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Public financing of \$77.5M outlined for Ford project

Subsidy would help pay for parks, infrastructure and affordable housing

BY JANE MCCLURE

Redevelopment of Ford Motor Company's former assembly plant with 3,800 new homes, 150,000 square feet of new retail and office space and 50,000 square feet of institutional space could get underway this spring following the St. Paul City Council's expected approval of an agreement with master developer Ryan Companies.

The development agreement was unveiled on November 12 during a frigid ceremony on the now-vacant 122-acre site in Highland Park. The agreement includes \$53 million in tax increment financing to help pay for the project's infrastructure, affordable housing and parks and other open spaces.

Representatives of affordable housing developers Project for Pride in Living, Habitat for Humanity and CommonBond Communities attended the ceremony along with workers from the local trades and labor unions, Governor Tim Walz, state legislators and other officials. Xcel Energy was also represented. The Ford site is expected to have the state's largest solar array and be powered by electricity derived from other carbon-neutral sources.

"This is a big deal for St. Paul, and it's a big deal for the state of Minnesota," Walz said. The governor cited the challenges the city faced when the Ford plant shut down eight years ago and the work that was required to come to a development agreement. "These are hard

FORD REDEVELOPMENT ►2



Joseph Peris of Ryan Companies stands in the ground-floor space of the Harper at Selby and Snelling avenues that had been reserved for O'Gara's. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Selby-Snelling is seeing green despite departure of O'Gara's

BY FRANK JOSSI

O'Gara's Bar and Grill announced earlier this month that it will not reopen as originally planned in the five-story building now nearing completion on its former site at the southeast corner of Snelling and Selby avenues.

Dan O'Gara, the third-generation owner of the 78-year-old bar, restaurant and entertainment venue, sold his buildings and adjacent parking lot in 2018 to Ryan Companies, which is constructing the Harper, a mixed-use building, on the site.

O'Gara's initial plan called for a new but much smaller bar and restaurant on the first floor of the Harper. However, at a press conference on November 3, he said he had decided against reopening in the Harper, but would continue to operate O'Gara's at the Minnesota State Fair.

O'Gara could not be reached for comment in the weeks after the press conference, but there he attributed the decision to a changing marketplace brought about by new employee regulations for businesses,

SELBY-SNELLING IS LOOKING UP ►7

St. Paul voters say 'yes' to organized trash collection

BY JANE MCCLURE

St. Paul's 13-month-old organized trash collection system will remain in place after an attempt to repeal the program was soundly defeated by a vote of 34,174 to 20,475 in a city-wide referendum on November 5.

Joining the Vote Yes campaign in hailing the referendum's outcome were the faith-based group ISAIAH, Zero Waste St. Paul and Sustain St. Paul. ISAIAH sees organized collection as an equity issue. When residents hired their own trash haulers, the rates for trash collection varied from house to house and neighborhood

to neighborhood. Some haulers charged higher rates in poorer neighborhoods or refused to serve those areas at all.

ISAIAH spokesperson JaNaé Bates described the "yes" vote as "the boldest step we've taken to fight climate change." Zero Waste St. Paul leader and Highland Park resident Kristina Mattson said people need to "look beyond their own garbage cans" and their own waste disposal habits and consider what organized collection means for the greater good of public sanitation. "We can't move forward if we leave people behind," Mattson said.

Though acrimony over the issue is likely to

linger, residents on both sides of the debate appeared ready to move on. However, that sentiment changed for some when they learned that the trash haulers were seeking a \$2.5 million increase in trash payments citywide for 2020. What particularly irked the foes of organized collection was that the city did not release that information until the day after the referendum.

The haulers' proposed rate increase was included in nearly 60 pages of correspondence between city staff and the haulers consortium concerning rate changes for 2020. Vote No ac-

