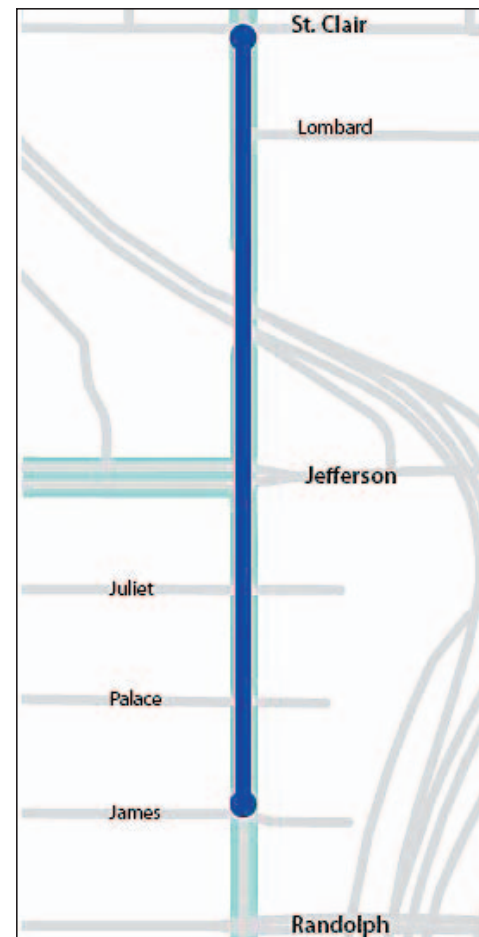
The bike lanes would be striped on the street as part of the county's plans to resurface Lexington from James to University avenues this summer. The county is working with contractors to ensure that the work is done after July 4 and before the State Fair, said Kathy Jaschke, a design engineer for Ramsey County Public Works.

Lexington is a county road, and the county's plan to resurface the street will give the city a chance to extend Lexington's current bike lanes that were added almost three years ago between Montreal and Randolph avenues. The extension would provide a connection to existing bike routes along St. Clair and Jefferson avenues.

The Macalester-Groveland Community Council's Transportation Committee heard comments from several neighbors about the bike lane project on March 26. While neighbors continue to be divided as to which side of the street should lose parking, most committee members said they favor keeping parking on the west side of Lexington. There are about 18 spaces there, as compared to 12 spaces on the east side.

The committee voted to ask the county and city to look at all options for mitigating traffic speeds along that stretch of Lexington. There is skepticism among neighbors as to whether bike lanes and narrowed traffic lanes will actually slow vehicles down.

"One common theme we're hearing is that



Bike lanes would be extended from James to St. Clair avenues when Lexington Parkway is resurfaced this summer.

Lexington can be pretty dangerous," said committee member Alex Cunliffe. "What can we do to make it safer and slow traffic?"

Lexington carries an average of 11,865 to 12,792 vehicles per day in the project area. The posted speed limit is 30 mph, though it has been found that 85 percent of motorists travel 36-39 mph along that stretch.

"That's particularly fast," Hanson said. He noted that the 14-foot wide traffic lanes on Lexington between James and Jefferson encourage speeding. The street is on a hill as well, which affects sight lines and makes it more dangerous.

Transportation Committee members said they would like to see signs that post vehicle speeds and other measures to slow traffic on Lexington. More prominent "zebra-style" crosswalks and traffic signal improvements at St. Clair, Concordia and St. Anthony avenues are already part of the project to increase pedestrian safety.

Residents on the east side of Lexington reiterated on April 3 that they do not want to lose parking on their side of the street. They said it is already hard to accommodate parking for guests and contractors, and they worried about deliveries and recycling and trash pickup. They have asked why parking could not be eliminated on the west side where, unlike the east side, there is an alley.

Hanson said recycling, trash and delivery services could continue at curbside on the east side of Lexington even with the parking ban. Ambulances, fire trucks and police vehicles also would not be subject to the ban.

A few neighbors asked about widening their driveways as part of the road resurfacing project, but they were told that is not possible because Lexington was not being rebuilt.

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Comments sought on fire management plan for Mississippi River Recreation Area

The National Park Service is seeking comments on an environmental assessment for a proposed fire management plan for the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (MNRRA), a 72-mile stretch of the river from the town of Ramsey to southwest of Hastings.

Local officials, organizational representatives and the general public can download the environmental assessment document and submit comments by April 16.

The MNRRA wants to use mechanical

and prescribed burns to control invasive and exotic plant species and to maintain newly established native prairie and savanna areas.

To download the document and submit comments online, visit <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/missfmpEA> and click on "Open for Comment" in the left-hand navigation pane.

Comments also may be mailed to Alan Robbins-Fenger, Chief Resource Management, Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, 111 Kellogg Blvd. E., Suite 105, St. Paul, MN 55101.

St. Paul on path to create citywide plan that supports safe walking

By JANE MCCLURE

Step by step, St. Paul is developing its first pedestrian plan to promote safer walking. A draft of Walking St. Paul is expected to be ready for review this fall, and the City Council may adopt it by next winter. The public is now being urged to weigh in on the plan through an online survey.

The goal is to improve sidewalk connections citywide, make it safer to cross streets, and provide education and enforcement programs to promote safe walking. One key focus is to address the many miles of street faces that have no sidewalks.

Fay Simer, the city's pedestrian safety advocate in the Department of Public Works, is leading the effort to draft the plan. She and other city staff sought comments at neighborhood events in 2017 and at an open house last month at the Arlington Hill Community Center.

"We want to promote and energize a culture of walking," Simer said. A 2015 survey indicated that when it comes to getting to work only 4 percent of St. Paulites walk, 8 percent take public transit and 1.5 percent ride bikes. The rest drive.

The city heard from about 1,500 people on the draft plan at neighborhood events last year. Most of them said they walk for exercise, social activities or to get to transit stops.

Safely crossing streets has been the top concern raised so far. An uptick in pedestrian injuries and deaths in recent years is one of the factors pushing the creation of the plan.

Simer said she has seen marked differences in comments on the walking plan depending on where people live. Sidewalk networks vary greatly among neighborhoods, as do perceptions of safety. "We want to build capacity to support safe walking everywhere in St. Paul," Simer said.

By fall, some priority projects will be identified, funding needs will be developed and crosswalk policies will be drafted. The funding amounts and project priorities must be in place by 2019 when the city starts its next Capital Improvement Budget cycle.

Gaps in the sidewalk network and the condition of many existing sidewalks are among the biggest stumbling blocks for safe walking in the city. St. Paul has 1,083 miles of sidewalks and replaces 6-8 miles of them annually at a cost of around \$1 million per year. Half of the amount is funded by the city, and the other half is assessed to abutting property owners.

Property owners who want sidewalks where none currently exist pay 100 percent of the cost. Because developers and property owners were allowed for many years to opt out of sidewalk construction, the city has 394 miles of sidewalk gaps.

A small amount of sidewalk funding comes

from the city's bicycle, pedestrian and traffic safety program, which pays for new crosswalk markings and signs, bike lanes, signal improvements and other needs. That program has \$350,000 earmarked for 2018, but only \$250,000 per year from 2019-2022.

The city already has several walking programs, Simer said. Stop for Me is an annual pedestrian safety and crosswalk enforcement program that will begin its third year this month with a series of public awareness events. Safe Routes to School focuses on getting children safety to and from school, and includes new sidewalks, crossing improvements and public education. New sidewalks as part of the first Safe Routes program will be added this construction season near Expo, Holy Spirit and Cretin-Derham Hall schools.

For information on the plan and to take the survey, visit stpaul.gov/departments/public-works/transportation/walking-saint-paul.

Research shows annual Stop for Me campaign has more work to do

By JANE MCCLURE

There is no stopping St. Paul's annual Stop for Me pedestrian safety campaign. The 2018 effort begins this month and continues through the fall with events in neighborhoods across the city.

City Council members heard an update on March 21 regarding the campaign, which was launched in 2016 in an attempt to make streets safer for pedestrians and bicyclists. This year's campaign will include the familiar crosswalk events, which are intended to draw attention to traffic laws related to pedestrians. It will also include a study of selected pedestrian crossings led by the University of Minnesota and Western Michigan University.

The first Stop for Me enforcement activi-

ties are scheduled for April 18-May 1. Officers will be stationed at specific intersections and will be handing out warnings to motorists who fail to stop for pedestrians in crosswalks. The followup phases, when motorists could be issued tickets, will take place on June 4-18, August 6-20 and October 1-15. Specific locations have not yet been announced.

"High-visibility enforcement sends the message that we care about pedestrians," said Nichole Morris, director of the HumanFIRST Laboratory in the U of M's Department of Mechanical Engineering.

Morris reviewed recent research conducted at several unsignalized St. Paul intersections, include Randolph-Prior, Randolph-Davern, Hamline-Hartford, Cretin-Goodrich, Snelling-Fairmount and Summit-Chatsworth.

Teams of two worked at those intersections, with one person crossing the street and a second making notes of driver behavior.

The average test had 67 vehicles and 20 pedestrian crossings per time period studied. On average, only three in 10 vehicles stopped for people who were crossing the street.

"We have a driving culture problem in St. Paul," Morris said. "It requires a cultural solution."

According to Morris, that 70 percent failure rate "is nothing to smile about." Encouraging drivers to change their behavior "could become a community rallying cry," she said. "This is what St. Paul does; we stop for pedestrians."

One dangerous situation that has claimed the lives of St. Paul pedestrians in recent years

involves four-lane streets where one motorist will stop for the pedestrian, while another flies around the stopped vehicle and strikes the person crossing.

Pedestrian fatalities and injuries are a growing percentage of all traffic accidents nationwide. Between 2004-2013, the percent of traffic deaths for pedestrians rose from 10.9 percent of the total to 14.5 percent.

The uptick in pedestrian accidents is also being seen in St. Paul, Morris said. The city had 146 vehicle-pedestrian crashes and six fatalities in 2015, 188 crashes and four fatalities in 2016, and 193 crashes and three fatalities in 2017. Through March 12 of this year, there have been 39 crashes involving pedestrians and one fatality.

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Viewpoint

Today's children really need loving parents in their corner

BY SCOTT RASKIEWICZ

I was out for a walk in my neighborhood last fall. From a block away, I saw two girls about 5 and 8 years old doing cartwheels in their side yard. Three adults whom I guessed to be their father, mother and an aunt or family friend were encouraging the girls. As I approached, the youngest girl finished a cartwheel. She looked at me, and I quietly applauded. She was adorable, serious and so polite as she said, "Thank you," like a seasoned professional.

"Looks like you have a couple of gymnasts there," I said to the adults.

"We're working on it," the father replied.

Late in the afternoon a few days later, I was walking by the same house. A car pulled into the driveway. I couldn't see the girls in the fenced backyard, but I could hear them shouting with happiness and excitement, "Daddy, Daddy!" It made me wonder how many children today live in a house where they're so happy to see their father come home from work. And how many people in prison for a violent crime grew up in a house where they were happy and excited to see their father come home from work? Not many, I'd guess.

Then I thought about why members of Congress care so

little about children and families, especially children and families on the lower rungs of America's socioeconomic ladder. It's because they spend 30-70 percent of their time raising money for their next election. And who contributes the vast majority of that money? The corporate and economic elite. Thus, it's the corporate and economic elite—not the general citizenry, the poor, working and middle-class families—who are the main focus of nearly all national politicians.

When politicians aren't busy raising money from the corporate and economic elite, they're busy promoting and enacting policies that benefit that elite. They do so to pay back their wealthy contributors and to ensure that after retiring from "public service" they can cash in on their time in Congress and become corporate lobbyists, sit on corporate boards of directors and continue their pampered, privileged lifestyles that are out of reach of the working poor and middle-class Americans.

I know that with the help of friends, relatives, teachers, day care providers, coaches and others, it's possible for a single parent to raise healthy, intelligent, kind children. But the evidence is substantial that children do best when raised by a loving mother and father. Humans are deeply social beings.

We all have a mother and a father. It is only natural that children want to know and have a loving relationship with both of their parents, preferably under one roof.

In this modern, stressful, overly busy, gadget-filled world, there are many reasons why rates of ADHD, depression, obesity and other signs of emotional and physical problems have skyrocketed. That most politicians don't care about the struggles and suffering of American families, and have created health care and economic systems that reflect that lack of caring, is the main reason. That and the fact that most Americans are increasingly out of touch with the natural world and the benefits it offers. When it comes to families, nothing is more natural or socially beneficial than a mother, father and children living together and loving and supporting one another through life's inevitable ups and downs.

I've always been a dreamer, but it isn't unrealistic to hope that someday all children will live in a home where they're happy and excited to see their father and mother come home from work, work that pays enough to support a family. It should be the most natural thing in the world.

Scott Raskiewicz is a Macalester-Groveland writer and semi-retired tennis teaching professional.

Inbox

Many ways to stop shootings

After teaching in the public schools for 36 years, I reflect on what teaching has been and what it is today. As a new college graduate excited about my first job, I knew I would be able to impart knowledge and make a difference in students' lives. We had other responsibilities then, such as coaching, chaperoning bus trips, correcting papers, grading and conferring with parents. As my career continued, I added counselor, school supplies provider, social worker, nurse and behavioral specialist to my job description.

Now they want teachers to carry guns? Teachers have been begging for many years for more counselors, social workers, behavioral specialists, reduced class sizes and training in dealing with kids in crisis.

There are approximately 120 staff in a St. Paul high school. If 50 carry a concealed weapon and hand guns average about \$630 each, that's \$31,500. Times seven high schools, that's \$220,500. Now add training and ammunition. The costs keep rising. Is this a good use of taxpayer dollars? Instead, those dollars could be used to hire more counselors, social workers and school police officers, to reduce classroom sizes and to train teachers to support kids in crisis.

Before we arm teachers, we must look at other ways to solve the problem. The responsibility is not solely on our schools. These shooters are in crisis and they need help from their parents, other family members and the community. We could identify these shooters earlier with help from social workers, counselors and parents. We could make laws to prevent students from buying guns.

No one has the perfect solution, but students deserve a safe environment in which to learn. Let's work together to solve this ghastly problem.

*Mary Conlin-Warner
Highland Park*

Where would you rather live?

Looking for a 21st-century development in which to settle? Rice Creek Commons and the Ford site are formerly polluted areas slated for mixed-use development. Both have been identified as world-class opportunities for development. Both are equidistant from the downtowns of Minneapolis and St. Paul. But that is where their similarities end.

Rice Creek Commons will be built on the old Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant in Arden Hills. Rice Creek Commons comprises 320 acres with easy access to I-35W, Highway 10 and I-694. It will include 1,600 new housing units, mostly single-family, with multi-family housing in the town center; 86 acres of retail and office space; 24 acres of parks; and 50 acres of a natural area with a creek.

The Ford site is Ford Motor Company's old assembly plant in Highland Park. It comprises 122 acres with easy access to

the A Line rapid-transit bus but no interstate access. It will include 4,000 multi-family housing units, mostly rental; retail and commercial space for 1,500 employees; and 11 acres of parks and public spaces.

If you own and regularly use a car and don't want to live in a multi-family development, your choice is already made. If you want to live in naturally beautiful surroundings, both developments are attractive. But if you choose the Ford site, you probably won't experience the beauty for the cacophony of traffic and the tall buildings blocking your vision.

Go ahead, compare the amenities. When it's time to settle, you'll be ready to head for the hills—Arden Hills, that is.

*Howard Miller
Highland Park*

Hazards of disc golf expansion

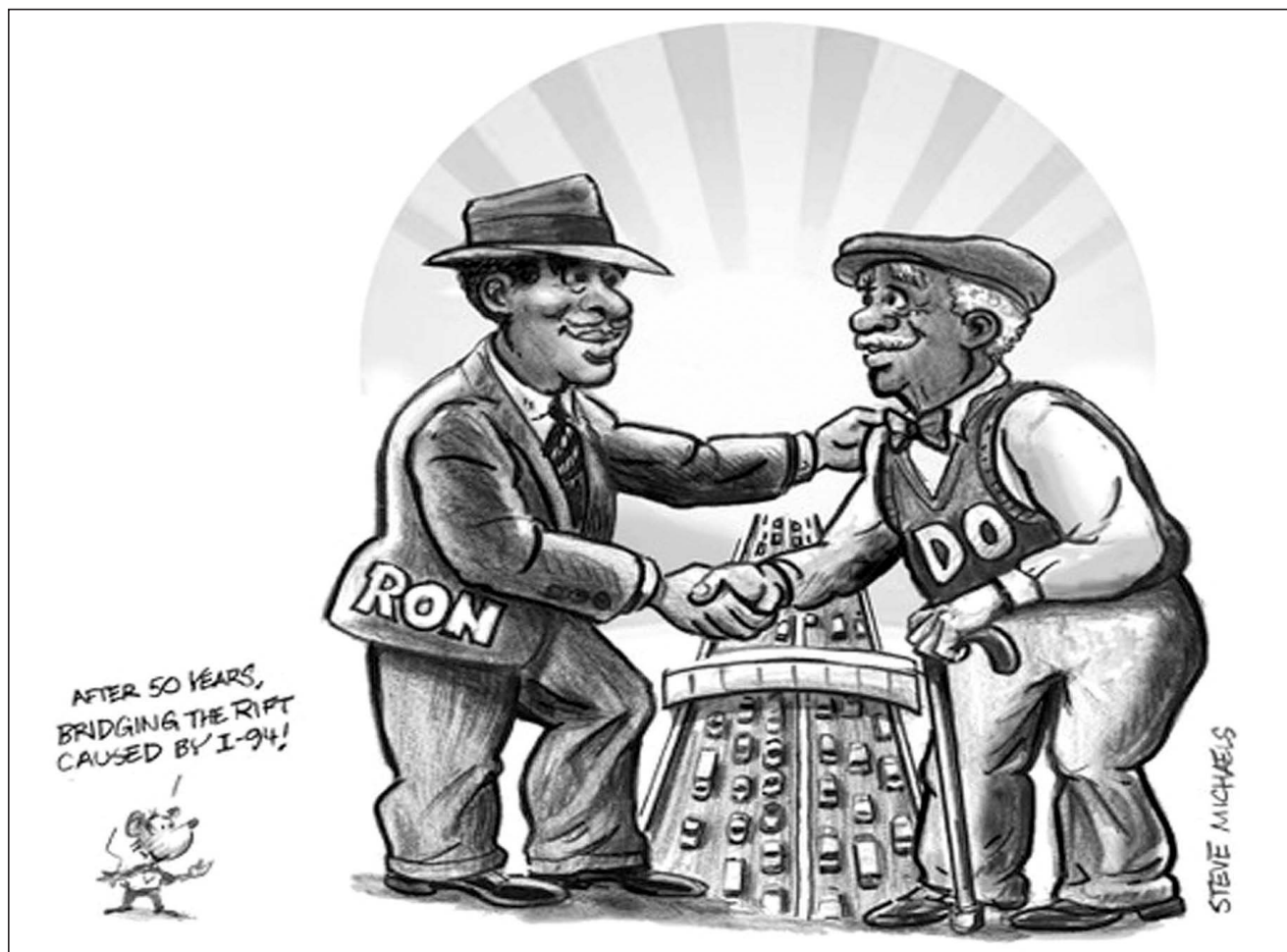
I was a recent guest of good friends who live on Edgcombe Road. I have stayed there several times over the past eight years and have often walked the Highland Park picnic areas and disc golf course.

During the 1980s and 1990s I was heavily involved in the sport of disc golf. I participated as a professional player in

events throughout the U.S., Europe and Japan. I served as an organizer and director for over 40 Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA) and regional tournaments and as co-director and course designer for the 1994 and 1995 PDGA World Championships. I was also the designer of the first disc golf courses installed in a Maryland state park and a Houston city park.

I have reviewed the expanded 18-hole layout proposed by the St. Paul Parks and Recreation Department in a January 16 report. In my experience, disc golf courses that are installed in multi-use parks never succeed. Even with the application of buffer zones, both disc golfers and ordinary park users become frustrated with one another. Increasing the number of holes at the Highland Park disc golf course will only increase this problem. The disc golf course renovations as proposed are not particularly exciting, and the increased footprint of the course, especially in and along the gullies, will lead to bank erosion, increased compaction and significant grass loss in tee and basket areas.