TRASH REFERENDUM ►3



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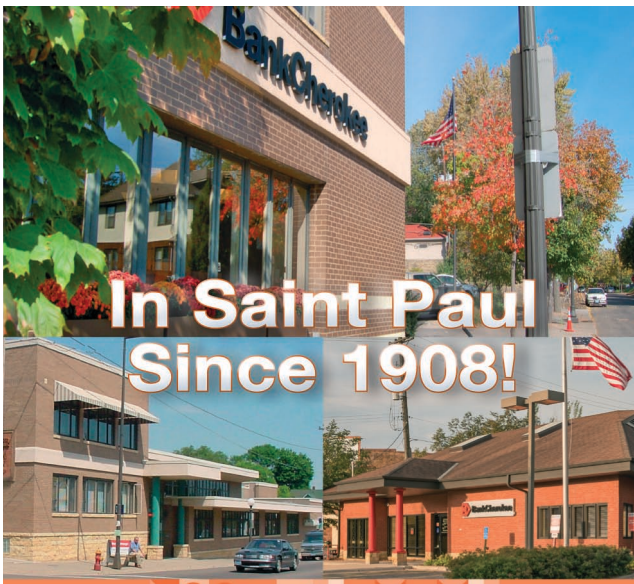
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City adopts final impact study on Ford site

BY JANE MCCLURE

The St. Paul City Council has adopted the final Alternative Urban Areawide Review (AUAR) and Mitigation Plan for addressing the environmental impact and any future problems that could arise as part of redeveloping Ford Motor Company's former assembly plant in Highland Park.

The 635-page document was reviewed by state agencies and the Metropolitan Council in October. They had 10 days to file any objections, but did not do so.

Master developer Ryan Companies worked with city officials and consultants on the AUAR. It was the subject of public open houses and drew 125 written comments. Federal agencies also weighed in on the document. Some of the comments resulted in minor revisions.

The measures outlined as part of the mitigation plan will be in place for five years, at which time another review and recommendations will be made. It is expected to take at least a decade to build out the Ford site.

The AUAR outlines redevelopment impacts not just for the 122-acre Ford property, but for the 4 acres of the ad-

jacent Highland Village Center and 13 acres of Canadian Pacific Railroad property within the Ford site. An additional 22 acres in "Area C," a former landfill adjacent to the Mississippi River, is not included.

City officials will use the AUAR as a guide to address problems that come up during and after redevelopment of the site.

"It provides the city and community with a lot of steps that can be taken during and after construction, and that will be helpful going forward," said City Council member Chris Tolbert, whose Ward 3 includes the Ford site. "It's not a document that'll sit on a shelf."

Tolbert said he is especially pleased with the plan's focus on traffic and suggestions for potential mitigation impacts on a street-by-street and intersection-by-intersection basis.

"The AUAR gives the city a set of measures to choose from to see what works and what doesn't in each area around the Ford site," he said.

The study focused on Ryan's plans for the property and the city's master plan for comparison purposes. It looked at potential environmental impacts tied to future land uses, geology, soil, water, pollution, wildlife, historic properties,

air, noise and transportation.

One part of the AUAR addresses the tunnels and mines that were under the Ford site. The mines were dug to extract silica sand to make glass for vehicles, and the tunnels were carved out for transportation and storage. Fears have been raised that the tunnels could affect redevelopment of the Ford site. The AUAR indicates that is not the case since they were filled in as the site was cleared.

The AUAR also outlines the many federal, state and local permits that will be required during the Ford site's redevelopment. That includes permits from the Federal Aviation Administration because of the site's proximity to Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, and from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers because of its location along the Mississippi River.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and Pollution Control Agency will also have to issue permits, as will the Metropolitan Council, Capitol Region Watershed District, St. Paul Regional Water Services, Ramsey County and the city. Almost 30 permits will be needed in all.

More information about the AUAR and supporting documents can be found at stpaul.gov/ford-auar.

1◀ FORD REDEVELOPMENT

projects to do," he said, while thanking the city's current administration and former St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman for their work on the project.

Carter praised the "big vision" that local officials embraced for the Ford site, including environmentally sustainable features, 760 units of affordable housing, 50 acres of parks and other open spaces and more than 1,000 trees. He also highlighted the 14,500 construction workers who are expected to be involved in the project over the next 20 years and the 1,000 permanent jobs that will be created on the site.

Ryan Companies was chosen by Ford last year to serve as master developer of the site. Ryan officials hope to complete a purchase agreement for the Ford site soon. Mike Ryan, president of the company's north region, cited the assets of the development site, calling it one of the best in the region. He said he was excited by the opportunity to create a new environmentally sustainable, walkable and bikeable neighborhood from the ground up.

Mike Ryan and Tony Barranco, Ryan's regional vice president for development, admitted to some anxiety over the development process, given the sheer size and scope of the project. But they also expressed their appreciation to city officials for their work in making the development agreement happen.