It should also be noted that with the innovations in disc technology, there is increased danger of accidental injury from errant shots. I have seen surprisingly deep cuts (even



8◀ INBOX

through fabric) on people hit by discs that have a beveled edge. I fear the city of St. Paul could be opening itself to serious liability claims.

Disc golf activities, like regular golf activities, should be removed as far as possible from picnicking, playgrounds and parking. Dedicated courses, similar to those provided for regular golf, would offer the perfect canvas for a safe and first-rate disc golf course, one that St. Paul could be proud of.

*John Clayton Powell
Weatherford, Texas*

Vote 'no' in School District 197

Do the voters in School District 197 know what they are voting for in the May 8 bond referendum (*Villager*, March 28)?

In 2014, School District 197 introduced three separate bond issues—Technology, Security and a Football Stadium. The Technology and Security issues passed, but the \$4.5 million stadium was soundly defeated. When presented to the voters in 2014 the message was clear. Now in 2018, the School Board is asking for \$117 million in an all-inclusive bond for improvements to several schools. Forty-eight million dollars is earmarked for Sibley High School, including the \$5 million for a football stadium and \$9.5 million for a swimming pool described as “improvements in athletic space.”

It appears that the District 197 School Board has been unwilling to accept the meaning of the 2014 vote and are now presenting that bond issue attached to an all-or-nothing package. Is the \$14 million for athletic space improvements the best use of our money? Vote “no” on May 8.

*Ralph Dumond
Mendota Heights*

Who pays for public investments?

Recent articles have discussed the investments being made in buildings along University Avenue as a result of the light-rail Green Line. Similar investments have been made on Snelling Avenue between Marshall and Selby avenues. Now Snelling and Selby, Snelling and Hague Avenue and Snelling and St. Clair Avenue are scheduled for additional changes.

Each of the properties on University has benefited from the street improvements. Likewise, each of the properties along Snelling will benefit from improvements that are surely coming. I suspect a new trolley system will appear on Snelling and many other main arteries in the future. The Ford site will actually require a new transit system to mitigate the projected traffic increases.

When we consider the increases in property values along the Green Line, driven by higher rents, we have to realize that the only true benefactors of street improvements are those property owners immediately on the line. Properties away from this corridor do not experience comparable increases. However, our assessments have more than doubled since the funding for the Green Line was approved.

Redevelopment of the Army Ammunition Plant in Arden Hills is anticipated to be a treasured source of new tax revenue for Ramsey County. However, this development will also be carried by county property taxpayers. How much of the projected new tax revenue will go to new spending? How much will go to compensate those who are paying now? If history offers any clue, the answers are “all” and “none.”

The reality of street improvements and the redevelopment of

public land is that the benefits accrue only to the adjacent or enclosed properties. They should be saddled with all of the costs beyond normal repairs in return for their increased market values. Ironically, all revenue from rising rents not needed to support the normal function of the property are destined to be captured in taxes over time. The government spends; the public pays twice. Government budgets just grow.

*Stephen Miller
Merriam Park*

Mendota officials flout the laws

On March 27 I attended a public hearing before the Mendota Heights Planning Commission on a revised plan for the Michael Apartments development on Highway 13 south of Highway 110 and just east of Acacia Boulevard. It was a distinctly unedifying experience.

The meeting room was almost full, with most attendees from communities adjacent to the site. There were a number of citizen comments uniformly opposed to the plan. The opposition stemmed from the number of proposed units, the consequent effects on traffic congestion, and the lack of harmony with the surrounding residential neighborhoods. When a speaker asked for a show of hands, almost all of them raised their hands as plan opponents.

Mr. Swenson, the site developer, in his comments to the commission, claimed that the new apartments were not of high density and would fit in with the neighborhood. Residential neighbors clearly disagreed. The proposed number of units dramatically exceeds the conservative discretion granted by the relevant city ordinance.

Despite the ubiquitous neighborhood opposition, the Planning Commission voted unanimously in favor of the proposed plan. Indeed, since last August the review of the Michael Apartments plan by the Planning Commission and three Mendota Heights City Council members has consistently pandered to the developer rather than respecting applicable city laws and the views of city residents. Many residents share my view that we should expect better service and greater dedication to protecting the special character of our city on the part of our elected and appointed officials.

*Thomas Smith
Mendota Heights*

Expand gun backgrounds checks

At the Minnesota House Public Safety Committee hearing on March 20, my state representative Dave Pinto tried to bring back two gun violence safety bills that had been tabled. The Republican-controlled committee voted against it. Only one courageous Republican agreed on the bill for background checks on all gun sales.

A similar bipartisan bill in the Minnesota Senate wasn't even allowed for discussion. The two Republican senators sponsoring this common-sense legislation were deluged with negative communications by their peers. What makes matters worse is that at least two Democratic legislators said they don't want to deal with gun bills this session, but want to concentrate on mental health issues related to school safety with other Republicans.

The Republican Party has continued to stall most mental health funding for our insurance-based health care system. Now they hypocritically want to discuss ways to deal with mental health issues

VILLAGER

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Maurice F. Mischke, 1920-1991

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The Villager serves the Highland Park, Lexington-Hamline, Macalester-Groveland, Merriam Park, Snelling-Hamline, Summit Hill, Summit-University and West End neighborhoods of St. Paul, the Longfellow and Nokomis neighborhoods of Minneapolis, Lilydale, Mendota and Mendota Heights.

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Next Issue: April 25

Visit myvillager.com for deadlines.

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INBOX ▶ 10

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9◀ INBOX

related to gun violence. Yes, it is about time for them to wake up to gun violence issues. Our young people demand it. The problem is, most gun deaths are not committed by mentally ill people. America has no more mental health problems per capita than any other developed country, but we have by far the most gun violence. The real problem is the easy access to guns by Americans who are not supposed to have them.

Over 88 people a day die from gun violence in America. About 90 percent of Americans, and a large majority of gun owners, support increased background checks. Do these legislators still fear the gun lobby? This lobby does not really represent a majority of its members on this issue.

Gary Thompson
Highland Park

All in for alley plowing

I want to express my sympathy for Louise Nemmers of Highland Park and all St. Paul residents who have to make up for “that one person we all know that never pays” for alley plowing (*Villager* Inbox, March 28). On my block, there hasn’t been a delinquency in over four decades.

Tom Clayton
Merriam Park

Privilege and personal choice

A neighbor wrote in about mailing her trash to the city’s chief resilience officer, Russ Stark, to protest the coming change to organized trash collection in St. Paul (“A Stark example,” *Villager* Inbox, March 14). Imagine a poor or working-class person, a new immigrant, or a person of color writing to celebrate the fact that he or she mailed trash to a city official. Imagine the local newspaper giving voice to that behavior.

The opposition to organized city services is not about choices. It is about wealthy, privileged individuals and groups doing everything they can to maintain every privilege they have—no matter the impact on anyone perceived to be under them.

Ben Frank
Highland Park

An insult to women

I am not applauding Walmart’s moving of *Cosmopolitan* out of the checkout lanes to another area of the store. This simply enables young people to devour its pornographic content with less scrutiny.

Minnesota’s Harmful to Minors Statute 617.293 clearly states it is unlawful to disseminate material that has explicit descriptions of sexual activity to minors. *Cosmopolitan* has articles about sex on campus, photos of sex toys and links to pornographic websites. Walmart should not sell *Cosmo*, period. I lay the most blame on the women who make *Cosmo* such a big-money item.

Women and girls, do not accept the notion that you were created just to be eye candy. Your beauty is more than skin deep. Quit buying *Cosmo*. It is an insult to all women.

Ann Redding
Fuller, Minneapolis

Editor’s note: The writer is president of the Christian Action League of Minnesota.

Erstad has the experience

The three candidates for the Ward 4 seat on the St. Paul City Council will probably not differ much in their stated commitment to diversity, police accountability, strong neighborhoods and the like. One quality, however, definitely sets them apart: the ability to govern effectively on day one.

In her more than four years as executive director of Friends of the Parks and Trails of St. Paul and Ramsey County, Shirley Erstad has diligently read the reports, studied the ordinances, and sat through the endless meetings around big issues like the Ford site plan, the Midway soccer stadium and the parkland dedication ordinance. Shirley’s attention to detail, endurance and cheerful efforts are remarkable. She also possesses an attitude that is, to me, priceless in a public servant: a healthy skepticism about big claims and expert projections. She likes to ask inconvenient questions.

We in Ward 4 would be best served by the candidate who takes the seat with commendable ideals seasoned by experience. Shirley Erstad already knows how to get things done.

Paul Nelson
Merriam Park

Cashing in on a scandal

It’s of paramount importance that maximum coverage be given to the account of porn star Stormy Daniels and her sexual experience with Donald Trump. Thank God for MSNBC and CNN. I recall the extensive, in-depth reporting they provided years ago with Monica Lewinsky, and I developed a far better understanding of Bill Clinton.

Trump brags that he knows the art of the deal. Well, the deal he made with the pole dancer isn’t holding up very well. She can well-afford to refund his \$130,000. Her story is worth many times that to the likes of CNN.

T.J. Sexton
Macalester-Groveland

Sign, sign, everywhere a sign

While I appreciate the warming weather, I am sad to see the snow melt that buried the bevy of red signs for the last several months. There are over a dozen signs that have been posted high up in trees and in yards along Mississippi River Boulevard near Hidden Falls Park’s north entrance that are a significant blight on what is otherwise one of the great stretches of natural beauty in our fair city. While I don’t expect anyone with a red sign in his or her yard to take it down, I sure think the character of the neighborhood would be better off for it. In the meantime, I will try not to shake my head when I see a “For Sale” or “For Rent” sign.

Jeff Zaayer
Highland Park

Do write, won’t you?

The *Villager* welcomes letters to the editor and longer guest editorials. To be considered for publication, however, all commentary must be signed, include a telephone number for verification purposes and indicate the neighborhood in which the writer lives. You may drop off or mail your commentary to the *Villager* at 757 S. Snelling Ave., St. Paul, MN 55116, or email it to letters@myvillager.com. Keep your commentary brief and to the point.

ST. CATHERINE UNIVERSITY

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LECTURE

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7 p.m. at The O’Shaughnessy

Featuring Krista Tippett on
The Adventure of Civility

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Reserve tickets at The O’Shaughnessy box office, 651-690-6700 or oshag.stkate.edu.

Woodlawn, Jefferson, Mt. Curve repaving planned for 2018-19

City project is one of first largely financed with dedicated bonds

By JANE MCCLURE

A Macalester-Groveland street repaving project scheduled for 2018-19 is one of the first to come under a new St. Paul street financing policy. Though abutting property owners will still pay 25 percent of the cost of the street improvements through assessments, the \$10.5 million Woodlawn-Jefferson project will largely be paid with dedicated street reconstruction bonds under the new St. Paul Streets program adopted by the City Council in March.

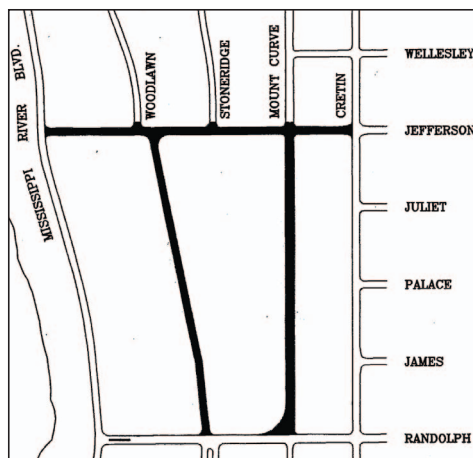
City street paving projects have in the past relied on multiple funding sources, including bonds, federal, state and county funds, and

water and sewer revenue.

St. Paul rebuilt many of its streets in the 1980s and 1990s in conjunction with a sewer separation program that upgraded most of the city's sanitary and storm sewers. The St. Paul Residential Street Vitality Program, or RSVP, got underway in 1996 to repave the rest of the roughly 200 miles of older streets in the city.

RSVP was supposed to be wrapped up in 10 years, but it is still not done and will likely not be finished for many years. Delaying its completion was the rising costs of materials and the tendency of the street repaving fund to be raided by other capital improvement projects.

According to Todd Hurley, the city's chief financial officer, the new St. Paul Streets financing program will be simpler to use. Street projects will continue to draw on sewer and water funds if sewer pipes or water mains need replacement, but the dedicated street bonds will make spending and financing easier to track, he said.



The darkened streets are the ones in the project area that will be repaved in 2018.

The City Council will hold a public hearing on the Woodlawn-Jefferson project on April 18. The affected area is between Mississippi River Boulevard, Randolph, Jefferson and Cretin avenues. This year Jefferson and

Woodlawn avenues and Mount Curve Boulevard will be worked on.

The streets in the area will get new paving, new curbs and gutters, new sidewalks, new lantern-style street lighting and new trees to replace the trees that were cut down in 2017. Woodlawn was last paved in 1973. Parts of Jefferson and Mount Curve are older oiled streets and have never been paved.

Phase 1 of the Woodlawn-Jefferson project in 2018 has a cost of \$5.4 million. Under the city's financing plan, about \$4.1 million will be covered by street improvement bonds. Factored into the bond amount are assessments of more than \$800,000 on abutting property owners. The street reconstruction assessment is \$110.45 per assessable foot, and the street lighting assessment is \$19.55 per assessable foot.

St. Paul Regional Water Services will pick up \$750,000 of the cost for replacing a small section of water main. Sewer repairs will cost \$55,000.

Changes proposed to residential permit parking around St. Thomas

By JANE MCCLURE

The number of residential permit parking districts around the University of St. Thomas would be reduced under a plan proposed by the St. Paul Department of Public Works. Parking time limits around the campus could also be changed as part of the plan, which was recently released for public review after more than a year of study.

The proposed changes were reviewed in March by the West Summit Neighborhood Advisory Committee (WSNAC) and the Macalester-Groveland Community Council's Transportation Committee.

While most permit parking districts cur-

rently allow four residential and two visitor permits per household, Elizabeth Stiffler of Public Works said some allow as many as six residential permits. The proposed plan would allow only three permits for residents and two for visitors. One-day permits would still be available. "Most people aren't buying more than three permits," Stiffler said.

The proposed changes would also combine two small permit parking districts north of St. Thomas, as well as three districts east of the campus. An earlier suggestion to combine two districts west of the campus was dropped.

More consistent permit parking time limits are being considered for District 23, located south of Goodrich Avenue between Cretin

and Mississippi River Boulevard. That district has 13 block faces with 84 properties and four sets of time restrictions, ranging from no parking anytime to no parking from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday through Friday, except by permit. The different restrictions make it challenging to enforce, Stiffler said.

The construction of the Anderson Parking Ramp at Cretin and Grand avenues was expected to reduce the on-street parking demand in District 23, but Stiffler said that has not happened.

Public Works is also looking at simplified permit parking signs and an online permit system. Another change would make it easier for people who drive leased vehicles to get

permits. Any changes would ultimately have to be approved by the City Council.

After reviewing the proposed changes on March 26, the Macalester-Groveland Transportation Committee opted to not take a position.

Marc Manderscheid, who serves on the committee and WSNAC, said his neighbors continue to be concerned about spillover parking in the neighborhood south of campus.

Doug Hennes, St. Thomas' vice president for government relations and special projects, said the university wants to continue discussing possible permit parking changes near the campus. "There are tradeoffs no matter what we do," he said.

School Notes

Highland Park and Roosevelt students will participate in a choreography showcase featuring the works of five local high schools at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 11, at the Cowles Center, 528 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis. The program follows a 10-day residency with a professional teaching artist at each school. Highland will be performing modern dance and Roosevelt is doing jazz. Also included will be South (Latin), Brooklyn Center (modern) and Creative Arts (Afro-Modern). For details, call 612-206-3636.

Sarafina Schimek, a senior at Visitation School, won the All-State Witness Trophy at the state high school Mock Trial tournament on March 1-2 in Minneapolis. The Visitation team advanced to the state competition for the first time in school history as the Region 9 champion.

Mayor Melvin Carter and St. Paul Public Schools Superintendent Joe Gothard will help select the winners of the annual I Read! I Vote! bookmark contest, which culminates with a short ceremony and party at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 15, at the Rondo Library, 461 N. Dale St. For information, call 651-266-7400 or visit spspl.org/kidvote.

Hiawatha Academies, a K-12 charter school that operates on four campuses in South Minneapolis, recently announced that Joyce Preschool will open a new program this fall in its Hiawatha Leadership Academy-Northrop location, 1611 E. 46th St. Joyce Preschool offers bilingual (Spanish-English) immersion education for children ages 3-5. The Joyce-Hiawatha partnership program will offer half- and full-day care from two-five days a week. Visit hiawathaacademies.org.

A Cadet Coffee and Admissions informational session will be held from 9-10:15 a.m. Tuesday, April 17, at St. Thomas Academy. Guests can get an informal introduction to the curriculum, tour the school and attend formation. Register online at cadets.com/OpenHouse.

Central High School received the Watershed Project Award from the Capitol Region Watershed District during its annual awards ceremony on January 18 at the Amherst Wilder Foundation. Central was honored for the transformation of its campus into an environment that captures and cleans 1.4 million gallons of runoff each year before it reaches the Missis-

siippi River. The project, which was done in partnership with the Transforming Central Committee, included tree trenches, permeable pavement, rain gardens, native plantings, an underground rock trench system and monitoring wells.

Congresswoman Betty McCollum's office will host an informational event on Tuesday, April 17, to discuss the nomination process and application requirements for admission to a U.S. service academy. Guest speakers will include representatives from the Air Force, Marine, Military and Naval academies. The event will take place from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Mounds View High School, 1900 Lake Valentine Road, Arden Hills. Applications from interested students in the 4th District will be accepted beginning August 1. The application deadline is November 5. For information, visit mccollum.house.gov or call Connie Haddeland at 651-224-9191.

The St. Thomas Academy Experimental Vehicle Team (EVT) is preparing to compete in the Shell Eco-Marathon Americas event on April 19-22 in Sonoma, California. The team is the current world champion in the event, having won both the 2017 Americas competition and the 2017 Drivers' World Championship held in London last May. The EVT won the UrbanConcept Battery-Electric Category in last year's Americas competition by achieving 50.3 miles per kilowatt hour. This is the 20th anniversary of the EVT.

St. Catherine University will host its annual Goodman Lecture with speaker Krista Tippet presenting "The Adventure of Civility" at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 26, in the O'Shaughnessy auditorium. Tippet is the host and executive producer of "On Being" on Minnesota Public Radio, a Peabody Award-winning broadcaster and a *New York Times* best-selling author. Admission is free, but tickets are required. For information, visit tinyurl.com/yadmxta3.

All high school students attending classes or residing in the state's 4th District are being invited to participate in the 2018 Congressional Art Competition called "An Artistic Discovery." The winner will have his or her artwork displayed in the U.S. Capitol and will receive two airline tickets to attend the exhibit opening in June. Runners-up will be displayed in Congresswoman Betty McCollum's offices in St. Paul and Washington. Submissions must be sent by 5 p.m. Friday, April 13, to

McCollum's office at 661 LaSalle St., Suite 110, St. Paul, MN 55114. Only one entry per student is allowed. Local entries will be displayed during the St. Paul Art Crawl on April 27-29 in the Pig's Eye Gallery of the Schmidt Artist Lofts, 900 W. Seventh St. For information, visit mccollum.house.gov/services/art-competition or call 651-224-9191.

The University of St. Thomas Selim Center for Lifelong Learning announced its spring schedule of programs tailored for adult learners 40 and older. Fees range from \$25-\$90. Included in the offerings are "American Politics in the Age of Trump" from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Thursdays, April 26-May 10, on the St. Paul campus; and a Lunch 'n' Explore program on "Your Brain's Energy, Memory & Function" from 11:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Friday, May 4, on the Minneapolis campus. There also will be a free Exercise for the Body and Mind walking tour from 1-2:30 p.m. Saturday, April 28, on the university's south campus in St. Paul. For information, call 651-962-5188 or visit stthomas.edu/selimcenter.

Tarshia Stanley will join St. Catherine University as dean of the School of Humanities, Arts and Sciences in July after nearly two decades at Spelman College in Georgia. She most recently served as the director of the E.W. Githii Honors Program and associate professor of English. She earned her bachelor's degree in English at Duke, and earned both her masters and doctorate in English at the University of Florida.

VISTA Productions will present *Les Misérables* as its spring musical at 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, April 27-28 and May 4-5; 4:30 p.m. Sunday, April 29; and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, May 6, in Visitation School's DeSales Auditorium in Mendota Heights. Tickets are \$10 for general admission, and \$5 for students and senior citizens. Call 651-683-1750.

The St. Paul Conservatory of Music will hold an open house on Sunday, May 20, at its new location in the historic St. Paul's on the Hill Episcopal Church at 1524 Summit Ave. Formerly located in downtown St. Paul, the conservatory is occupying the former classrooms, library and fellowship hall of the church with recitals in the former sanctuary. The conservatory offers classes, lessons, workshops and camps for musicians of all ages in piano, strings, woodwinds, voice, percussion, music theory and composition. For information, visit thespcm.org.

District Council News

Highland Park

highlanddistrictcouncil.org • 651-695-4005

Annual meeting and elections—The Highland District Council's annual meeting and board elections will be held at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 18, at Summit Brewing Company, 910 Montreal Circle. A social time will be followed by elections for all even-numbered grids and two at-large seats starting at 7 p.m. Interested candidates are asked to arrive at 6:15 p.m. and be ready to participate in a question-and-answer session at 6:30 p.m. The evening will include a vote on realigning the district council's 12 grids by population. If it passes, the 2018 representatives will only serve one year and a new grid map will be used for the 2019 election. If it fails, grid representatives will be elected for the regular two years. Mayor Melvin Carter, a member of City Council member Chris Tolbert's office and representatives from the Western District Police Station will speak. For information, visit the HDC website under "events."

Macalester-Groveland

macgrove.org • 651-695-4000

Annual meeting—The Macalester-Groveland Community Council will hold its annual meeting and board elections from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, April 12, in McNeely Hall at the University of St. Thomas. St. Paul city planner Lucy Thompson will discuss the 2040 comprehensive planning process that will guide the city's development for the next 20 years. City Council members Samantha Henningson of Ward 4 and Chris Tolbert of Ward 3 will also be on hand, and elections will be held for at-large business (two seats), faith, educational, student, renter and landlord representatives on the community council's board. For information, visit macgrove.org/annualmeeting.

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

Get involved—The community council has four standing committees that meet once a month. Those who attend three consecutive committee meetings can become voting members. For information, visit macgrove.org/node/341.

Upcoming meetings—Environment Committee, 7 p.m. Thursday, April 19; Transportation Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, April 23; and Housing and Land Use Committee, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 25, Groveland Recreation Center, 2021 St. Clair Ave. Unless noted, the meetings will be held at the Edgumbe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St.

Summit Hill

summithillassociation.org • 651-222-1222

Board election—An election for open positions on the Summit Hill Association's board of directors will be held at the SHA's regular monthly meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 12, in the Linwood Recreation Center, 860 St. Clair Ave. For

information, call the SHA office or visit the website.

A little bit of Coco—The life of Coco Irvine will be celebrated at 7 p.m. Monday, May 21, at SPA's Lower School, 1150 Goodrich Ave. Attendees will see scenes from the History Theatre play *Coco's Diary* and discuss Irvine's life with artistic director Ron Peluso and author Peg Meier. Meier discovered the 1920's diary of the 13-year-old Summit Avenue resident and wrote the book upon which the play is based. For tickets, visit tinyurl.com/y83ydgssu.

Progressive Supper—The association's annual Progressive Supper will be held from 6-11 p.m. Saturday, May 5. The evening consists of appetizers, soup or salad and main course served in homes throughout the neighborhood. Those who are unable to host people in their home can sign up for the dessert course, for which everyone ends the night together in one location. Tickets are \$10. Register on the SHA website by April 27.

Linwood cleanup—The SHA's Environment Committee will hold a cleanup from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Saturday, April 21, at the Linwood Recreation Center, 860 S. Clair Ave. Participants should bring gloves, rakes and trash pickers, if available. Treats and coffee will be provided. For more information, call the SHA office or visit the website.

Mark your calendar—The SHA will hold its annual neighborhood garage sale from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, May 5. The cost is \$20, which helps pay to promote the sale. There will also be a plant sale at the Linwood Recreation Center that day. For information and to register, visit the SHA website.

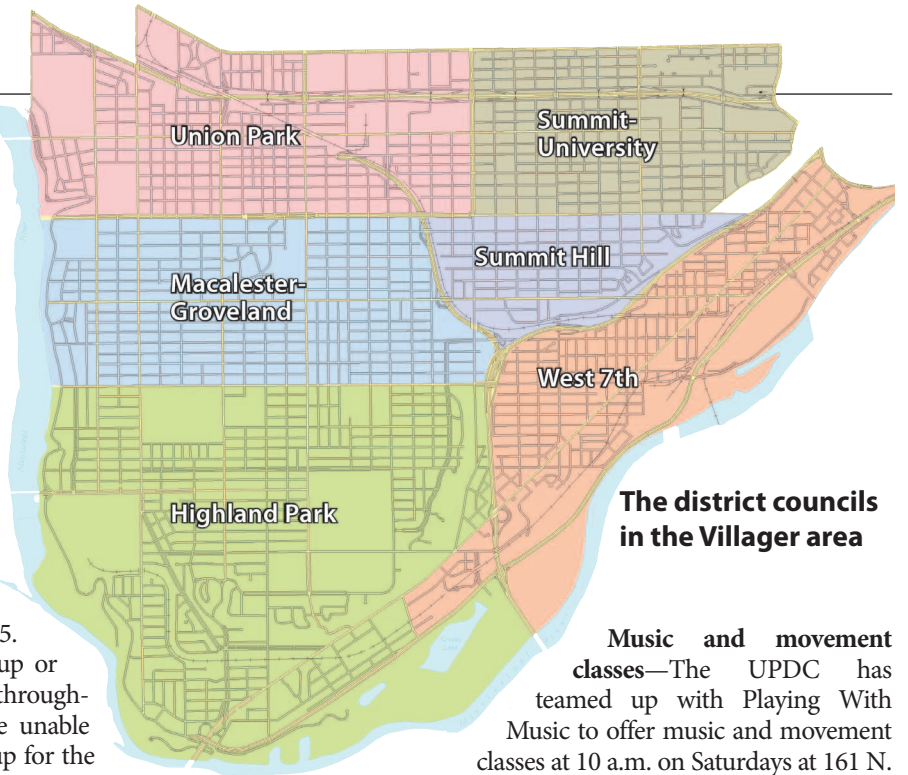
Union Park

unionparkdc.org • 651-645-6887

Ward 4 candidate forum—The Union Park District Council will join the League of Women Voters in presenting a forum for candidates running for the open Ward 4 seat on the St. Paul City Council from 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, May 2, at Episcopal Homes, 1860 University Ave. A special election for the seat will be held on August 14. For information, contact julie@unionparkdc.org.

Micro-grant deadline—The UPDC is inviting local residents to apply for grants of \$200-\$600 to complete improvement projects in the neighborhood. Applications are due by April 30. For details, visit unionparkdc.org/micro-grants.

Bike safety and repair—A free bike safety and repair clinic will be hosted by the UPDC from 2-4 p.m. Wednesday, April 18, at the Midway YMCA, 1761 University Ave. Participants will receive a free bike tune-up and can learn how to do simple repairs. The clinic is supported by the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership and Mr. Michael Recycles Bicycles.



The district councils in the Villager area

Music and movement classes—The UPDC has teamed up with Playing With Music to offer music and movement classes at 10 a.m. on Saturdays at 161 N. Snelling Ave. for children from birth through kindergarten and their caregivers. A Ukulele Club for children ages 5-8 is also being offered at 11 a.m. on Saturdays. To register, email marksorvari@gmail.com.

Historic home project—Those who own historic homes in the Union Park neighborhood are invited to purchase an engraved plaque for their properties. The cost is \$95, which includes a \$25 tax-deductible donation to the UPDC. For information, visit unionparkdc.org/historichome.

Upcoming meetings—Land Use & Economic Development Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, April 16, Episcopal Homes, 1860 University Ave.; Environment & Parks Committee, 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 18, 161 N. Snelling Ave.; and board of directors, 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 2, Episcopal Homes.

West 7th

fortroadfederation.org • 651-298-5599

Annual meeting—St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter III will be the featured speaker at the West Seventh/Fort Road Federation's annual meeting from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 11, at Summit Brewing Company, 910 Montreal Circle. Federation board elections will also be held that evening. All board candidates have already answered five questions about themselves. Learn more about the annual meeting and the candidates for the board at <http://bit.ly/FRFAnnMtg18>.

Garden plots available—Plots in the community garden located on Jefferson Avenue and Victoria Street are now available to West Seventh neighborhood residents. Call the office or email director Emily Northey at Emily@fortroadfederation.org for more information. After April 30, any unspoken-for plots will be open to anyone in St. Paul.

Stay in touch—Neighbors are invited to "like" the West Seventh/Fort Road Federation on Facebook and subscribe to its e-newsletter on the website.



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Business Briefs

Kate Iverson, a Highland Park native, has teamed up with Kelly Groehler to create Alice Riot, a collection of professional women's garments inspired by the works of contemporary female artists. Iverson is an artist who has run various galleries in Minneapolis, while Groehler has held leadership positions at large, multinational corporations. The initial collection of clothes features Iverson's art and is available for pre-order via an Indiegogo campaign that runs through April 19. The two women are hoping to release at least two collections a year featuring prints by different female artists. Iverson and Groehler will be talking on a panel at the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy., on Thursday, May 3, following the Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company's 7:30 p.m. performance of *Natasha and the Coat*. For information on the Indiegogo campaign, visit aliceriot.com.

Dr. Thomas E. Kottke of Merriam Park has been installed as president of the Twin Cities Medical Society for 2018. A graduate of the University of Minnesota Medical School with further training in internal medicine and epidemiology, Kottke serves as a clinical cardiologist, epidemiologist and medical director for well-being at Health Partners.

Karin Ciano, executive director of the Collaborative Community Law Initiative (CCLI) at 393 N. Dunlap St., was recently honored by *Minnesota Lawyer* magazine at its annual Attorneys of the Year Award ceremony. The two-year-old CCLI connects recent graduates of Mitchell Hamline School of Law with mentors who can help them build law practices serving clients who have a limited budget, but do not qualify for free legal services.

Record Store Day will take place on Saturday, April 21. Independent record stores around the world will open up their doors for the 11th year to celebrate those who make and sell music. Some of the local participants include Cheapo Discs, Solid State Vinyl Records, Hymie's Vintage Records, Barely Brothers Re-



Alice Riot's Kelly Groehler and Kate Iverson. PHOTO BY DENNY PARK

cords, Agharta Records and Eclipse Records. For information, visit recordstoreday.com.

Man Huynh, a real estate agent with Edina Realty's Grand Avenue office, has been named the 2018 president of the St. Paul Area Association of Realtors. Other officers include treasurer Patrick Ruble of Coldwell Banker Burnet's Highland Park office.

The American Association of Woodturners headquartered in Landmark Center has appointed John Kelsey as its new editor of "Woodturning FUNDamentals," its digital publication for new and beginning woodturners. Established in 1986, the AAW currently has nearly 16,000 members and a worldwide network of more than 360 chapters representing professionals, amateurs, gallery owners, collectors and suppliers.

Davis Communications Management of St. Paul's Lowertown neighborhood has been named the 2018 Small Business of the Year by the Midway Chamber of Commerce. The firm was founded in 1998 by Highland Park resident Ted Davis. He has been active in the Midway Chamber for more than 20 years.

Christine Eid of Highland Park has been elected as a partner at Stinson Leonard Street LLP law firm. She practices in the area of commercial real estate transactions and has been recognized as an Up & Coming Attorney by *Minnesota Lawyer* magazine and as a Minnesota Rising Star by Super Lawyers. Eid earned her law degree from William Mitchell and performs pro bono work through the Volunteer Lawyers Network and Habitat for Humanity.

Religious Notes

The Temple of Aaron, 616 S. Mississippi River Blvd., will be planting a large pollinator garden from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday, April 29, on the east side of the temple's parking lot off Hartford Avenue. The garden is being designed to attract butterflies, bees and hummingbirds and to provide food for the resident bald eagles that have been nesting just south of the lot since 2015. The new River of Grass Garden will be 300-feet long by 10-feet wide. It will feature native prairie grasses and wildflowers as well as other perennials that are rich in nectar and pollen. Volunteers are needed to help install the young plants. Ramsey County master gardeners will help direct the planting. Sign up by emailing Mary Maguire Lerman at magui011@umn.edu or by calling Susie at 651-252-6401. Participants should bring garden gloves, a trowel or shovel, and a kneeling pad, if possible. In case of rain, the planting will occur on May 6.

Jehovah Lutheran Church, 1566 Thomas Ave., is collecting clothing, bedding, cookware, dishes and other household goods for refugees from the Congo. Items may be left inside the church entry before or after services at 10:15 a.m. on Sundays or call the church office to set up a drop-off time. Jehovah is also serving free fellowship meals from 5:30-6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, April 18-May 23. Donations are welcome. Call 651-644-1421.

Or Emet, the Minnesota Congregation for Humanistic Judaism, will host a free program for adults on "Crossing Borders: U.S. Policies Contributing to Mexican and Central American Migration" from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Sunday, April 15, at the St. Paul Talmud Torah, 768 S. Hamline Ave. Metro State professors Michal Moskow and Linda O'Malley will speak on their experiences as part of a delegation to Oaxaca, Mexico, with Witness for Peace. Call 612-787-7812.

The St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity will host an information night regarding its graduate programs in theology, pastoral ministry and religious education for lay women and men on Thursday, April 19, in Archbishop Ireland Memorial Library at the University of St. Thomas. There will be information and refreshments from 5-6 p.m., followed by a chance to observe a class from 6:15-9:15 p.m. For information or to register, call 651-962-5069 or go to gradtheology@stthomas.edu.

"Sanctuary: A Celebration of Christian Hope in Word and Music" will be presented at 4 p.m. Sunday, April 22, in St. Mary's Chapel at the St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity, 2260 Summit Ave. Music will be presented by the seminary's chorale accompanied by organist Michelle Plombon, bassist Joseph Gifford and seminary musicians.

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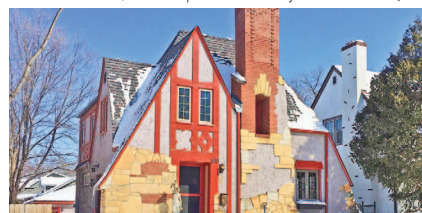
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Crime Report

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

Highland Park

Burglary—An attempted apartment break-in through a balcony door occurred on the 1800 block of South Mississippi River Boulevard between March 22-27.

—An attempted break-in was reported at the Xfinity Store, 2050 Ford Pkwy., at 12:40 a.m. Saturday, March 31. The front door was damaged, but no one was found inside.

Theft—Vehicles were stolen on the 1400 block of St. Paul Avenue on March 22, on the 500 block of South Snelling Avenue on March 29 and on the 600 block of South Lexington Parkway on April 1.

—A purse was stolen from a vehicle at Crosby Farm Park between 10-10:45 a.m. Thursday, March 22.

—A cellphone was stolen from the AT&T store, 2132 Ford Pkwy., between March 22-23.

—A package was stolen from an apartment on the 1400 block of Randolph Avenue between March 24-26.

—A cellphone was stolen at the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy., between 4:55-5:27 p.m. Friday, March 30.

—Police were called to the Highland Chateau, 2319 W. Seventh St., at 9:56 a.m. Friday, March 30, on a report of the theft of medications by a staff member.

Sex crime—A rape was reported at 8 p.m. Saturday, March 10, on the 2200 block of West Seventh Street.

Weapons—A girl was found with a knife at Highland Park High School at 10:15 a.m. Wednesday, March 28. The girl was turned over to her parent and the knife was confiscated.

Lexington-Hamline

Theft—A male was arrested for trying to steal more than \$500 in merchandise from the Midway Target at 1:44 p.m. Thursday, March 22.

—A computer tablet was stolen from a vehicle on Hamline and University avenues during the evening of March 28-29.

—The catalytic converter was reported stolen from a vehicle at the Midway Target at 1:44 p.m. Saturday, March 31.

Macalester-Groveland

Robbery—An attempted armed robbery occurred at Walgreens, 1585 Randolph Ave., at 4:58 a.m. Tuesday, April 3. The suspect was described as a light-skinned black male in his late teens to early 20s, wearing a reflective construction vest over a gray hooded sweat-shirt and dark jeans. He pointed a black semi-automatic handgun at staff, but fled without taking anything from the store.

Burglary—Macalester Plymouth United Church, 1658 Lincoln Ave., was burglarized during the evening of April 2-3.

Theft—A vehicle was stolen on the 1100 block of Randolph Avenue during the evening of March 23-24.

—A North Face jacket, Xbox 360 games and controllers, padlock and headlamp were stolen from a vehicle on the 2100 block of Lincoln Avenue between March 29-21.

Assault—A 22-year-old man was arrested for felony assault and making terroristic threats at 4:25 a.m. Saturday, March 24, on the 1300 block of Palace Avenue.

Sex crime—A rape was reported on the 1900 block of Fairmount Avenue at 9:08 p.m. Sunday, March 18.

Mendota Heights

Burglary—Several items were stolen from a building under construction on the 2000 block of Dodd Road during the evening of March 19-20.

Theft—A purse was stolen from a vehicle on the 500 block of Fremont Street during the evening of March 17-18.

—A vehicle was broken into on the 1400 block of Highway 13 between 9-10:45 a.m. Thursday, March 22. The only thing reported stolen was a diaper bag.

—An enclosed cargo trailer was stolen on the 1000 block of Northland Drive over the weekend of March 24-25.

—A vehicle was reported stolen from outside a business on the 900 block of Highway 13 at 6:07 a.m. Tuesday, March 27. The vehicle was recovered in St. Paul and the suspect was arrested.

Miscellaneous—Police responded to a call about a domestic dispute between a husband and wife at 7:50 a.m. Monday, March 19, on the 2000 block of Aztec Lane. The argument reportedly was over dog food. The husband agreed to leave for the day.

—An intoxicated male was taken to detox after he was found sleeping in the doorway of a residence on the 700 block of Linden Street at 5:16 a.m. Saturday, March 24.

—Officers responded to a call from the 700 block of South Plaza Drive at 7:31 p.m. Thursday, March 29, regarding an intoxicated man and woman who refused to leave the premises. They were both taken to detox.

Merriam Park

Robbery—A man was arrested for felony aggravated robbery after he threatened staff members with a knife at the Holiday Station, 281 N. Snelling Ave., at 6:40 a.m. Friday, March 30.

Theft—An Apple Macbook computer was stolen from an apartment at the University of St. Thomas between 1-2 p.m. Thursday, March 22.

—A purse, credit cards, ID, passport, \$1,000 in clothes and Ray Ban sunglasses were stolen from a vehicle on the 2100 block of Marshall Avenue during the evening of March 23-24.

Weapons—Gunfire was reported on the 1900 block of University Avenue at 3:53 a.m. Thursday, March 22.

Miscellaneous—Police responded to call about a loud house party and cited a 20-year-old woman for violating the city's social host ordinance and five other people for underage drinking at 11:54 p.m. Friday, March 23, on the 100 block of North Wilder Street.

—Officers responded to a report of a male slumped in the driver's seat of a vehicle and arrested a 34-year-old man for felony cocaine possession at 4:13 a.m. Thursday, March 29, on the 400 block of Dewey Street.

—A 30-year-old man was found passed out in a vehicle on Snelling and University avenues at 5:04 p.m. Friday, March 30. He was taken to the hospital for treatment and was later arrested for possession of heroin.

Snelling-Hamline

Burglary—A 41-year-old man was arrested for possession of burglary tools at the Midway Walmart at 7:05 a.m. Monday, March 26.

Theft—A catalytic converter was stolen from a vehicle on the 1400 block of University Avenue between 11:35 a.m.-3:35 p.m. Wednesday, March 21.

—A vehicle was stolen on the 1400 block of Iglehart Avenue between 2:20-10:11 a.m. Monday, March 26.

—A woman's wallet was stolen at the Midway Walmart between 3:50-4:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 28.

—More than \$500 in merchandise was stolen from the Midway Herberger's during the evening of March 29-30.

Sex crime—A rape was reported on the 300 block of North Hamline Avenue at 11:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 27.

Assault—A man was assaulted at Office Max, 1490 University Ave., at 7:06 p.m. Tuesday, March 27.