Tolbert praised the development for helping the City Council achieve its goals of affordable housing, environmental sustainability and a larger property tax base. "Our bold values as a community will be realized on this site," he said, and that vision and those values will be reflected in the development package he will present to the City Council in the weeks ahead.

Tolbert and Carter said they hope to see the development agreement with Ryan approved by the City Council by the end of this year, paving the way for the largest redevelopment project in the city's history.

Redevelopment of the Ford site is expected to create \$1 billion in taxable private property by 2040, providing \$18 million annually in property tax revenue



An aerial rendering of the redeveloped Ford site when fully built out.

for St. Paul, Ramsey County and the St. Paul Public Schools. The city's share in that property tax revenue will help pay for affordable housing throughout St. Paul, city officials said, with \$27 million set aside for that purpose in the short term and as much as \$115 million in the long term.

Tax increment financing (TIF) draws on the additional property taxes generated by a development to pay for some of the costs of that development. Under state law, the property must be determined to be blighted and TIF can be used to cover such costs as pollution cleanup and new infrastructure.

Last spring Ryan had requested more than \$107 million in public financing to help pay for infrastructure, the Ford site's central park and man-made stream and 760 units of affordable housing. Installing the new utilities, constructing the new street grid and creating the new park spaces is expected to cost more than \$92 million.

In addition to the \$53 million in TIF

for the project, the city will contribute \$6.9 million in Capital Improvement Budget financing and Municipal-State Aid funds. Assessments and utility fees will provide another \$17.6 million, which leaves \$14.6 million for Ryan to cover.

Mike Ryan said it is likely that the first housing to be completed on the site will be the rowhouses beside the project's central water feature. The first residents should be able to move in in three years, he said, and half of the development and almost all of the infrastructure should be in place in five years.

Ryan Companies will update neighbors on its plans for the Ford site in a public meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday, November 21, in Jeanne d'Arc Auditorium at St. Catherine University. In addition to the information shared at the November 12 press conference, the meeting will cover the results of Ryan's parks survey, the construction process and future outreach regarding parks programming and construction coordination.

City Council reduces trash rates over objections of haulers

By Jane McClure

The St. Paul City Council voted unanimously on November 13 to lower the monthly rates for residential trash collection by an average of 85 cents per household in 2020. The change will reduce from \$27 million to \$26 million the total paid during the year to the six private haulers serving St. Paul, and it was made over the objections of the haulers consortium.

The consortium had sought a \$2.5 million increase in the total payment for 2020. When the city first presented its plan for the decrease, the consortium requested freezing the rates at their 2019 levels for the first six months of 2020.

The organized trash collection system in St. Paul is now entering its second year, serving all one- to four-unit residences in the city. The formula that is used to set the monthly rates for trash collection is based on the total tonnage of trash collected citywide, fuel costs, the Consumer Price Index and the “tipping” or dumping fees paid at the Recycling and Energy Center in Newport where all the trash is taken.

The amount of trash collected over the past year was 56,000 tons, according to the city’s Department of Public Works—not as high as expected when the trash contract was negotiated in 2017—and that is the reason behind the rate decrease.

The rates for trash collection have to be set by November 20 of the previous year, according to the contract. At public hearings on November 6 and 13, Daniel Schleck, an attorney for St. Paul Haulers LLC, spoke against



Brian Navarrete of Highland Sanitation collected trash last week in a Summit-University alley from a customer who apparently was not entirely pleased with the city’s year-old system of organized collection.

PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

the 2020 rate package, citing a 20 percent increase in costs at the Ramsey and Washington County-owned facility in Newport. Schleck criticized the formula, claiming it is irrelevant. He accused city staff of trying to intimidate the haulers and not negotiating in good faith. “It’s the city’s way or the highway,” he said.

The cost increases have been especially hard on the two smallest haulers in the consortium, according to Sue Stewart of Highland Sanitation, referring to Highland and Gene’s Disposal Service. It will be difficult for Highland to make up for the rate reduction, Stewart said. “We’re going to have routes where we’re literally not going to make any money,” she said.

Highland Sanitation has had to absorb ad-

ditional costs under organized collection with letters to customers, extra paper work and office staff, and extra legal and contractor expenses, according to Stewart. Removing all of its old trash carts alone cost the company more than \$40,000, she said.