—A 34-year-old man was arrested for domestic assault of a woman by strangulation at the Days Inn, 1964 University Ave., at 11:29 p.m. Thursday, March 29.

Miscellaneous—A 29-year-old man was arrested for felony drug possession and several outstanding warrants at the Midway Walmart at 6:22 p.m. Saturday, March 31.

Summit Hill

Theft—A vehicle was stolen on the 700 block of Lincoln Avenue between 10:08-10:45 a.m. Tuesday, March 20.

—A backpack and MacBook laptop computer were stolen from a vehicle on the 1000 block of Grand Avenue between 2:20-3 p.m. Tuesday, March 27.

Assault—An assault was reported at SuperAmerica, 925 Grand Ave., at 7:40 p.m. Monday, April 2.

Summit-University

Robbery—A purse-snatching occurred on the 200 block of Marshall Avenue at 1:50 p.m. Monday, March 26.

—A boy and girl were assaulted and robbed by a group of six or more youths at the Oxford

Community Center, 270 N. Lexington Pkwy., at 3:44 p.m. Monday, March 26. The victims were taken to the hospital for medical evaluation.

Theft—Packages were stolen on the 700 block of Summit Avenue on March 9 and on the 200 block of Dayton Avenue on March 11.

—A laptop computer was stolen from a vehicle parked on Kent Street and Selby Avenue between 6-9 p.m. Thursday, March 22.

—A backpack, Macbook Pro, iPad Pro, Apple pencil and Beats headphones were stolen from a vehicle parked on Selby Avenue and Virginia Street at 11:40 p.m. Thursday, March 22.

—A laptop computer and jacket were stolen from a vehicle on the 600 block of Holly Avenue between 3-6 a.m. Monday, March 26.

—Power tools were reported stolen from a vehicle on the 800 block of Iglehart Avenue at 1:10 p.m. Monday, March 26.

—Rims and tires were stolen from a car parked on the 500 block of Marshall Avenue between 6:49-7:19 p.m. Saturday, March 31.

West End

Burglary—Two ladders, tools and a power washer were stolen from a garage on the 900 block of Scheffer Avenue during the evening of March 17-18.

—A home was burglarized on the 1500 block of Adrian Street between 9:40 a.m.-6 p.m. Thursday, March 22.

—Money was stolen from the safe at Burger King, 244 Grand Ave., during the evening of March 25-26.

Theft—Two electric scooters were stolen from the parking garage at the Victoria Park Apartments, 740 S. Victoria St., between March 17-23.

—A purse was stolen from a vehicle on the 400 block of View Street between 8:15-8:38 a.m. Thursday, March 22.

—A purse was stolen from a patient at United Hospital between March 24-25.

—A bicycle valued at more than \$1,000 was reported stolen on Monday, March 26, on the 300 block of Spring Street.

—A 14-foot trailer was stolen from Clifton Street and Palace Avenue during the evening of March 28-29.

—All four wheels were stolen from a vehicle at an apartment complex on the 900 block of West Seventh Street during the evening of March 28-29.

Assault—An assault was reported at the Tavial Grill, 1199 W. Seventh St., at 4:19 p.m. Friday, March 23. The complainant had been pepper sprayed, but declined medical attention.

Weapons—Gunfire was reported on Otto Avenue and Shepard Road at 8 p.m. Monday, March 26, and on the 1300 block of Pleasant Avenue at 12:29 a.m. Wednesday, March 28.

Miscellaneous—An ATM machine was damaged while it was in a tent behind Bennett's Chop & Railhouse, 1305 W. Seventh St., during the evening of March 18-19.

Volunteers

St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter is inviting the public to serve on some of the more than 30 committees, boards and commissions that help shape policy and programs in the city. Current and future openings are available in the areas of aging, disabilities, water, zoning, business, capital improvements, civil service, health, culture, heritage preservation, human rights, neighborhoods, parks and recreation, planning, St. Paul RiverCentre, cable programming and housing sales. Applications are due by April 22. Visit stpaul.gov/boards.

St. Paul-Ramsey County Public Health wants to know what county residents think impacts their health and well-being. The department is seeking community comment through a short online survey available at ramseycounty.us/cha. Results of the survey, along with data from more than 150 health indicators the department is researching, will be used to create

a new Community Health Assessment—an analysis public health produces every five years to guide planning on health issues throughout the county.

Administrative support volunteers are being sought to provide light office duties and assist hospice staff with reporting and data entry on weekdays at the Shaller Family Shalom East Campus, 740 Kay Ave. For information, contact Rhonda DeBough at 651-328-2209 or rdebough@sholom.com.

Hope Dental Clinic, the state's largest free clinic serving people in need, has moved from the Union Gospel Mission men's campus to its own office wing at 800 E. Minnehaha Ave., St. Paul. The 53-year clinic, which now operates as a separate nonprofit organization, served more than 2,300 patients last year. It relies on help from a pool of 400-500 volunteers and

11 paid staff members. For details, visit hopedentalclinic.org.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources needs volunteers to staff the "PlayCleanGo: Stop Invasive Species In Your Tracks" booth at the Outdoor Adventure Expo on April 27-29 at Midwest Mountaineering in Minneapolis. Volunteers will receive a free T-shirt, ball cap and tote bag. Help is also needed surveying turtle crossings, woodpeckers and loons around the state, and planting trees and wildflowers in state parks. Visit mndnr.gov or call 651-296-6157 or 888-646-6367.

Minnesota Historical Society is looking for volunteers from the Somali community to assist with events related to the upcoming exhibit "Somalis + Minnesota" opening June 23, at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. For information on this position and others, visit mnhs.org/volunteers.

Home Improvement

Celebration of city living

West End promoters put own redo on view for 31st annual MSP Home Tour April 28-29

BY DAVE PAGE

Marit and Tom Brock became involved in the Little Bohemia Neighborhood Association 10 years ago when the organization was exploring ways to market homes that had been rehhabbed by the city of St. Paul.

Association members decided to see if the annual Minneapolis & St. Paul Home Tour would draw motivated buyers to the area, which is bounded by Smith Avenue, I-35E, West Seventh and Grace streets. "It worked," Marit said of the partnership. "All the homes renovated by the city sold."

Since then, she has helped promote the sale of rehhabbed homes in the neighborhood by placing them on the tour. This year there were no renovated houses for sale, but residents still wanted to highlight improvements to Little Bohemia, such as a new bike path and park. So the Brocks decided to open their own recently renovated home for the 31st annual tour on April 28-29.

The Brocks moved into their home at 74 Garfield St. in 1999. It had been built in the 1880s by Patrick Leo, who ran a construction firm from the house and adjoining property.

"The home doesn't really fit any architectural style," said Tom, though in many ways it looks like a two-story brick rowhouse with a big front stoop. The home was upgraded during an earlier city rehabilitation effort.

"The stairs were falling down," Tom said. "The city provided architectural drawings and some grant money to get them replaced."

At one point in its history, the house had been converted into three apartments. The people who owned it before the Brocks had turned it back into a single-family home. A concrete pad had been laid to one side of the house for more off-street parking for the apartments. The Brocks removed the pad to create a relaxing garden and patio.

When the Brocks decided they needed more room for their family, they never thought about moving. "I love the house," Marit said, "and I love the neighborhood."

Another reason the Brocks like where they live is that Garfield Street is short enough to avoid through traffic. "The best the city could do for the martyred President Garfield was to name a street after him that's just three blocks long," Tom said.

Two years ago, with the help of West End architect Jim Glendening,



Marit and Tom Brock, shown with children Anna and Leo and dog Junior, gather in the family room addition of their West End home, which will be part of the Minneapolis & St. Paul Home Tour. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

the Brocks began planning some major home renovations. Roberts Residential Remodeling began work on the project in late 2016. The Brocks moved out for two months during the messiest part of the work, which was basically completed within five months.

The major part of the renovation involved building a 20-by-16-foot, one-level addition off the back of the house. Besides a family room with gas fireplace, the extra space includes a mud room and three-quarter bath with walk-in shower. The bath comes in handy since the family room doubles as a guest bedroom.

Roberts has its own milling machines and was able to match the original ornate trim in the rest of the house. The company also found a couple of steam radiators that could be hooked into the home's ex-

isting heating system.

Roberts was able to seamlessly blend the exterior of the addition with the rest of the house. "When people came through on a neighborhood garden tour," Tom said, "they didn't even know we'd put on an addition."

The original large kitchen had been subdivided at some point and then restored to its original size during a previous home improvement project. In this latest remodeling, the kitchen pantry, which had been converted to a laundry, was completely removed. The washer and dryer were relocated upstairs in a new closet off the hall.

Roberts gutted the upstairs master bedroom, upgraded its electrical service and added insulation. Workers also expanded a walk-in closet. Since the bedroom had at one point served as an efficiency apartment, it

had its own outside entrance from a backyard stairway. That entryway is now being used for access to a deck that will be built on top of the family room addition.

The Brocks are pleased with the results. "It really improves traffic flow," Marit said, "and it gives us the kind of space we want for our family."

Along with showing off their home on the tour, the Brocks will also have information on two other projects underway in the Little Bohemia neighborhood: the renewal of 412 Goodrich Ave. and 69 Garfield St.

Around 47 homes will be open for viewing during the self-guided Minneapolis & St. Paul Home Tour. Other local properties on the tour include:

MSP HOME TOUR ► 17

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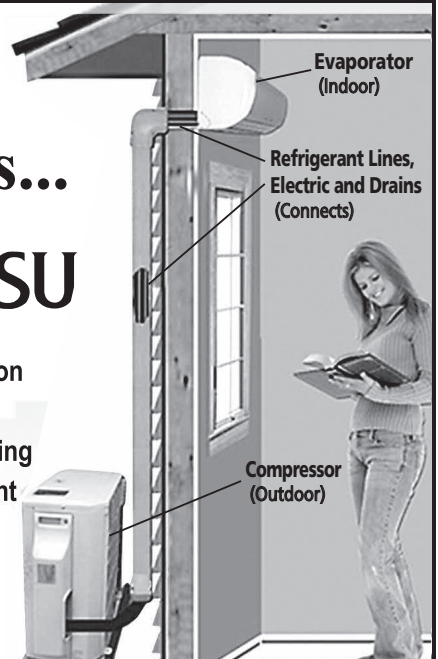
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Carrie Kubusek and Brian Levendowski prepare a meal in the remodeled kitchen of their South Minneapolis bungalow, part of this year's Minneapolis & St. Paul Home Tour.

PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

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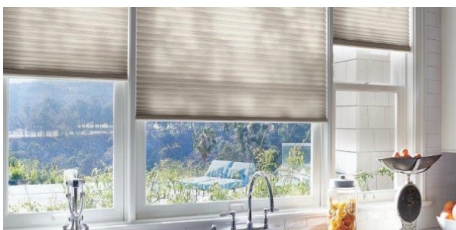
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Room to not move

Four-foot addition gives couple the space they needed to stay put

BY DAVE PAGE

Carrie Kubusek and Brian Levendowski are big fans of the Minneapolis & St. Paul Home Tour, so when they updated the kitchen in their home at 4425 46th Ave. S. in Minneapolis, they jumped at the chance to show it off. Their 1923 bungalow is among 47 remodeled homes that will be open for viewing during the 31st annual Home Tour from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and 1-5 p.m. Sunday, April 28 and 29.

After finishing up their studies at the University of Minnesota in the late 1990s, Kubusek and Levendowski began looking for a house to buy. They hoped to find a bungalow with character near Minnehaha Park, because friends and family lived near the park and it was convenient to their work places.

Levendowski also wanted a house that was physically sound and did not require a lot of work immediately. "We ended up looking at over 50 homes," he said. Many of them had had their original woodwork painted or had otherwise been altered.

The home they bought on 46th Avenue had a sound structure, pristine woodwork and missionary-style built-in bookcases. Being close to bike paths and the river was a bonus. Still, after a dozen or so years there, their "two-butt" kitchen had them seriously thinking about moving.

"The kitchen wasn't bad," Levendowski said. "It had been updated, probably in the 1980s, but it didn't function in the way people want their kitchens to function today. It was a place where people fixed food and then brought it out. It wasn't a social gathering space."

"We wanted at least a four-butt kitchen," Kubusek explained.

The couple looked at a few homes that were for sale, but soon realized they were not

going to find anything better in their price range. Also, since moving into the Longfellow neighborhood, they had become avid members of the Minneapolis Rowing Club, whose headquarters is on the Mississippi River just a few blocks away. "Rowing has really become a large part of our lives," Kubusek said. "One of us is at the club nearly every day when it's nice."

So in the summer of 2015, the couple decided to bring in designers to give them ideas for remodeling their kitchen. One of them was freelance designer Rachel Guerrero, whose husband, Dave, runs Guerrero Carpentry. One of Guerrero's carpenters suggested moving the large built-in buffet between the dining room and kitchen to an outside wall that, if cantilevered, would not reduce the size of the dining room. Moving the buffet would open the kitchen to the dining room and provide an extra 2 feet of space.

The couple also decided to construct a 4-foot addition off the back to give the kitchen a total of 6 extra feet. "We like to garden and didn't want to use up any more of the backyard than necessary," Levendowski said.

With the goal of retaining the bungalow's period look but with a more open kitchen, construction workers ripped out the buffet, gutted the kitchen, and built the addition in the summer of 2016. A built-in eating area was constructed at the rear of the kitchen, and a new back entry was created out of former storage space.

The brickwork of the chimney was exposed, and custom quarter-sawn oak cabinets that reflect the woodwork in the rest of the house were installed. An arch with glass cabinets was created between the dining room and kitchen to echo the arch and cabinets be-

BUNGALOW REMODEL ► 18

15◀ MSP HOME TOUR

St. Paul

2092 Princeton Ave.—A peninsula and pantry were added to expand the workspace and storage capacity in the kitchen of this 1922 home. Granite remnants and butcher block were used for the countertops to keep costs down. The kitchen features custom cherry cabinets. A solar tube was installed to bring in more light and an interior wall was added to create a mudroom.

1960 W. James Ave.—The loss of a huge tree prompted the owners to take advantage of additional sunlight by adding solar panels to their 1925 Craftsman Bungalow. They reduced their energy costs and carbon footprint, and now sell energy to the grid when they make more than they need.

634 Montcalm Place—Hallways were removed to open up the kitchen of this 1948 rambler to create the family hub and culinary dream the owners had always wished for. The entry also was made more inviting by removing a stair wall, building a decorative stair railing and relocating the entry closet.

1399 Edgcumbe Road—The kitchen of this 1954 Mid-Century Modern home was remodeled to open it up to the rest of the gath-

ering spaces, complement the architectural features of the home and create a mudroom near the entrance.

1391 Edgcumbe Road—This 1941 kitchen was updated with custom cabinetry, millwork and tile, along with generous storage and countertops. Connections to the adjacent dining room, hall and office were improved, and closets and cabinets were added to help organize the back entry. Even the cat bowl locations were considered to avoid spills. They are recessed below a built-in china cabinet.

1017 Lincoln Ave.—This 1904, two-story Colonial home now has an open kitchen featuring handmade tiles, rift-sawn oak custom cabinetry and a built-in coffee bar. There is also a mudroom addition with floor-to-ceiling storage, main-floor powder room, updated upstairs bath and finished nursery.

639 Portland Ave.—This 1884 home was converted to a duplex sometime after World War II. All the original doorways have since been reopened as the owners work to turn it back to the single-family home. The work-in-progress now features a main-floor powder room and second-floor guest bathroom. The second phase will tackle the kitchen, laundry and master suite.

95 N. Mackubin St.—This 1883 Victorian home was remodeled to make it 80 percent



A second-floor hallway serves as a gallery for family photos and musical instruments in the West End home of Tom and Marit Brock. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

more energy-efficient than the average home. It features a beautiful new front porch.

979 Iglehart Ave.—NeighborWorks Home Partners cleared out this long-vacant home to reveal a gem of a 1923 bungalow that will be sold to a qualifying owner-occupant once it is fully remodeled. Highlights of the 1,700-square-foot home include three bed-

rooms, two new baths, a cherry kitchen, and new windows, insulation and Energy Star appliances.

Minneapolis

4236 Snelling Ave.—Built in 1950 and expanded in 2018, this diamond in the rough was purchased through the city of Minneapolis' rehab program. First, the main floor truss and framework were secured to handle an expanded upper level. Everything in the main level was redesigned to create a modern, open floor plan. An attic bedroom was opened up to two bedrooms and bath, plus a master suite.

4425 46th Ave. S.—The Craftsman style of this 1923 home was kept, but the kitchen was opened up by adding a 4-foot bumpout and moving the built-in buffet to on outside wall (see story on page 16).

The Minneapolis & St. Paul Home Tour will run from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, April 28, and from 1-5 p.m. Sunday, April 29. The homeowners, and in many cases the contractors, architects and other tradespeople, will be available to talk with tourgoers. The tour is sponsored by the planning departments of both cities, along with various other sponsors. A guide to the free tour is available to download at msphometour.com. Paper copies will

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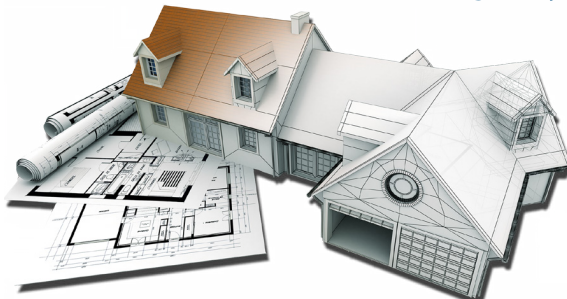


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A six-pocket pool table serves as the centerpiece of the new game room in the basement of the Kubusek-Levendowski home. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

16◀ BUNGALOW REMODEL

tween the dining and living rooms.

Kubusek and Levendowski installed a new refrigerator and dishwasher they had bought at the annual scratch-and-dent sale at Warners' Stellan and covered the marred fronts with quarter-sawn oak panels that matched the new kitchen cabinets.

A hammered-copper farmhouse sink was sunk into the new Silestone countertops, and a 4-inch-thick maple chopping block was placed over the microwave convection oven to give the couple a higher surface for food preparation.

During the five months of chaos in the kitchen, the couple fixed their meals on a

cooktop in the basement. "We had to move everything (that was in the kitchen) to the second floor, basement or front porch," Levendowski said. They moved themselves out of the house during the week the wood floors were refinished to avoid the fumes.

Inspired by the improvements to their home's first-floor, the couple decided to spruce up the basement, too, adding a game room with a pool table that will also be on the Minneapolis & St. Paul Home Tour.

The home tour is entirely free of charge. Do-it-yourselfers as well as professional contractors will be available in the homes to offer would-be remodelers their advice. For more information and a guide to the homes on the tour, visit msphometour.com.

Home & Garden Clippings

Ramsey County yard waste collection sites will be closed on weekdays until April 16 due to inclement weather. They are currently open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sundays. When the weekday hours resume, they will be from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The county operates seven yard waste collection sites, which are free and open to all county residents. Visit ramseycounty.us/yardwaste.

Metro Blooms will be offering workshops this spring on how to promote a weather-resilient yard. A 2½-hour Resilient Yard Workshop with one-on-one assistance from Blue Thumb Landscape Designers, Hennepin County master gardeners and master water stewards will meet at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 19, at the Nokomis Community Center, 2401 E. Minnehaha Pkwy., Minneapolis. A 90-minute Turf Alternative Workshop with recommendations for a low-maintenance yard will be offered at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 24, at the Longfellow Community Center, 3435 36th Ave. S., and at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 3, at the Nokomis Community Center. The cost for each workshop is \$15 per household. For reservations, visit metroblooms.org or call 651-699-2426.

The American Craft Show will return to St. Paul RiverCentre on Friday through Saturday, April 20-22. Show-goers will experience the work of hundreds of the country's most talented artists under one roof. Since moving to Minneapolis from New York City eight years ago, the national nonprofit American Craft Council has created partnerships with local maker organizations, interior designers and fashion stylists—all of which are featured at the show. Admission is \$12 at the door, \$11 online, \$5 after 5 p.m. on Friday only, and free for children and craft council members.



An alternative turf workshop and demonstration installation will be presented by the Capitol Region and Ramsey Washington Metro watershed districts from 6-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 8, at Macalester Plymouth United Church, 1658 Lincoln Ave. James Wolfin of the University of Minnesota Bee Lab will discuss how to convert a traditional lawn into low-input turf alternatives that support pollinators and clean water. Participants will then join in a demonstration installation. They should wear work clothes; gloves are provided. Register by emailing deb@metroblooms.org.

A Ramsey County Fix-It Clinic will be held from 1:30-4:30 p.m. Saturday, May 19, at the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. Residents can bring in small household appliances, clothing, electronics, mobile devices and other items to receive free help from volunteers to fix them. Items must be carried in—no oversized items will be allowed. Participants are encouraged to bring any tools and supplies they think might help with the job. Volunteer fixers also are needed. Email FixItClinics@ramseycounty.us or call 651-266-1199 for more information.

The Kiosk

Thursday/April 12

“FINDING COMMON GROUND for the Common Good,” a St. Paul Sunrise Rotary Club forum on strategies for bridging the growing partisan divide in politics, will be held from 7:15-9:15 a.m. at the Town and Country Club, 300 N. Mississippi River Blvd. University of Minnesota professor and marriage and family therapist Bill Doherty will speak. Dr. Doherty leads Better Angels depolarization workshops across the U.S. The cost is \$25, which includes a hot breakfast. To register, visit stpaulsunriserotary.org.

A FREE SUPPORT GROUP for persons with anxiety disorders meets from 6:30-8 p.m. today and the second and fourth Thursday of every month in Room 108 at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 S. Snelling Ave. For more information, call the National Alliance on Mental Illness at 651-645-2948.

GENERAL LUCIAN TRUSCOTT has been called the greatest field commander in World War II. Discover what happened under his watch in Italy and France in a World War II History Roundtable with author Harvey Ferguson at 7 p.m. at the Visitors Center at Historic Fort Snelling. Admission is a \$5 donation, free for students and veterans. Call 612-726-1171.

“THE HOLOCAUST and Lithuania,” on the prosecution of perpetrators who fled to the U.S. in the wake of World War II, will be discussed from 7-9 p.m. in the Kelley Board Room of Mitchell Hamline School of Law, 875 Summit Ave. Admission is \$10, \$5 for students and seniors. Call 651-695-7621.

Friday/April 13

VICTORIAN SUPERSTITIONS that affected the rituals of dating, weddings, funerals and more will be explored in a 75-minute program beginning at 7 and 8:30 p.m. at the Alexander Ramsey House, 265 S. Exchange St. Learn how and why superstitions captivated Victorian society. Hear excerpts from Ramsey family letters and journals. Play Victorian fortune-telling games. Tickets are \$11, \$10 for seniors and college students. Visit cart.mnhs.org.

Saturday/April 14

AN INTRO TO HAND DRUMMING workshop for men and women will be offered from 10 a.m.-noon at the Women's Drum Center, 2242 University Ave. The cost is \$30, and drums are provided. Visit womensdrumcenter.org.

Sunday/April 15

“THE MEDIA AND FOREIGN POLICY” and how news organizations can better serve the interests of a civil society will be addressed by the Foreign Policy Association in a free program at 1:30 p.m. at the Waters of Highland Park, 678 S. Snelling Ave. For more information, call 651-363-3040.

Monday/April 16

“GROWING GARDEN Photography” will be discussed by Washington County master gardener Michelle Mero Reidel at a meeting of the Garden Club of Ramsey County from 7:25-8:25 p.m. at St. Luke Lutheran Church, 1807 Field Ave. Admission is free and open to the public. Visit ramseygardeners.org.



Rolling into spring.

Evan Kim, 14, and his brother Justin, 12, assembled a colorful array of vegetables for the spring rolls they were making in a workshop last week at Latimer Library (below). Eleanor Novotny (left), 11, sampled one of the rolls she made.

PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER



Tuesday/April 17

“TIME IS NOT A FACTOR in your life” will be addressed at 7:30 p.m. at the Anderson Center at Hamline University in a free program sponsored by the First Church of Christ Scientist in St. Paul. All are welcome. Call 651-485-4700.

Wednesday/April 18

F. SCOTT AND ZELDA Fitzgerald's sojourn in the south of France in the 1920s and the influence it had on his writing and their marriage will be discussed at 7 p.m. at a meeting of the Travel Club at the University Club, 420 Summit Ave. Fitzgerald scholar Dave Page will speak. Live jazz music, a wine tasting and a preview of a tour to France in October will round out the evening. Admission is free. For more information, call 651-528-2843.

Thursday/April 19

ELDER FRAUD and financial abuse, recognizing the warning signs, will be addressed by the Better Business Bureau of Minnesota and North Dakota and Allianz Life at 11 a.m. at Kessler & Maguire Funeral Home, 640 W. Seventh St. Admission is free and open to all. Coffee and cookies will be served, and a light lunch will follow. For reservations, call 651-224-2341.

ORGANIZING PEACEFUL PROTESTS

will be addressed by political science professor Kathleen Cole of Metropolitan State University and St. Paul Police Commander Joshua Lego from 6-7:30 p.m. in Room 115 at Metro State, 700 E. Seventh St. Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of St. Paul, the program is free and open to the public.

A 12-STEP SOBRIETY GROUP will meet weekly from 6-7:30 p.m. on Thursdays beginning today at Bethel Christian Fellowship, 1466 Portland Ave. The group is intended for traumatic brain injury survivors exclusively. For information, call Andrew Dodds at 651-699-5092.

Saturday/April 21

A RUMMAGE SALE AND BAKE SALE will be held from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 700 Wesley Lane in Mendota Heights. Coffee, tea, sandwiches and baked goods will be available to enjoy at the sale or to take home. Proceeds will help fund the church's mission projects. For information, call 651-452-5683.

JOIN WITH FAMILY, friends and neighbors and help out with the spring cleanup today at a St. Paul park near you. Any park is fair game. Trash bags, gloves and snacks will be available between 9 and 11:30 a.m. at the Highland Pavilion at 1200 Montreal Ave. and at Midway Peace Park on Griggs Street north of I-94. To register, visit stpaul.gov/departments/parks-recreation.

Sunday/April 22

DRAGON DIVAS, the Twin Cities' only breast cancer survivor dragon boat racing team, will hold a fundraiser this afternoon featuring games of chance, a silent auction and raffles with grand prizes of a kayak, standup paddle board and cash. The benefit will run from 1-4 p.m. at Black Stack Brewing, 755 N. Prior Ave. Craft beer and food trucks will be available.

Tuesday/April 24

LUNCH, LEARN & LAUGH from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Episcopal Homes, 1830 University Ave. A video lecture by Brené Brown on “The Power of Vulnerability: Teachings on Authenticity, Connection and Courage” will be featured along with a lunch of chicken wild rice soup, green salad, breadsticks and fruit. The cost is \$8. For reservations email kmeyer@episcopalhomes.org by April 20.

“THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER of Travel” will be addressed by Rudy Maxa from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the St. Paul College Club, 990 Summit Ave. A benefit for the St. Paul AAUW Scholarship Trust for young women from the St. Paul area, the program costs \$90. Wine and hors d'oeuvres will be served. For reservations, send a check payable to the St. Paul AAUW Scholarship Trust to 990 Summit Ave. St. Paul, MN 55105.

THE ST. PAUL HIKING CLUB will gather for a three-mile hike in the neighborhood beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Edgcumbe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St. New members are welcome. Call 651-455-0052.

Wednesday/April 25

MORE THAN A SINGLE STORY, a conversation with local writers, artists and activists about masculinity and the dangers of stereotypes, will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Hamline-Midway Library, 1558 Minnehaha Ave. David Mura, Art Coulson, Ezekiel Joubert, Sinaah Thao, Anthony Ceballos and Michael Torres will discuss how society can discard toxic models of masculinity and provide the men of tomorrow with new ways of seeing themselves as men. Admission is free.

Thursday/April 26

MAGICIANS OF THE VICTORIAN era and their contemporaries' fascination with spiritualism, the occult and science will be explored in a two-hour program beginning at 5:30 and 8:30 p.m. at the Alexander Ramsey House, 265 S. Exchange St. Michael Callahan will demonstrate the sleight of hand he learned from 200 magic books, most of which were written in the late 19th century. Admission, open to those age 21 and older, is \$26. That includes two drinks, snacks and time to mingle in the historic mansion. Visit cart.mnhs.org.

“THE RISE AND FALL of the Twin City Rapid Transit Company” will be addressed by author and historian John Diers in a free program at 7 p.m. at the Ramsey County Library, 2180 N. Hamline Ave. in Roseville. At its height in 1920, the streetcar company carried 238 million riders on 500 miles of track that stretched from Lake Minnetonka to the St. Croix River. Thirty-four years later, it was history. For information, call 651-222-0701 or visit rchs.com.

Town Hall crafts a menu that is every bit as good as its beer

When Pete Rafakes was working as a teaching assistant at the University of Washington in Seattle, he would grade all of his students' papers at a local brew pub. At the time, Seattle was the epicenter of the home brewing craze, according to Rafakes. Inspired, he began to brew his own beer and to fantasize about someday opening up his own brew pub.

After graduation, Rafakes took a job at the former Northwest Airlines headquarters in Eagan and kept his brew-pub dream in the back of his mind. In 1997 he took over the building in Minneapolis' Seven Corners neighborhood that had once housed Dudley Riggs' Experimental Theater Company and converted it to a brew pub. Rafakes' new Town Hall Brewery was one of fewer than two dozen breweries in Minnesota at the time.

Under state law, microbreweries are limited to producing 3,500 barrels of beer per year and can sell the suds only at bars and restaurants owned by the brewer. In order to expand his capacity, Rafakes knew he had to increase the opportunities for consumption, so in 2010 he opened Town Hall Tap at 48th and Chicago Avenue in South Minneapolis and in 2013 he took over the former Skylane Bowl at 5019 34th Ave. S. in Minneapolis and renamed it Town Hall Lanes.

With partner Paul Dzubnar, the president of Green Mill Restaurants, Rafakes converted the bowling alley's locker room, trophy shop and snack bar into a restaurant. To provide more space, the partners took out a wall between the restaurant and the building next door and added a dozen large booths. They also opened the ceiling to the rafters two stories up, modernized the restrooms and hung some neon beer signs.

However, the most eye-catching additions were the spectacular 19th-century backbar and a massive crystal chandelier that hangs in the main dining area. Rafakes found the ornate backbar on Craig's List in Washington State. Since he was traveling there to shop for hops anyway, he made a quick detour to check out the bar. "I thought it was fantastic," he said.

Soon after Town Hall Lanes opened, I stopped by for a bite to eat and was particularly impressed by the chicken wings. I returned there a couple of weeks ago and ordered the Barbecue Wings (\$10.50), and they were just as good as I remembered. The eight drummies were crispy on the outside and moist



Hot Dish

By Morgan Smith

on the inside, just the way I like them. But be forewarned, the sauce has a bit of zing.

My wife, Mecca, ordered the Burger of the Month (\$13), a patty of ground chicken mixed with curry, cayenne and cumin and served with a yogurt sauce. Neither of us was impressed with the burger, but we found the Reuben Soup (\$4 for a cup/ \$6 for a bowl) to be excellent with big portions of corned beef and "only a little bit of salt," according to our server. I'd order the soup again in a heartbeat.

The Burger of the Month came with a heap helping of darn good fries. Mecca was equally pleased with her choice of beers, an Irish red ale called Ol' Blarney (\$5.50), one of about a dozen Town Hall Brewery craft beers on the menu that day.

On another visit, Mecca tried the Tandoori



The Chicken Curry Naan Tacos served at Town Hall Lanes with chips and guacamole.

Lamb Burger and fries (\$15). The half-pound spiced lamb and beef patty is served on a pub bun and garnished with goat cheese, masala curry sauce, mixed greens, tomato and red onion. "It's the best burger I've had in a long time," she said. Not being a big fan of lamb, I couldn't make the same proclamation, but I would take Mecca at her word.

I loved my Thai Chicken Flatbread (\$14). The large chunks of sweet Thai chili, grilled chicken, Thai barbecue sauce, shredded carrots, red peppers, cilantro, peanut sauce and a house blend cheese were served on what was the size and shape of a soft pizza crust—way too much for me to eat in one sitting. Mecca thought it was too salty, but she thinks everything is too salty. I called my friend Dave, who has also tried Town Hall's Thai Chicken Flatbread. Not only did he agree with me, but lots of other patrons do as well.

"The Thai Chicken is by far the best-selling flatbread," Rafakes assured me. "We've served it now for a couple of years."

Rafakes prefers the Brewer's Double Burger (\$11), two quarter-pound beef patties of brisket, short rib and chuck topped with American cheese and house pickles. Interestingly, for a craft brewer, his favorite drink at Town Hall Lanes is the W.L. Weller Antique 107 Whiskey. "It's very hard to get," he said, so he considers it a special treat.

Business at Town Hall Lanes is going well, according to Rafakes, both at the restaurant and at the 10-lane bowling alley. With the opening of Town Hall Station in Edina last June, his Town Hall Brewery is now producing about 2,500 barrels per year and could soon be bumping up against the 3,500-barrel limit.

In theory, Rafakes could purchase another license and open another brew pub. "But I might be getting a little too old for that," he said. "We'll see."



Town Hall's 19th-century backbar and 10-lane bowling alley straddle what used to be separate buildings on 34th Avenue South in Minneapolis. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER



Danielle, recreation coordinator

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On the Town

A musical legacy

Bakken Trio's Shin carries on the tradition with a concert of classic and contemporary folk

BY JANET LUNDER HANAFIN

One of the premier chamber music ensembles in the Twin Cities for the past four decades, the Bakken Trio has drawn on the talents of a green-haired 24-year-old composer from Georgia for its "Closer to Home: Music Imagined in America" concert on Sunday, April 22, at the MacPhail Center for Music in Minneapolis.

The trio and guest artists will be playing the quintet "One More Blue, One More Gray" by T.J. Cole, a recent graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia who has been receiving commissions from orchestras back East. The composition is about the American Civil War. "It's based on a folk song T.J. heard growing up, and it fits into our 2017-18 season's 'Compelled by Music—Passing It On' theme," said Bakken cellist and artistic director Pitnarry Shin.

A resident of Summit Hill, Shin is the newest member of the Bakken Trio, joining violinist and artistic director Stephanie

Arado and managing artistic director Mina Fisher, who are both former members of the Minnesota Orchestra. The three take turns curating the concerts, and Shin has planned the April 22 performance.

This season the Bakken has been paying homage to musicians who have passed on their passion for the art form. The season's first concert was a musical drama written by Fisher and starring soprano Christina Baldwin as legendary French composer and music teacher Nadia Boulanger. The second concert was a tribute to the music of Arado's Bohemian ancestors.

"Each concert can have a social aspect," Shin said. "It's another level of getting to know what's important to us, how we feel, how music should be expressed." Orchestral musicians do not always have that kind of freedom, she added, and while they may love being part of a huge ensemble, "it's quite liberating to wear this different hat."

For the April 22 concert, the last of

the Bakken's season, "I wanted to focus on American folk music," Shin said. The program will include small ensemble pieces by Virgil Thompson, Aaron Copland and Charles Ives. Shin and Arado will be joined in the concert by pianist Wei-Yi Yang, a colleague from Shin's student years at Yale; flutist Nadine Hur, who is flying in from St. Louis; and Gabriel Campos Zamora, the principal clarinet of the Minnesota Orchestra.

Shin is married to Kyu-Young Kim, principal second violin in the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra and the SPCO's director of artistic planning. She and Kim were both born in Korea and immigrated to the United

States with their families, Kim when he was just 4 months old and Shin at the age of 7. They grew up in New York and met as 12-year-olds at the Juilliard School in a prep program for gifted young musicians. Later, they both attended the Curtis Institute of Music.

"It's like we were destined to be together," Shin said. "We joke that it was like a pre-arranged marriage."

Shin's parents were not musicians, but "I think music is important in Korean families," she said. "In our family it obviously hit a chord with my parents. Music requires a kind of discipline to practice every day, and that wasn't lost on them."

Shin found her current cello while she and Kim were honeymooning in Sienna, Italy. "It's an old unknown Italian cello from the 1700s," she said. "I couldn't resist trying it and felt an immediate connection."

Like many couples who are also professional musicians, Shin and Kim spent months apart playing in various orchestras. However, they made a pact that when one found a position that offered a living wage, they would both move to be in the same place. Kim landed his job with the SPCO in 2001, and three months later Shin auditioned for an opening in the Minnesota Orchestra.

With their families still living in New York, the couple decided to move back East when

This season the Bakken Trio has been paying homage to musicians who have passed on their passion for the art form.



Summit Hill cellist Pitnarry Shin practices at home for the Bakken Trio's "Closer to Home" concert on April 22 at the MacPhail Center for Music. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

they were expecting their first child. Then in 2011, they auditioned again for openings in the SPCO and Minnesota Orchestra, reclaimed their former positions and returned to the Twin Cities with two children in tow.

Demanding as their schedules can be, Shin and Kim have been able to make them family-friendly. Shin rehearses during the day, but can be home by the time her son and daughter return from school. She cooks dinner, often traditional Korean food, and the family eats together before she and Kim go off to evening concerts.

The children both take music lessons. Their 12-year-old son, who loves soccer, gets himself up at 6 a.m. to practice piano. Between music lessons and sports, Shin joked, it seems her hobby is being a chauffeur.

When the youngsters see their parents

practicing their instruments at home, it helps them understand what goes into being a professional musician, according to Shin.

"Our kids enjoy playing musical instruments, but it's too early to tell if that will be their career path," she said. "We know how difficult it is to have orchestra jobs of this caliber, and we aren't taking it for granted. To be able to do this and raise our kids in a place like this is a gift."

The Bakken Trio's "Closer to Home: Music Imagined in America" concert will begin at 4 p.m. at the MacPhail, 501 S. Second St. Tickets—priced at \$25, \$20 for seniors and \$15 for students—may be reserved at bakkentrio.org. Following the concert, the Bakken Trio will hold its annual fundraising dinner at the Sea Change Restaurant at the Guthrie Theater. For dinner reservations, call 612-374-3175.



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On the Town Briefly

Dance

Zorongo Flamenco Dance Theatre, Joe Chvala's Flying Foot Forum and a cast of dancers, singers and musicians will stage *Garden of Names* on April 13-15 in Goodale Theater at the Cowles Center, 528 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis. A collaboration between Chvala and Zorongo artistic director Susana di Palma, *Garden of Names* revolves around Argentina's *desaparecidos*, the thousands of activists, students, journalists and others killed under a repressive regime during the 1970s and the political awareness that resulted. Guest artists include dancers Jeanne d'Arc Casas, Manuel Gutierrez Cabello, José Moreno and Edwin Aparicio; guitarist Juanito Pascual; and singers José Cortés Fernández and La Conja. The curtain rises at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$30. Call 612-206-3600.

Leonard Bernstein's 100th birthday will be celebrated on Saturday, April 14, in a program featuring the University of Minnesota Symphony Orchestra and dancers from Keigwin and Company. Choreographer Larry Keigwin has devised a witty and theatrical blend of Broadway and club styles to complement Bernstein's melodies from *On the Town*, *On the Waterfront* and other shows that demonstrate Bernstein's impact on American culture. The show begins at 7:30 p.m. on the Carlson Family Stage at Northrop Auditorium. Tickets are \$21-\$46. Call 612-624-2345 or visit tickets.umn.edu.

Theater

Romeo and Juliet, the Shakespearean tragedy about star-crossed lovers born on opposite sides of a family feud, will be performed on April 12-15 by CB Productions, a theater for teenage artists. The curtain rises at 11 a.m. Thursday, 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday in Wellstone Theater at Neighborhood House, 179 E. Robie St. Tickets are \$14, \$12 for children. Visit cbproductions.org.

Warm Dark Dusk, an interpretation in music and dance of the poetry of Langston Hughes, will be performed from April 12-22 by Urban Spectrum Theatre. Produced and directed by Judy Cooper Lyle with choreography by Florence Lyle and musical direction



Scared Scriptless. Comedians Colin Mochrie (left) and Brad Sherwood of "Whose Line is it Anyway?" fame will bring their Scared Scriptless Tour to the Ordway Concert Hall at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 17. Armed with nothing but their sharp wits, the two will improvise hilarious scenes from audience suggestions. Tickets are \$63-\$84. For reservations, call 651-224-4222 or visit ordway.org.

by Joey Schad, the show played to full houses at the Phoenix Theatre in 2016. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and 2 and 7:30 p.m. Sundays at Park Square Theatre, 20 W. Seventh Place. Tickets are \$20, \$15 for students and seniors. Visit parksquaretheatre.org.