While sympathetic to the plight of small haulers, City Council members expressed frustration that after months of negotiation there was pressure from the consortium to reopen the contract and renegotiate the rates at the 11th hour. According to Ward 2 council member Rebecca Noecker, the formula should be honored and the rates decreased. She said her constituents would not have much sympathy for the haulers’ demands.

The haulers consortium disagreed with

how the city calculated the disposal costs and interpreted other details of the contract. For example, the city looked at the total dumping fees and divided those by 12 to calculate a monthly decrease of \$67,000. The consortium used figures from the hauler with the heaviest loads to make its calculations.

Schleck and haulers consortium manager Gene Revering contended that the city’s data has gaps and that the proposed rates are not based on the latest tonnage figures.

However, the City Council and city staff stood firm, saying that if the tonnage went down, so should the rates. Public Works director Kathy Lantry said her staff met twice with the haulers following the November 6 public hearing to see where there was agreement on changing the contract.

St. Paul residents have criticized the organized trash program for not allowing homeowners to opt out of the program or apartment tenants to share a trash cart. In correspondence released on November 6, Chris Swanson, supervisor of the city’s solid waste program, requested that duplexes be allowed to share one large cart, triplexes be allowed to share one medium and one small cart, fourplexes be allowed to share one large and one medium cart, and townhouses be allowed to opt out of the program entirely.

The haulers consortium rejected those requests, saying that no changes beyond trash rates were on the table. The consortium also asked the city to add its attorneys’ fees of \$328,000 per year, or 38 cents per customer, to the pricing formula, but the city rejected that request.

1 TRASH REFERENDUM

tivist Tom Goldstein of Hamline-Midway expressed frustration that the haulers’ demands were kept secret until after the vote. He and others suspect that information could have swayed the results of the election.

Election spending also became an issue. One flash point was the discovery in the final days before the election that trash hauler Republic Services contributed \$30,000 to the Vote Yes effort. Another point, raised by Highland Park activist Peter Butler, is that the city paid more than \$116,000 for outside legal counsel in appealing all the way to the Minnesota Supreme Court the lawsuit that ultimately required the referendum to be on the ballot.

The 63 percent of “yes” votes in the referendum not only keeps organized collection in place, it means the city will not have to transfer the \$27 million annual expense of trash collection from home and apartment owners to the city’s property tax levy. What effect that potential tax increase had on the outcome of the referendum is still being debated.

Wards 3 and 4 voted overwhelmingly in favor of organized collection with a 70 percent “yes” vote. In fact, Ward 7 was the only ward in the city that had a majority of “no” votes, although one Ward 2 precinct along West Seventh Street had a majority of “no” votes, as

WARD	YES	NO
Ward 1	4,204	2,328
Ward 2	5,123	3,223
Ward 3	9,034	4,410
Ward 4	7,397	2,783
Ward 5	3,329	2,547
Ward 6	2,859	2,645
Ward 7	2,228	2,539
TOTAL	34,174	20,475

did some precincts in Payne-Phalen, Dayton’s Bluff, the North End and West Side.

Ward 7 City Council member Jane Prince noted that it was residents of some of the city’s poorest neighborhoods who voted most heavily against organized trash collection. “There are residents who are really struggling to pay the higher trash bills,” Prince said. The outcome of the referendum is “a disaster” for households for whom even the lowest-price trash cart is too expensive, she said.

“In citywide elections, the power is in the western part of the city, where the wealth is as well,” Prince said. “Now that the trash referendum has been defeated, let’s not tell ourselves that we’ve solved the equity problem with the city’s trash contract.”

Begun in October 2018, the organized trash program divided the city among the 15 pri-

vate haulers who were previously operating in St. Paul and required the owners of all single-family homes, duplexes, triplexes and fourplexes to have a separate trash cart for each dwelling and to pay a monthly rate for trash pickup according to the size of cart and frequency of service. About 70,000 households are included in the program.

Organized collection has been praised for establishing uniform trash rates, saving wear and tear on the roads by reducing the number of trucks traversing a neighborhood and reducing the amount of illegal dumping. The system has been criticized for removing property owners’ freedom to choose their own hauler and negotiate their own fees or haul their trash themselves to a disposal facility. The program was intended to preserve the market share of the private haulers that had been operating in St. Paul, though the number of haulers has since declined to six.