The Diary of Anne Frank will be performed at 7:30 p.m. April 19, 26 and 28 and at 2 p.m. April 22 at Park Square Theatre, 20 W. Seventh Place. The inspirational drama tells about a young Jewish girl who in the midst of the Holocaust of World War II could write that "in spite of everything I still believe that people are really good at heart." For ticket information, call 651-291-7005.

Diddy Kong Racing, a musical parody of the Nintendo video game with compositions lovingly ripped from the works of Andrew Lloyd Weber, will be performed at 7:30

p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, April 20-28, at the Cabaret at Camp, 490 N. Robert St. Travel back in time to the basement of your childhood where Diddy Kong and his cohorts competed on the screens of those boxy old televisions. Each ticket comes with a package of fruit rollups, gushers or fruit by the foot. Tickets are \$25 and \$35. Visit brownpapertickets.com or call 800-838-3006.

Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company will conclude its 23rd season with *Natasha and the Coat*, a new play by Deborah Stein running from April 21-May 13 in the auditorium of the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. Directed by Miriam Monasch, the drama tells of the intersecting lives of two very different young adults—Natasha, who has just begun a fashion internship, and Yossi, who works at a dry cleaners. Avi Aharoni and Miriam Schwartz star. The curtain rises at 7:30 p.m. Wednes-

days and Thursdays, 8 p.m. Saturdays and 1 and 7:30 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$23-\$38 with discounts for those in their 20s and 30s and during the student rush. Call 651-647-4315 or visit mnjewishtheatre.org.

Sisters of Peace, a new drama that tells the story of sisters Jane, Brigid, Kate and Rita McDonald who all went on to long careers as Catholic nuns and political activists against injustice, will be staged at 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 24, in the O'Shaughnessy at St. Catherine University. Written by Doris Baizley, the play premiered in January at the Minnesota History Theater as part of the "Raw Stages" series. At the O'Shaughnessy, it will be performed in reader's-theater style without costumes, props or a set. Even then, it promises plenty of singing and Irish humor. Admission is free, though donations will be accepted.

A double-feature staging of *Frankenstein* and *Antigone* will be presented by the Hamline University Theatre at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, April 25-28, in Anne Simley Theater at Hamline, 1536 Hewitt Ave. *Frankenstein* has been adapted by Grace Barnstead with a movement-based score. *Antigone*, written by Sophocles and adapted by Bertolt Brecht, is directed by Joe Hendren. Tickets are \$2-\$8. Call 651-523-2905 or visit hamline.edu/cla/theatre-arts.

Exhibits

"Dissonance and Repair," new paintings by Barbara Kreft and Kimberly Benson, and "Dismantling Mindset," the art of senior studio art majors Ashley Tyler Alex, Sarah Borgen, Breanna D. Goudeau, Hannah Haughey and Teresa R. Widiger, will be displayed from April 14 through May 20 in the Catherine G. Murphy Galleries at St. Catherine University. Opening receptions will be held from 6-8 p.m. Saturday, April 14. Artists Kreft and Benson will be featured in a gallery talk at 2 p.m. Thursday, May 3. Admission is free. Visit gallery.stkate.edu.

"St. Croix and Namekagon Rivers: The Enduring Gift," a new exhibit showcasing the work of nature photographer Craig Blacklock, will open with a public reception from 6-9 p.m. Thursday, April 19, at the Mill City Museum, 704 Second St. S., Minneapolis. The exhibit marks the 50th anniversary

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Saturday, April 14, 11 a.m.-noon
Barbara Müller, Honorary Consul to Germany

FILM: In the Shadow of the Acropolis
Sunday, April 22, 1-2:30 p.m.
Laura Zelle, Director, Tolerance Minnesota

TALK: A Holocaust Survivor Explores Forgiveness and Repentance
Saturday, April 28, 11 a.m.- noon
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of the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. It will remain on view through June 24. Admission is free. Call 612-341-7555.

Contemporary jewelry, clothing, furniture and home décor by 230 top artisans will be displayed for sale at the American Craft Council's annual show on April 19-22 at St. Paul RiverCentre. The event will run from 6-9 p.m. Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$85 for the preview on Thursday, \$12 otherwise, \$5 after 5 p.m. on Friday, free for children age 12 and under. Discounted tickets are available in advance at craftcouncil.org.

Books

SubText Books, 6 W. Fifth St., will play host to free readings and discussions with authors Elizabeth Foy Larsen and her book, *111 Places in the Twin Cities That You Must Not Miss*, at 7 p.m. April 12; Caitlin Bailey and her poetry collection, *Solve for Desire*, 7 p.m. April 13; Jen Sincero and her book, *You Are a Badass at Making Money*, 7 p.m. April 17; Joan Boone and her memoir, *The Best Girl*, 7 p.m. April 18; Bharat Pant and *The Mountain Eye*, a dialogue between his paintings and poems of the late John Rezmerski, 7 p.m. April 24; and Mary Kay Rummel and her poetry collection, *Cypher Garden*, 7 p.m. April 25. Call 651-493-2791.

Common Good Books, 38 S. Snelling Ave., will play host to free readings and discussions with authors Heidi Czerwiec and her poetry collection, *Conjoining*, and Elizabeth O'Brien and her chapbook, *A Secret History of World Wide Outage*, at 2 p.m. April 15; Patricia Hampl and her travelogue of leisure, *The Art of the Wasted Day*, 7 p.m. April 16; Tom Sleigh and his poetry collection, *House of Fact*, *House of Ruin*, and essay collection, *The Land Between Two Rivers*, 7 p.m. April 18; Katharine Gerbner and her history, *Christian Slavery: Conversion and Race in the Protestant Atlantic World*, 7 p.m. April 19; Maya Rao and her book, *Great American Outpost: Dreamers, Mavericks and the Making of an Oil Frontier*, 7 p.m. April 24; and Robert B. Mitchell and his history, *Congress and the King of Frauds: Corruption and the Credit Mobilier Scandal at the Dawn of the Gilded Age*, 7 p.m. April 27. Call 651-225-8989.

Local poets and storytellers will regale their audience with tales of heart and soul during the free Reading by Writers program at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 17, at the University Club, 420 Summit Ave. Taking

the podium will be Mike Finley, JoAnne Makela, Ethna McKiernan, Loren Niemi and Susan Thurston. A cash bar and dinner are available. Call 651-222-1751.

A used-book sale will be held on April 20-22 at Lumen Christi Catholic Church, 2055 Bohland Ave. Between 5,000 and 6,000 books will be featured, half of them hard cover. The event will run from 6-8 p.m. Friday (\$10 admission) and from 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday and 8:30 a.m.-noon Sunday (free admission). All proceeds will benefit the library and reading program at Highland Catholic School.

Irish poet Tony Curtis and local attorney and poet Tim Nolan will discuss their method and how they find subjects for their poems at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 24, at the Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave. The free program is sponsored by the Friends of the St. Paul Public Library and the Center for Irish Studies at the University of St. Thomas.

Family

Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy., will offer the following free programs: Createch, high-tech fun for teenagers, at 3:30 p.m. Thursdays; children's storytime, 11 a.m. Saturdays and 10:30 a.m. Mondays; Amharic Storytime, 6 p.m. Tuesdays; Tinker Tuesday, a workshop in jewelry and wearable art made from old bike tubes and things found at a hardware store, 6 p.m. April 17; Baby Storytime, 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays; Nature Smart, a trading post for items of natural history, biology and geology, 4 p.m. Wednesdays; and Yarn Night for all ages and abilities, 6:15 p.m. Thursday, April 19. Call 651-695-3700.

Goodnight Moon and The Runaway Bunny, adaptations of the beloved children's stories with puppetry, black light and music, will be presented by the Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 14, at the Ordway Music Theater. Tickets are \$16 and \$20. Call 651-224-4222 or visit ordway.org.

Dodge Nature Center, 1701 Charlton St. and 365 W. Marie Ave., will offer the following programs: Nature After Dinner, a live demonstration of the wonder of snakes geared to children ages 3-8, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 12 (cost is \$7 per child); the basics of nature photography for youths ages 12-16, 1-2:30 p.m. Saturday, April 14 (\$10); an introduction to the lives of turkeys, 10-11 a.m. Saturday, April 21 (\$7 per person, \$20

per family); Earth Day projects for volunteers, including litter pickup, garden cleanup and invasive species removal, 5:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, April 24 (preregistration required); Girl Scout Farm Fun Day, 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, April 28 (\$7 per Scout). Call 651-455-4531 or visit DodgeNatureCenter.org.

Ferdinand (2017, rated PG), a film about a bull with a big heart, will be screened at 6:15 p.m. Friday, April 13, in the gym at the West Seventh Community Center, 265 Oneida St. Admission is free. Children must be accompanied by an adult. A concession stand will open at 6 p.m.

The St. Paul Civic Symphony will present a narrated and fully orchestrated version of Ferdinand the Bull for its annual Children's Concert on Sunday, April 15, at Mount Zion Temple, 1300 Summit Ave. The program will open at 2 p.m. with art activities conducted by ArtStart artists and dancers. The concert begins at 3 p.m. Admission is free, and all ages are welcome. Visit spcsmusic.org.

Travel to France without leaving the Twin Cities. Landmark Center will host an aftertoon of French music, dance, folklore and cuisine from 1-3 p.m. Sunday, April 15. Admission is free. Call 651-292-3225.

Music

Thursday Musical will feature performances by soprano Debra Gilroy, mezzo-soprano April Hanson, pianist Elliot Wilcox and 2017 Young Artist Scholarship Competition winner and flutist Elizabeth Kleiber on April 12. The music begins at 10:30 a.m. in Antonello Hall at the MacPhail Center for Music, 501 Second St. S., Minneapolis. Admission is \$15, \$6 for students. A reception with free coffee and doughnuts will open the affair at 10 a.m. Visit thursdaymusical.org.

Five-time Grammy winner Robert Cray and his band will perform their soulful blues in concert at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 12, at the Fitzgerald Theater, 10 E. Exchange St. Tickets are \$40. Call 800-514-3849 or visit etix.com.

MN Music Summit, the Minnesota Music Coalition's annual festival and conference, will be held on April 12-14 in St. Paul and Minneapolis. Open to musicians, industry professionals and fans, the summit will open from 6-8 p.m. Thursday with a kickoff party at Summit Brewing, 910 Montreal Circle. Keynote conversations will follow with indie artist Laura Veirs at noon Friday, Babes in Toyland drummer Lori Barbero at 1:15 p.m. Friday, R&B singer Pavielle at noon

Saturday and rock artist Venus deMars at 1 p.m. Saturday, all in the O'Shaughnessy at St. Catherine University. Veirs will perform with the Prairie Fire Lady Choir on Friday evening at the O'Shaughnessy. DeMars will headline the Grand Finale Party on Saturday. For tickets, visit mnmusiccoalition.org.

"For the Beauty of the Earth," a musical celebration of the majesty of mother nature, will be presented from April 12-22 by the eight-man vocal ensemble Cantus. The program includes new arrangements of Woody Guthrie's "This Land is Your Land" and Marvin Gaye's "Mercy Mercy Me" along with Hugo Alvé's "Aftonen" and "For the Beauty of the Earth." The music will begin at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 12, in Antonello Hall at the MacPhail Center for Music, 501 Second St. S., Minneapolis; 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 14, in the Ordway Concert Hall; 11 a.m. Friday, April 20, at Colonial Church of Edina; 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 21, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Stillwater; and 3 p.m. Sunday, April 22, at Wayzata Community Church. Ticket prices vary by venue. Visit cantussings.org or call 612-435-0055.

East Coast pianist Sophia Vastek will play the music of Reena Esmail, Margaret Bonds, Michael Harrison, John Cage and Florence Price at 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 13, at St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church, 60 N. Kent St. Readings selected by the Reverend Barbara Mraz, St. John's writer-in-residence, will augment the music. Admission to the program is free, though donations will be accepted for the work of the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center.

Schubert Sampler, a four-week series on the life and music of Austrian composer Franz Schubert led by Dr. Daniel Freeman, continues from 10 a.m.-noon on Fridays, April 13-27, at House of Hope Presbyterian Church, 797 Summit Ave. Sponsored by the Friends of the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, the program costs \$30 per class. For information, visit friendsofthespc.org.

Studio Z, 275 E. Fourth St., Suite 200, will play host to the following: Skål Chamber Collective performing love songs from Bach to Beyoncé, at 7 p.m. Friday, April 13 (tickets are \$15); *The Boy Patrick* release, featuring live music by the Celtic Collective and excerpts and projected images from the audiobook about St. Patrick, 1 p.m. Sunday, April 15 (free). Call 651-755-1600.

Rossini's Little Solemn Mass will be performed by the University of Minnesota Chamber Singers, graduate student soloists and the piano duo of Michael Kim and

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Kyung Kim in a free concert at 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 13, at Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 Fourth St. S. in Minneapolis.

Seven of the best high school string quartets in America will compete at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 14, at Sundin Music Hall, 1531 Hewitt Ave. Free and open to the public, the chamber program will feature two rounds of competition followed by an awards ceremony. The quartets, chosen for the competition by a jury of professional string quartet members, include Kairos String Quartet, Kobuki Quartet, Bear Quartet, Callisto Quartet, Geneva String Quartet, DAJJ Quartet and Dysania Quartet. The Lark Quartet will judge the finals. An audience prize will also be awarded.

Jazz-inspired folkinger and songwriter Vance Gilbert will perform at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 14, at Ginkgo Coffeehouse, 721 N. Snelling Ave. Tickets are \$15. Visit ginkgocoffee.com or call 651-645-2647.

The Minnesota Bach Ensemble will return to the MacPhail Center for Music on April 15 and 16 for a concert under the theme "Refuge and Renewal." The program includes Vivaldi's Concerto for Flute in F Major with flutist Adam Kuenzel, Bach's Cantata 35 with alto Angela Young Smucker, Bach's Cantata 204 with soprano Linh Kauffman, and Telemann's Suite in G minor. The music will begin at 3 p.m. Sunday and 7:30 p.m. Monday in Antonello Hall at MacPhail, 501 S. Second St. in Minneapolis. Tickets are \$30, \$10 for students. Visit mnbach.org.

Vincent Warnier, titular organist of Paris' Église St-Étienne-du-Mont, will perform in a free concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 15, in the Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas at the University of St. Thomas. A reception will follow. Visit stthomas.edu/music.

"Spanish Collage," compositions by Ginastera, Piazzolla, de Falla, Gaspar, Cassadó, Federico Mompou, Radamés Gnattali, Pablo de Sarasate and David Evan Thomas, will be performed by the Ladyslipper Ensemble at 5 p.m. Sunday, April 15, at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1895 Laurel Ave. The ensemble includes mezzo-soprano Sahar Hassan, violinist Helen Chang, cellist Jane Cords-O'Hara, bassist Kristen Bruya and pianist Oleg Levin. Admission is \$12, \$10 for seniors, \$6 for children age 12 and under.

The outer limits of tone, timbre, texture and expression will be explored by Canadian throat singer Tanya Tagaq in a "Retribution" program at 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 20, at the Ordway Concert Hall. The Inuk vocalist's exquisite and unnerving vocal improvisations, bridging traditional roots and contemporary music, will be accompanied by an indigenous choir, drummer Jean Martin and violinist Jesse Zubot. Tickets start at \$27. Visit ordway.org or call 651-224-4222.

The Norwegian string quartet Quartetto Testosterone will perform the music of Edvard Grieg and Magnar Am at 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 20, at Mindekirken, 924 E. 21st St. in Minneapolis. Admission is free, though donations will be taken for the sponsoring Edvard Grieg Society of Minnesota. A champagne reception will follow. Visit norwayhouse.org.

Five-time Grammy Award-winner Marco Antonio Solís will bring his "Y La Historia Continua Tour" to Xcel Energy Center at 8 p.m. Saturday, April 21. A member of the Billboard Latin Music Hall of Fame, the iconic Mexican singer is celebrating 40 years in the music industry. Tickets are \$49-\$199. Call 800-745-3000 or visit ticketmaster.com.

An afternoon of live jazz and inspiring stories from Twin Cities musicians who have achieved national acclaim will be presented by KBEM-FM Jazz88 from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, April 22, at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. Host and jazz singer Patty Peterson will be joined by a who's-who of local artists who will play their favorite

tunes and discuss how their journeys helped shape the thriving jazz scene today. Tickets are \$20, \$10 for children ages 5-17. Visit cart.mnhs.org.

"The Artist's Roots," music especially inspired by the composer's upbringing and identity, will be performed by the Capital City Brass Quintet in a free concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 22, at Olivet Congregational Church, 1850 Iglehart Ave. Works by Valerie Coleman, Jean Sibelius, Astor Piazzolla and Fela Sowande will be played along with "The Sunshine Monk" by rising Australian composer Emma Gregan.

Film

Trylon Cinema, 2820 E. 33rd St. in Minneapolis, will screen the following: *Two-Lane Blacktop* (1971), about a driver and a mechanic who make a living in the underground drag-racing circuit, 7 p.m. April 13, 9 p.m. April 14 and 5:45 p.m. April 15; *The Hired Hand* (1971) directed by Peter Fonda and starring Fonda and Verna Bloom, 9 p.m. April 13, 7 p.m. April 14 and 7:45 p.m. April 15; *On the Beach* (1959) starring Ava Gardner, Gregory Peck and Fred Astaire, 3 p.m. April 15, and 7 and 9:30 p.m. April 16 and 17; *Race With the Devil* (1975) starring Peter Fonda, Warren Oates, Loretta Swit and Lara Parker, 7 p.m. April 20, 9 p.m. April 21 and 5:30 p.m. April 22; *Cockfighter* (1974) starring Warren Oates, 9 p.m. April 20, 7 p.m. April 21 and 7:30 p.m. April 22; and *The Great Sinner* (1949) starring Ava Gardner and Gregory Peck, 3 p.m. April 22, and 7 and 9:15 p.m. April 23 and 24. Tickets are \$8. Call 612-424-5468 or visit trylon.org.

Dream Big: Engineering Our World is being screened through October 11 in the Omnitheater at the Science Museum of Minnesota, 120 W. Kellogg Blvd. A celebration of human ingenuity and the compassion and creativity that drive engineers to create a better world, the film introduces four people who make their living as engineers: Menzer Pehlivan, a geotechnical engineer from Turkey; Angelica Hernandez, a Mexican immigrant whose interest in engineering was sparked by a high school robotics club; Steve Burrows, a structural engineer who takes his inspiration from the marvels of the ancient past; and Avery Bang, a young Midwestern woman who builds footbridges in underdeveloped countries. Admission is \$9.95, \$8.95 for seniors and children ages 4-12. Call 651-221-9444.

The changing landscapes and shifting values of rural America in the era of industrial agriculture are explored in the documentary film *Look & See: A Portrait of Wendell Berry*, which will be screened at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 17, at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. Berry, 83, is a writer, farmer, cultural critic and environmental activist from Kentucky. A discussion will follow the screening. Admission is free, but reservations are recommended. Visit tpt.org/events.

Et cetera

The World's Largest Textile Garage Sale will be held on April 12-14 at the University of Minnesota Re-Use Program Warehouse, 883 29th Ave. SE. in Minneapolis. Mountains of fabric, yarn, tools, books, notions and more will be sold, raising tens of thousands of dollars to support the educational programs of the Textile Center in Minneapolis. The event will open with donation day from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Thursday. A preview sale will be held from 5:30-8 p.m. Friday, offering first dibs to those paying \$35 at the door, \$30 in advance. Admission on Saturday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. is \$3. The last hour, shoppers may walk away with a paper bag of goods for \$5 or 50 percent off. Visit textilecentermn.org.

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Sports



The Wright Call

By Dave Wright

Mother nature throws a curve

By now, most people have probably seen the photos of the Minnesota Twins playing in Pittsburgh last week in the snow. They have also probably seen images of Target Field's grounds crew going into overdrive to remove several inches of snow from the field and stands so the Twins could play their home opener against Seattle on April 5.

With millions of dollars at stake, no expense was spared so the games could be played. It didn't matter how few people actually showed up or how uncomfortable it was to sit and watch in person. Pro sports is a business and, as far as Major League Baseball is concerned, this is one of those times when customers' feelings don't come into play.

(Logic doesn't enter the MLB scheduling process, either. The New York Yankees opened their home season a day late against Tampa Bay, while the Boston Red Sox's first game at Fenway Park this spring was against Miami.)

However, lousy weather really complicates schedules when it comes to local college and high school games. The spring snows are playing serious havoc with MIAC teams. The conference baseball and softball slates were supposed to start last week, but this area's few turf fields needed to be cleared first. Softball teams have found refuge in places like the West St. Paul sports dome. But though you can get games played, it's an expense that typically isn't in the budget.

You also have to play when you can get time, which is why Macalester's softball team played Concordia in Augsburg's dome last Saturday—at 7:30 a.m. Hamline had it even worse. It played St. Mary's at 7:30 a.m. on Sunday, but in Rochester.

University of St. Thomas softball coach John Tschida looked far and wide and found time for a doubleheader against Bethel at Providence Academy in Plymouth and one against St. Olaf in the tiny Minnesota town of Dundas.

Tommies baseball has it even worse with several rounds of doubleheaders already rescheduled.

The high school sports season was scheduled to open this week. Highland Park activities director Pat Auran didn't have to go into the office a lot last week because the students were off for spring break. Still, he was prepping at home for what was likely to come.

"We're supposed to have International Falls here for baseball Saturday," he said with a chuckle. "They have less snow than we do, but it's colder there."

Track meets can be rescheduled—sometimes indoors. After courts are shoveled off, tennis teams can play three or four days in a row if needed. Softball teams can do likewise in an emergency because the strain on pitchers' arms is not as severe. Lacrosse matches can go on in cold weather after the football fields are cleared of snow.

High school baseball teams will have the biggest headaches. Last year, pitch count restrictions were put in play to save wear and tear on young arms. Pitching is at a premium as it is, and a series of postponements may force folks like Auran to do something they really don't want to do—cancel non-conference games.

"Your conference games have to take priority," he said. "If you're a team that's light on pitching, you're going to be in trouble."

Even if they wanted to open up the checkbook and rent the place, U.S. Bank Stadium is not available due to prior scheduling commitments. A Monster Jam was held there last Saturday and Monster AMA Supercross is there this weekend. It'll be even worse next year as the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Tournament will be held there and no baseball games of any sort are being scheduled at the stadium.

When reached for comment about all of this, Auran seemed to have found the perfect refuge. "I'm doing

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Prep baseball preview

It's a game of numbers for local teams this spring

BY BRIAN JOHNSON

Central High School is steeped in a winning baseball tradition and has a record of producing top talent, including Major League Baseball Hall of Famer Dave Winfield.

While that tradition remains intact, baseball turnout for the Minutemen is at one of its lowest points in years. Coach Adam Hunkins said there are only 13-15 players on each of the school's varsity, junior varsity and B-squad teams this spring. In all, Central is "hovering around" 38 ballplayers this spring, compared to 60 or more in past seasons, he said. Central's sophomore class is especially thin.

One possible explanation is the formation of a boys' volleyball program at Central that competes for athletes with other spring sports. Still, Hunkins said the baseball program has a strong freshman class and he's keeping his fingers crossed that this year's low turnout is not the start of a trend. "I hope it's just a blip on the radar," he said.

Highland Park and Roosevelt are seeing a different trend. After fielding only varsity and JV teams last year, the Scots have a big enough turnout this spring to add a B-squad, said coach Chris Steenberg. "Our numbers are up. A lot of those are freshmen coming in," he said.

Roosevelt coach Dan Gynild had about 35 players trying out for baseball this spring, which is nearly 10 players more than previous seasons. "I'm glad the numbers are up. The kids seem like they're having fun," he said.

Nova Classical Academy has 25 players in all, including 12 on the varsity, said coach Scott Lindholm, who oversees a cooperative program that includes players from Nova, Great River School and Twin Cities Academy.

"We expected more (players), but Twin Cities Academy added track, allowing for another opportunity for kids, which is great," Lindholm said. He added that one positive sign is that Nova's junior varsity baseball squad should be pretty good.

Here's what local boys' baseball teams are counting on as they start the 2018 season:

CENTRAL

League: St. Paul City
Last year's record: 8-9
Coach: Adam Hunkins

Key players: senior shortstop/center fielder Avery Lieben, junior shortstop Carl Voigt, senior first baseman Rory Ierien, junior pitcher/catcher Liam King, junior center fielder/pitcher Luke McElroy, junior pitcher/infielder Kyle Wichlinski.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Central returns some good hitting and pitching, with Wichlinski leading the way on the mound. Depth may be the only issue.

Outlook: The Minutemen enter the season in a good position to successfully defend their conference bragging rights.



Central High School baseball players test out the new indoor batting cages at the Jimmy Lee Recreation Center. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Other teams to watch include Highland Park and Como Park.

CRETIN-DERHAM HALL

League: Suburban East
Last year's record: 8-12
Coach: Tony Cicallo

Key players: senior pitcher Alec Tennis, senior infielder Tommy Cummings, senior pitcher/catcher Jake Christenson, junior pitcher/infielder Brian Williams, junior catcher/infielder Ben Gallaher.

Team strengths/weaknesses: The Raiders have good team chemistry, depth off the bench and a strong work ethic. Their biggest challenge may be to find playing opportunities for everyone.

Outlook: CDH hopes to compete at a high level this spring and get better with every game. Stillwater is the team to beat in the conference, but any team in the Suburban East can win on a given day.

HENRY SIBLEY

League: Metro East
Last year's record: 13-7
Coach: Greg Fehrman

Key players: junior pitcher Nick Linarte, senior pitcher Brian Kolstad, senior fielder Max Gantman, junior shortstop Caden Christiansen.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Sibley's players like the game and have a strong work ethic. One concern is that they need to provide for more consistency in the field.

Outlook: The Warriors are looking for continued improvement and expect to be playing their best baseball by the end of the season.

HIGHLAND PARK

League: St. Paul City
Last year's record: 9-8

Coach: Chris Steenberg

Key players: senior pitcher Max Quinlan, senior infielders Jack Dombrock and Paul Idstrom, senior outfielder Josh Aune, senior catcher Abiyoun Rose.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Highland is loaded with pitching and solid defensive players. It also has good team discipline and senior leadership.

Outlook: With a core group of seniors coming back, the Scots look to be competitive again in the City Conference. Other teams to watch include Central and Como Park.

MINNEHAHA ACADEMY

League: Independent Metro Athletic
Last year's record: 18-2
Coach: Scott Glenn

Key players: junior shortstop Noah Dehne, junior pitcher/third baseman Bennett Theisen, junior pitcher Brock Brumley.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Minnehaha has a nice one-two punch on the mound with the excellent control of Brumley, who tied the school record with 11 wins last year, and the strong arm of Theisen, who had a 6-1 record. A lack of varsity experience is a concern.

Outlook: The Redhawks hope to win a third consecutive state Class AA championship. That's a lofty goal for a team of primarily young players, but coach Glenn believes they have the talent to make it happen.

NOVA CLASSICAL

League: Twin Cities Athletic
Last year's record: 14-5
Coach: Scott Lindholm

Key players: junior pitcher/second

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Softball preview

Slow start to fast-pitch season makes it harder to balance practices, games

BY BILL WAGNER

One of the challenges of high school softball in Minnesota is that you never know if the weather is going to cooperate. Take this season, when last week's late snow and freezing temperatures kept players practicing indoors. The only thing consistent about the state's inconsistent spring weather is that it's tough for local prep coaches to hammer out a schedule.

Central softball coach Fiona Lodge said finding the proper balance between practices and games is always an issue. "To me, it's a tough decision," she said. "I've focused on fewer games and more practice time."

Minnehaha Academy coach Mike DiNardo said he likes the Minnesota State High School League limit of 20 regular-season games per team. "It'll be hard to get outside the first couple of weeks in April," he said. "It would help us to get a couple of games in, but it doesn't look good."

First-year Roosevelt coach Jacqueline Wincek said she hadn't yet filled in her team's quota of games. "Early in the season, we try to go a little lighter," she said. "When we get back from spring break, we'll hopefully hit outside. We give the players two hours of practice a day. Our first game is April 16, so we hope to get enough practice time."

Visitation coach Dan Jameson said it's a race against time every spring, and teams have to make good use of early-season gym time. "Our season is pretty short. Once we get outside, it's game-game-game," he said. "We only have five weeks until sections."

Henry Sibley coach Phil Stohr agreed that the inclement weather in early April has been a hindrance. "There's only so much you can do (inside)," he said. "You end up playing back-to-back-to-back games, and that's not ideal. It affects your team if you don't have much pitching depth."

Still, Stohr has an option not available to many programs. The Warriors can play inside the West St. Paul sports dome when the weather turns bad.

Here's a look at the local prep softball teams as they prepare to take the field:

CENTRAL

League: St. Paul City
Last year's record: 11-13
Coach: Fiona Lodge

Key players: senior pitcher Ellie Gubbrud, senior shortstop/pitcher Grace McGrath, junior third baseman Rosalie Kurtz, sophomore outfielder Ana Radoc, junior second baseman Grace Dodge.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Central should have good pitching and a strong infield, but

needs to upgrade at catcher and the outfield.

Outlook: The Minutemen have only two regulars back from 2017, but both are pitchers so that's a good place to start. "We're looking to be near the top of our conference," Lodge said.

CRETIN-DERHAM HALL

League: Suburban East
Last year's record: 4-18
Coach: Patrick Bowlin

Key players: senior third baseman Anna Klein, senior infielder/catcher/shortstop Kennedy Spiering, senior infielder Autam Mendez, senior outfielder Molly Radenbaugh, sophomore pitcher Stella Dolan.

Team strengths/weaknesses: CDH only lost two seniors from last year's team and returns the core of its starting lineup. Pitching should be improved, and Bowlin said the team's defense is getting there. How quickly it comes together remains to be seen.

Outlook: Bowlin thinks that a .500 season is doable. "I'd love to see us find a way to be in the top four in the section," he said.

HENRY SIBLEY

League: Metro East
Last year's record: 9-13
Coach: Phil Stohr

Key players: sophomore pitcher Jaelyn Orth, senior catcher Kalley Partyka, senior shortstop Jenny Malay, senior second baseman Clair Dunham, junior first baseman Tori Nelson, left fielder Anja Wood.

Team strengths/weaknesses: The Warriors have good defense and team speed, but they might be a little challenged when it comes to hitting.

Outlook: Stohr has 11 returnees from last year this spring. He thinks that North St. Paul and Hill-Murray will be the top clubs in the conference. However, he also believes Sibley can compete with them. "We'll be quite experienced," he said.

HIGHLAND PARK

League: St. Paul City
Last year's record: 10-11
Coach: Connie Korf

Key players: senior pitcher Jenna Cook, junior center fielder Majeur Tucker, senior first baseman Molly Crandall, junior catcher Chloe Smith, junior third baseman Bella Ciccarella.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Highland should have a well-balanced lineup if the younger players can step up to the challenge. Upgrades are needed at some infield positions.

along the way," coach Lindholm said.

ROOSEVELT

League: Minneapolis City
Last year's record: 6-10
Coach: Dan Gynild

Key players: senior third baseman Bryce Beeskow, junior pitcher Dylan Holte, freshman first baseman/pitcher Dennis Holte, junior outfielder Reshawn Barrett.

Team strengths/weaknesses: With eight returning varsity players, Roosevelt looks to be on an upward trajectory. The team has pitching and depth. One area of concern is defense.

Outlook: The Teddies look for improvement from last year. They hope to finish with a .500 or better record as they compete with South-



Teddies' senior shortstop Korie Lyons connects with the ball during practice as freshman teammate Isabel Burciaga looks on. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Outlook: The Scots, who have either won or shared the last three conference titles, should once again be in the race to the top of the league with Como Park.

MINNEHAHA ACADEMY

League: Independent Metro Athletic
Last year's record: 16-8
Coach: Mike DiNardo

Key players: junior catcher/pitcher Kaylee Harnack, sophomore shortstop Kate Pryor, senior first baseman Emily Mortenson, sophomore center fielder Tessa Leiner, 8th-grade second baseman/pitcher Penny Sedgwick.

Team strengths/weaknesses: The Redhawks graduated two starters, but have five regulars back from last year. They should have good team speed and robust production at the plate, but might struggle with a lack of experience.

Outlook: "We'll have a lot of younger girls," DiNardo said, "but we'll be competitive if we can keep our walks down. It's wide open in our league this year."

ROOSEVELT

League: Minneapolis City
Last year's record: 3-13
Coach: Jacqueline Wincek

Key players: junior pitcher Kathleen Grubbe, senior third baseman Korie Lyons, sophomore outfielder Jordan McCabe.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Roosevelt is strong up the middle—catcher, pitcher and center fielder—but Teddies need help on the right side of the field. "We're working on that," Wincek said.

Outlook: "I think we'll be competitive this year," said Wincek, a former coach at Patrick Henry who has taken over at Roosevelt this season. "We're shooting for over .500."

west and Washburn in the conference.

ST. PAUL ACADEMY

League: Independent Metro Athletic
Last year's record: 10-8
Coach: Rob Thompson

Key players: senior pitcher/infielder Jesper Salverda, senior catcher/outfielder Tommy Patterson, junior outfielder/infielder/pitcher Ryan Moore.

Team strengths/weaknesses: SPA has good defense and pitching, but it lost seven seniors to graduation.

Outlook: Though the Spartans are short on upperclassmen, they hope to vie for a conference title. "I think we have the horses to compete this year," coach Thompson said.

ST. PAUL ACADEMY

League: Independent Metro Athletic
Last year's record: 11-11
Coach: Liz Kocon

Key players: sophomore pitcher Kathleen Bishop, senior first baseman Olivia Williams Ridge.

Team strengths/weaknesses: SPA will get a fresh start this spring under first-year coach Kocon, a former Kansas University softball player. However, she only has around a dozen players on the team, and many of them are freshmen. "We're going to be pretty young," Kocon said. "We're kind of rebuilding this program."

Outlook: The Spartans will measure their progress in stages this spring, hoping to become competitive sooner rather than later. They might not have many wins to show in 2018, but Kocon hopes they'll improve as the season progresses.

VISITATION

League: Tri-Metro
Last year's record: 19-6
Coach: Dan Jameson

Key players: senior catcher Caitlyn Schreier, senior shortstop Kaitlyn Zenner, senior center fielder Ingrid Crabbe, senior third baseman Sarah Zimmermann, senior pitcher Emilie Gitter.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Visitation lost two good seniors from its 2017 team that made it to the state tournament, but the Blazers have a veteran squad that should be tough to beat again. "We're senior-heavy," Jameson said, "and we've got a lot of experience."

Outlook: Look for Visitation to make another strong run for a state title. The Blazers have five players who've been with the softball program since their grade school years.

ST. THOMAS ACADEMY

League: Metro East
Last year's record: 10-9
Coach: Ryan Flanagan

Key players: senior outfielder Sam Applebaum, senior infielder Cade Huntley, senior catcher Nathaniel Allen, junior pitcher Duke Coborn, junior infielder Patrick Walsh.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Pitching and defense are the main strengths for STA. However, the team will have to keep mistakes to a minimum to succeed.

Outlook: Coming off a state Class AAA consolation title in 2017, the Cadets are primed for another successful regular season and post-season run. Rivals to watch include Tartan and South St. Paul.

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baseman Bill Scheil, senior catcher/pitcher John Arco, senior first baseman Theo Debes, sophomore center fielder Sam Sheridan, junior catcher/outfielder John Hingsberger, freshman outfielder/infielder Dave Scheil, freshman infielder Sam Hingsberger

Team strengths/weaknesses: The Knights have great team chemistry. However, they lost a handful of players to graduation and hockey transfers.

Outlook: The cooperative of Nova, Great River School and Twin Cities Academy has high hopes for another successful season. "We expect to continue building our program and enjoying successes and learning experiences

St. Paul's best female athletes honored at 24th Athena Awards

Forty-three young women representing St. Paul public and private high schools will be honored for excellence in athletics and academics during the 24th annual Athena Awards ceremony on April 25. The local winners are:

Ellie Gubbrud Central

Sports: basketball (3-time letter winner, 2-time all-conference, honorable mention, rookie of the year, 2 coaches awards, captain, Breakdown Sports Player to Watch, Minnesota player of the week nominee), softball (3-time letter winner, 2-time all-conference, honorable mention), weightlifting (letter winner).

Other activities: set builder for fall musical, counselor at Central girls' basketball youth camp, tutor at the Rondo Library, Project Home hosting at Roseville Lutheran Church.

Scholastic achievements: A honor roll for four years, AP Scholar with honors, full IB diploma candidate, 4.65 weighted GPA, 35 score on the ACT, bronze in National Spanish Exam.

Post-high school plans: attend college and major in biology.

Autam Mendez Cretin-Derham Hall

Sports: basketball (4-time letter



Ellie Gubbrud



Autam Mendez



Annie Gydesen



Erin Chirhart



Hayley Hoffmann



Samantha Burke

winner, 2-time all-conference, honorable mention), softball (3-time letter winner), volleyball (letter winner).

Other activities: West Side Boosters kids camps, Second Harvest, Little Sisters of the Poor, toy drive, Second Stork, Feed My Starving Children.

Post-high school plans: attend Northern Iowa Community College.

Annie Gydesen Henry Sibley

Sports: hockey (4-time letter winner, all-conference, 2-time honorable mention, MVP, Hobey Baker character award, 2-time captain), tennis (4-time letter winner, 2-time all-conference, honorable mention, MVP, captain), track (letter winner, honorable mention).

Other activities: Key Club, table tennis, super mileage car, church volunteer, TEC, youth hockey association.

Scholastic achievements: 3-time academic letter winner, 2-time all-state academic.

Post-high school plans: attend Bethel University.

Erin Chirhart Highland Park

Sports: soccer (4-time letter winner, 2-time all-conference, honorable mention, captain, 2-time best defensive player, conference champions), Nordic skiing (JV conference champion, varsity skier), track (3-time letter winner, 3-time all-conference, captain, Scots Pride award, conference champions all four years, top 10 Highland Honor Roll in 200, 400, 4x100, 4x200 events), basketball (letter winner).

Other activities: Honors Choir, Link Crew, Science Club, Benstock backstage volunteer, Highland Park summer soccer camp coach, Trick-or-Canning collection.

Scholastic achievements: National Honor Society, High Honors for four years, Spanish Immersion Program, IB Honors program.

Post-high school plans: attend college with the goal of becoming a nurse practitioner.

Hayley Hoffmann St. Paul Academy

Sports: soccer (5-time letter winner, 3-time all-conference, honorable mention, all-state, 3-time most valuable offense), lacrosse (5-time

letter winner, 2-time all-conference, honorable mention, MVP, captain), hockey (3-time letter winner, 3-time state tournament participant).

Other activities: freshman mentor, honors art seminar (painting), Lace Up for Leukemia, Toys for Tots, Sanneh Foundation.

Scholastic achievements: Honor Roll 1.

Post-high school plans: continue soccer career at St. Olaf College.

Samantha Burke Visitation

Sports: soccer (4-time letter winner, 3-time all-conference, 3-time all-state, team-nominated rock of the defense, MVP, captain, all-region, all-Midwest, 0.922 save percentage, 0.798 win percentage, 3rd place at state, state all-tournament team), hockey (4-time letter winner, 3-time all-conference, honorable mention, all-state, MVP, most dedicated player, Senior Classic selection, team-nominated hardest worker, captain, all-American high school hockey team candidate, Team USA U18 series, 2 state tournament runner-up finishes and 1 state consolation championship, 100 career goals and 110 assists).

Other activities: Student Council treasurer, Yearbook Club, Chinese Club, Women's Activist Club, Thibert Captains Council, Hennepin County Medical Center volunteer, 9-11 lemonade stand annual fundraiser that raised more than \$25,000, bingo caller at Summit Place Senior Home, Souper Bowl Sunday food drive organizer.

Scholastic achievements: Highest Honor Roll every semester, AP Scholar Award, National Academy of Future Scientists/Technologists Award of Excellence, Southwest Metro Prep Elite Student-Athlete winner, all-state academic honors.

Post-high school plans: play Division I hockey at Cornell University.

The St. Paul Athena Awards will be presented at a luncheon from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 25, at the Envision Event Center, 484 Inwood Ave. N., Oakdale. The keynote speaker will be Ruth Sinn, head coach of the University of St. Thomas women's basketball team. KARE 11-TV sports anchor Randy Shaver will emcee. For tickets, call 651-645-1858.

Minneapolis Athena Awards celebrate their 46th year

The 46th annual Minneapolis Athena Awards will be presented on May 4 to 54 of the top female athletes from public and private high schools in the greater Minneapolis area. The two local recipients are:

Terra Rhoades Minnehaha Academy

Sports: basketball (5-time letter winner, 2-time captain, 5-time MVP, all-conference honorable mention, 4-time all-conference, 4-time section champion, state award), cross-country (5-time letter winner, MVP, 2-time all-conference honorable mention, all-section honorable mention, section champions, state award), track (3-time letter winner, MVP,

3-time all-conference, Hamline Elite Meet participant, all-section honorable mention, 2-time all-conference, section champions, state award, three school records in 2017, state champion in 4x800 relay).

Other activities: Dragonfly Project through her church that sends cards to families who have lost someone.

Scholastic achievements: Academic all-state in cross-country and basketball, National Honor Society, magna cum laude in National Latin Exam, honor roll in all semesters, academic letter.

Post-high school plans: pursue an international business/French degree or study architecture.

Korie Lyons Minneapolis Roosevelt

Sports: volleyball (4-time letter winner, 3-time captain), basketball (2-time letter winner, 2-time captain), softball (3-time letter winner, captain, rookie of the year).

Other activities: Yearbook.

Scholastic achievements: Honor roll for all four years.

Post-high school plans: attend Clark-Atlanta University to study social work.

The Minneapolis Athena Awards luncheon will be held at 11:15 a.m. Friday, May 4, at the Doubletree Hotel, 7800 Normandale Blvd.,



Terra Rhoades



Korie Lyons

Bloomington. Girls' athletic announcer Allie Cronk will be the presenter. For reservations, email Pacy Erck at eerck@comcast.net.

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paperwork and watching the Masters on TV," he said. "The sun is out and it looks beautiful there (in Augusta)."

Farewell to a pro's pro

People may not have recognized the name, but if they were involved in state baseball, softball, football, basketball, hockey or wrestling tournaments from 1965-2005, they might remember his clear, calm, crisp voice.

Bob Reid, who served as the public address voice for all the above-mentioned tournaments, died last week in Wausau, Wisconsin. He was an old-fashioned guy who always believed there were times when silence was golden and that the players were the stars of the show.

The public address world has changed. Adam Abrams, who is the voice for the Wild and Twins, fits the modern pro team mold perfectly. Abrams came to the job after being a disc jockey and his calls reflect that background.

Reid couldn't have operated that way even if he'd wanted to. It wasn't his personality. But what he did do was be professional and down-the-middle. He understood that the athletes were the center of attention and he was merely the guy presenting them. However, when the situation called for it, he could be a calming influence and command attention from the crowd without being belligerent about it. That's not

as easy as it might seem.

In addition to his public address work, Reid served as the publicity director for the Minneapolis Lakers and the WCHA, ran Met Center, booked Sesame Street Live shows, coordinated local appearances for the Harlem Globetrotters, umped baseball games and, until the computer age dawned, handled phoning in all of the stats from Vikings games to the National Football League.

At Memorial Stadium and later at the Metrodome, Reid was the press box voice for Gopher football games. His final comment prior to kickoff was always the same: "A reminder: There is no cheering in the press box." This gentle caution was intended for a Minneapolis-based sports columnist who is still writing and the words occasionally had to be repeated during games.

One year at the girls' state high school hockey tournament at the State Fair Coliseum, Reid missed a game due to a family emergency. He arrived at the Coliseum when the game was in the third period and another announcer was filling in. After the game ended, the sub greeted Reid and asked him for an opinion of his efforts.

"Slow down a little," he said. "Remember you're there to help the fans enjoy the game. They can't do that if they don't understand what you're saying."

The sub succeeded Reid as one of the voices of the state basketball and hockey tournaments. Just prior to the start of the first game of any tournament, he still hears Reid's words

in his ears just before he goes to work. Great mentors can have a lasting effect.

There's no pleasing some people

It's been 14 years since the Minnesota Timberwolves last made the NBA playoffs. For most of those seasons, they were never even in the race for a postseason berth. By the time most people read this, we'll know if they're in this year or not. As of this writing, the Wolves were tied for seventh place and had a one-game lead over Denver—a team they were set to play twice in their final four games of the regular season.

Local fans should be as pleased as punch with the Wolves' season so far. A quick listen to talk radio would indicate otherwise, with criticism directed at head coach Tom Thibodeau and grumbling about certain players not giving enough effort.

Winning is not an easy thing to do. Getting a group of modern athletes—all of whom were stars on their college teams—to work together is often difficult to achieve.

One step at a time, folks. From here, the Timberwolves look like a team that learned how to walk this year. When it gets to where the team should be running, great expectations can follow. Until then, why not enjoy the bumpy ride?

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



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Pryor picked to succeed Thurow as coach of Redhawk girls' hoops

BY BILL WAGNER

Minnehaha Academy girls' basketball coach Josh Thurow, who recently led the Redhawks to their 11th state tournament appearance in 14 seasons, announced late last month that he was calling it quits as coach of the team. However, he made one thing very clear.

"I'm not leaving Minnehaha," said Thurow, who plans to continue in his role as the school's athletic director.

Thurow's successor is Matt Pryor, a 2011 alumnus of the school who played basketball and baseball for the Redhawks. Pryor spent this past winter coaching the Concordia Academy girls' basketball team to a 19-9 record. Coincidentally, his last game of coaching the Beacons came against Minnehaha in the section final. The Redhawks prevailed to earn their fifth straight trip to last month's state Class AA tournament, where they went two-and-out.

Thurow admitted that the duties of coaching and serving as athletic director had gotten taxing. He said the past school year was especially difficult due to last summer's tragic gas explosion that leveled part of the Upper School. Besides having to deal with the death of two school employees, Thurow had to quickly come up with alternative spaces for Redhawk practices and games.

"I've considered it for a while," Thurow said about his decision to step down from coaching. "This year was a tough one. I had to work hard at it this year."

Thurow said he has gotten to know Pryor well over the years, both as a coach and a per-

son, and he likes what he sees. "I've got a good young man here," Thurow said. "He's very excited about the opportunity, and I think he's up to the challenge."

Pryor, 25, who had served for four years as an assistant coach for both the boys' and girls' basketball programs for Concordia before getting the head job, also currently works as a physical education teacher and athletic director at St. Thomas More Catholic School. He said he expects to remain in those jobs while coaching at Minnehaha.

Pryor said he was taken aback when Thurow approached him about taking the reins of the Redhawks. "I was shocked that it happened so quickly," Pryor said, "but I'd be lying if I said that this wasn't a dream of mine. I wouldn't have left Concordia if this weren't such an outstanding opportunity. I feel like I'm coming home."

In addition to reaching state so many times and winning the AA title in 2010, the Redhawks also made it to 13 section finals in 14 years under Thurow.

Expectations will be high again next winter for Minnehaha, which will lose only one starter from this year's squad. "There are some assets on this team," Pryor said.

Thurow agreed. "The cupboard is not empty," he said. "He's going to come to this job with a positive enthusiasm."

Pryor, whose younger sister will be attending Minnehaha's Upper School this coming year, said he shares much of the same coaching philosophy with his new boss.

"Josh has been a huge basketball influence in my life," he said. "What I do is kind of modeled after what he does."

Sports Shorts

Roosevelt High School graduate Jamal James (22-1, 10 KOs) will face Abel Ramos (18-2-2) in a welterweight showdown on Friday, April 13, at the renovated Minneapolis Armory, 500 S. Sixth St. A rising star in the ring, the 29-year-old James is coming off a knockout over tough veteran Diego Chaves on December 15. The only loss of his career was a unanimous decision to Yordenis Ugas in 2016. The upcoming bout marks the first professional boxing card at the Armory since 1973. Tickets are available at Ticketmaster.com or by calling 800-745-3000.

Dan O'Brien of Mendota Heights has been hired as the new head football coach at St. Thomas Academy. He has spent the last nine years in a variety of leadership and coaching positions with the Gopher football program, most recently as defensive backs coach and co-coordinator of special teams. In addition to overseeing Cadets football, O'Brien will serve as the school's director of community partnerships and outreach, and will manage its 3A Club that supports athletic programming. O'Brien previously served as head coach for Concordia University-St. Paul and Bemidji High School, and was an assistant coach for Benilde-St. Margaret's, St. Agnes and the Lakeville Area Public Schools. He also served as athletic director for Concordia and Hamline universities, and was an assistant athletic director for the University of Minnesota.

The Highland 9-Hole Monday Senior Golf League will tee up a new season on May 8. New and returning members are invited to a preseason meeting at 10 a.m. Monday, April 16, at the Highland 18-hole clubhouse. The recreational league is open to men and women age 55 and older. It has reserved tee times from 7:30-9 a.m. every Monday through September 24. The membership fee is \$25 per year. For information, call Steve at 612-360-7925 or Bill at 612-724-3881.



Boxer Jamal James. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

St. Peter's Women's Golf League will tee up a new season in May. Players of all abilities are invited to join in the competition on Thursday mornings through September at the Highland Park 9-Hole Golf Course. For information, call Monica Daley at 651-698-5289 or Judy Hillstead at 651-454-2775.

Concordia University-St. Paul's Josh Gaworski was named the NCAA Division II National Pitcher of the Week by the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association after throwing a no-hitter in a 15-0 win over University of Minnesota Crookston on March 18. It was the second no-hitter in the Division II-era for the Golden Bears, and came one year to the day after Gus Varland threw the first one.

The second annual Breakfast Scramble Golf Tourney to benefit youth programs through Merrick Community Services will be held on Friday, May 18, at Phalen Golf Course. Registration begins at 9 a.m., with a 10 a.m. shotgun start after breakfast in the four-person best-ball tournament. The cost is \$100, with prizes for closest to the pin, longest drive and longest putt. A variety of other cash games and competitions will be available during the event. Contact Brandon Griffin at bgriffin@merrickcs.org or call 651-219-5557.

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All real estate or rental advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising which is in violation of the law. Equal housing opportunity.

SPACIOUS 1 & 2 BR apartment homes available in the Highland Park and Crocus Hill areas. Call 651-698-6111 today for rental information on several communities professionally managed by Mid Continent Management Corp.

15XX LINCOLN AVENUE. 2-bedroom apartment in desirable Mac-Groveland. Skylights, hardwood floors, granite kitchen countertops, stainless appliances, washer/dryer, garage included, fenced yard, patios. No smoking/pets. \$1250/month. Landlord pays all utilities. 612-516-9333.

UNIQUE BUILDING. Grand Ave. One bedroom, one person, no smoking or pets. Lease and deposit. \$950. Wood floors. 651-464-5526.

HIGHLAND PARK room for rent. \$500. Call 701-260-9969; 651-425-8910.

WEINBERG APARTMENTS is accepting applications for affordable housing near downtown Saint Paul. We offer 45 low income 1-bedroom independent apartments for adults 62 years plus. Part of the Shaller Family Sholom Home East Campus in Saint Paul, our HUD-supported senior apartments offer access to many services and amenities with the privacy and peace of mind you deserve! Call 651-925-8000 or email at eitskovich@sholom.com to get an application. Equal Housing Opportunity.

FOR RENT COMMERCIAL

OFFICE/WAREHOUSE space with private entrance. Approximately 1000 sq. ft. 1759 Selby Avenue. 651-917-9296.

961 GRAND AVENUE, 2nd floor office. Professional Office Suites, 300-600 sq. ft. Affordable Rates, Call 612-810-2281.

MODERN MIDWAY OFFICE SPACE. 1600 sf. Large open area plus 5 offices. Very energy efficient. Superior indoor air quality. Shared conference room. Easy access to I-94 and Light Rail. Ample parking. \$3300/month includes CAM. TI allowance. 1375 St. Anthony Avenue. Available May 1. Contact Gerry Flannery 651-225-1105.

ROOMMATES WANTED

SEEKING FEMALE housemate. Spacious, sunny, Merriam Park 3-bedroom duplex, original woodwork, pool, no pets/smoking, reasonable rent + utilities; 651-647-5069.

PARKING/GARAGE

PARKING AVAILABLE along University Avenue Green Line close to Westgate Station. Covered and heated or surface stalls available. Call Vicki at 651-999-5537.

VACATION/CABIN/TRAVEL

SUMMER VACATION! NOW is the time to place your rentals for Cabin, Condo, Airbnb, Time-share, Bed & Breakfasts and Resorts! Next issue is APRIL 25. Deadline APRIL 18. Call 651-699-1462 or email WantAds@MyVillager.com

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651-282-9649



930 S HIGHVIEW CIRCLE!

Beautiful Mendota Heights townhome in convenient location. Light-filled spacious and gracious living! Four bedrooms, beautiful master suite, wonderful built-ins, finished lower level with bedroom and bathroom. GoodCompanyRealtyGroup.com

SUE JOHNSON CRS, GRI
651-329-1264 • \$459,900



1715 FORD PARKWAY

Wonderful twin home features gorgeous hard wood floors, 2 fireplaces, spacious kitchen, private master suite, 3+ bedrooms, finished lower level, gorgeous back yard! GoodCompanyRealtyGroup.com

SUE JOHNSON CRS, GRI
651-329-1264 • \$349,900



UPDATED BEAUTY!

Dynamic 4BR, 2BA classic in the "Heart of Highland." Living room with fireplace, formal dining, lovely hrdwd flrs, fabulous kitchen with granite. Upper level bedroom suite, privacy-fenced backyard oasis with patio. 1821 Bohland Ave. *click on www.teamedelstein.com

TOM EDELSTEIN CRS, ABR
651-695-4300



DESIGNED WITH DISTINCTION!

Nestled in a choice location, this exceptionally spacious 5BR, 3BA mid-century classic features living room open to dining room, main floor den and porch. Private owner's suite, 3 fireplaces, walk-out family room with wet bar. 2060 Upper St. Dennis Rd. *click on www.teamedelstein.com

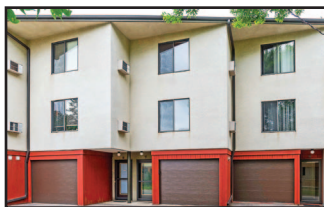
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GREAT NORTHERN'S OWN JAMES J. HILL!

This unit complete with 2BRs, 1BA, and 2 garage spaces offers walls of windows, river views, and vaulted ceilings. Secure building with all amenities - Walkable to all that is Lowertown - Absolutely smashing!

LOLLY MCNEELY SALMEN
612-810-4138 • \$465,000



COMO PARK TOWNHOME!

Unique 2BR/2BA that offers an updated kitchen and bathrooms as well as unique architectural details. Convenient location to shops and restaurants. Private outdoor living space. Don't miss this one! 1643 Dunlap Street, #7. AnotherHomeSoldByMary.com

MARY KNUDSEN CRS
651-335-6619 • \$192,000



CLASSIC BRICK COLONIAL!

Stately and elegant 4BR/4BA home with sun-filled living spaces. This home has been completely updated and offers a beautiful master BR suite, hard-to-find mudroom, attached garage, screened porch and much, much more. 1771 Highland Parkway. AnotherHomeSoldByMary.com

MARY KNUDSEN CRS
651-335-6619



THE RIVER BOULEVARD'S "GOLD COAST!"

Discover this spectacular 3+BR, 4BA, completely renovated in '04-'05! Main floor family room, dream kitchen with loft overhead. Luxurious owner's suite, inviting front porch, 2 fireplaces, paradise setting, 3-car garage, new roof! 180 Mississippi River Blvd S. *click on www.teamedelstein.com

HENRY EDELSTEIN CRS
651-327-0623 • \$1,295,000



LIKE NEW CONSTRUCTION!

6BR/6BA, 4 Car Gar., 4 finished levels. 5500 Sq ft. 2 master suites. Kitchen boasts SS appl, marble island, prep kitchen/pantry. Wine cellar, bar. 2 mudrooms, Wirsbo heated concrete floors. New mechanicals. Amazing. 1330 Edgcombe Road.

TJ PIERRET
651-755-6669 • \$1,295,000



EASY LIVING!!!

901 138th Lane NE: Spacious detached townhome on the 18th fairway of the Majestic Oaks golf course. Bright open floor plan, large eat in kitchen, and delightful 4-season porch.

JIM BURTON
651-690-8556 • \$314,900



JUST LISTED!!!

3020 Pine Ridge Drive: Spacious 3 bedroom rambler with a large fenced yard and triple garage. It features a newer kitchen and main floor bath, a main floor family room with wood burning fireplace and fabulous Eagan location.

JIM BURTON
651-690-8556 • \$360,000



JUST LISTED!!!

1972 Iglehart Ave: Charming two story featuring leaded glass, hardwood floors, and detailed woodwork. You'll love the front and back porches, newer double garage and fenced yard.

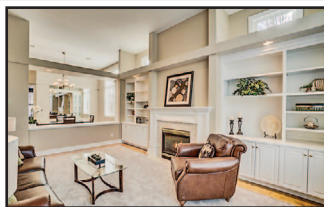
JIM BURTON
651-690-8556 • \$350,000



CROCUS HILL MASTERPIECE!

Double lot in prime location close to restaurants, and Grand Avenue. This Clarence Johnston designed home is sure to impress! 9 bedrooms/7 baths, 5 fireplaces, and architectural details galore. A must see! www.EnjoyCrocusHill.com

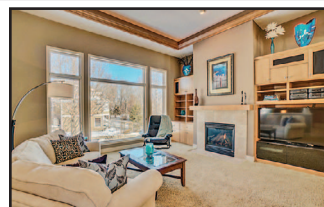
KRISTA WOLTER
612-247-5106 • \$995,000



CHARLES CUDD TOWNHOME!

Sprawling walkout rambler with fantastic floor plan - main floor master suite, den, laundry and screened porch. Spacious kitchen, hardwood floors and an additional 850 finished sq. ft. of workshop space! www.NorthOaksTownHome.com

KRISTA WOLTER
612-247-5106 • \$750,000



WALK-OUT RAMBLER!

Sleek lines combined with functional space make this home sure to impress. Luxurious main floor master suite features steam shower, whirlpool tub and walk-in closet. 3 car heated garage and more! www.MahtomediCharmor.com

KRISTA WOLTER
612-247-5106 • \$579,900



NEW LISTING IN MENDOTA HEIGHTS!

Wonderful Summit of Mendota Heights twinhome. All living on one level. Gourmet kitchen w/GE series appliances w/double oven and 5-burner cooktop. Gleaming hardwood floors, art niches, with 2 beautiful gas fireplaces.

MIKE & TOM DISTAD
612-432-4771 • \$565,000



HOME OF FRANK B. KELLOGG!

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.

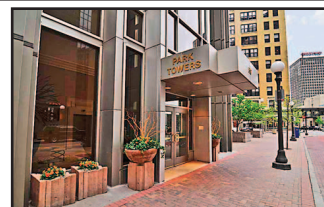
SARAH KINNEY
651-282-9621 • \$2,295,000



CONVERTED MANSION!

Elegant 3-level condo with panoramic river bluff views, original parlor, library & dining room all meticulously restored. Features include 2,517 sqft, 2 BR, 3 BA, fabulous common areas and a 2/c garage. 302 Summit Ave.

SARAH KINNEY
651-282-9621 • \$670,000



PARK TOWERS!

This luxurious 23rd floor condo features 2/BR, 3/BA, bright sunny open spaces with deluxe accoutrements, panoramic views and heated parking. Located in the historic Rice Park neighborhood with a short walk to the Ordway and Xcel. 59 4th Street #23E.

SARAH KINNEY
651-282-9621 • \$695,000



NEW LISTING HIGHLAND PARK!

This home boasts 3BRs & 3BAs with newly updated 3/4 master BA, updated kitchen, and updated main floor BA. This spacious layout shows off over 2400 sq. ft. of finished living space all within walking distance to the Highland Village & the Miss. River!

MIKE & TOM DISTAD
612-432-4771 • \$429,900



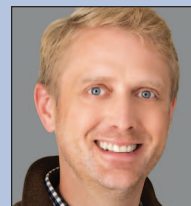
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