The Vote No group released a statement after the referendum expressing its disappointment: “While we are grateful that the Minnesota Supreme Court upheld the city charter and forced our elected officials to put the organized trash ordinance on the ballot, we remain troubled that Mayor Carter and the City Council spent more than a year attempting to block the referendum from even taking place. The court’s ruling was a significant win

for current and future residents—and for democracy in general.”

Mayor Melvin Carter issued a statement shortly after the referendum results were announced saying, “St. Paul voters have delivered a strong statement about the direction our city is heading. Message received.”

Some residents were not convinced of that. Dave Brudevold of Macalester-Groveland said that many of his neighbors were preparing to vote “no” on the referendum before Carter and the City Council announced that property taxes would need to be significantly increased if organized collection was repealed. “I really think that was a scare tactic, but it turned the tide,” Brudevold said.

Bruce Clark of the West Side, one of the plaintiffs in the lawsuit that sought the referendum, criticized city officials for withholding facts from the public prior to the referendum, including the haulers’ demands for a rate hike, the ramifications of the property tax hike and the meaning of the force majeure clause in the contract, which he believed would have allowed the city to cancel the contract if the “no” vote prevailed.

“I’d like to opt out,” Clark said. “For 24 years I haven’t used a trash cart.” Despite the repeal’s defeat in the referendum, Clark said, he will continue to take his 30-gallon bag of trash to Twin Cities Refuse every three months.

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St. Paul re-elects six incumbents to City Council

Thao, Noecker, Tolbert, Nelson outline their priorities for the next four years

BY KEVIN DRISCOLL

City Council incumbents ruled election day in St. Paul on November 5. Despite widespread unhappiness with the city's year-old system of organized trash collection and accusations that St. Paul officials were not listening to their constituents, all six City Council incumbents were re-elected.

Ward 1 council member Dai Thao did have to wait out a ranked-choice runoff before surpassing the necessary 50 percent of the vote, and newcomer Nelsie Yang was elected to the open seat in Ward 6.

In Ward 2, incumbent Rebecca Noecker garnered 62 percent of the vote against four opponents. "I'm honored to have won with such a strong majority," she said. "It's a signal that my constituents are satisfied with my job performance, that they appreciate my accessibility and my focus on providing outstanding

constituent service."

Noecker said her priorities in her second term will include creating "affordable housing in every neighborhood, expanding access to high-quality affordable child care, growing our tax base by supporting existing businesses and attracting new ones to St. Paul, and restoring trust in government by holding ourselves accountable for efficient, quality public services."

Bill Hosko, who finished a distant second in Ward 2 with 22.5 percent, said, "I feel bad for the people's loss. Once again, St. Paul's socialist-minded leaders—whose progressive policies are dooming this city to an ever-lower economic status in relation to Minneapolis and the metro area as a whole—will be able to carry on."

Incumbent Chris Tolbert, after defeating challenger Patty Hartmann 61 to 39 percent in Ward 3, said he was "humbled and honored

to earn the trust of Ward 3 residents to continue to represent them on the City Council. The community embraced our shared vision for a brighter future for St. Paul—that vision for a safe, vibrant community with living-wage jobs, housing that is affordable and a better transit system." Those issues, Tolbert said, will frame his priorities over the next four years.

Hartmann said she felt good about the 39 percent of the vote she captured. "I'm inspired by the many people who reached out to our grassroots campaign, sharing concerns about the direction of the city and offering great ideas for enacting positive change," she said. "I'm proud of the support we had, and the number of people we reached with the resources available to us. Voters are paying attention and want a City Council that represents all of our constituents."

In Ward 4, Mitra Jalali Nelson, after winning a special election in 2018 to serve the 17 months remaining in predecessor Russ Stark's unexpired term, garnered 59 percent of the vote against two challengers to earn her first full term.

Nelson attributed her success to a strong

campaign organization. "Our campaign over the last two years was built brick by brick with literally thousands of people all across the city—people from every walk of life, united in our shared belief in the future of St. Paul," she said. "We didn't just win in Ward 4 again. We reached new voters too often left out of these critical city elections, and won with historic levels of turnout. The message is resounding: People in Ward 4 want more homes for everyone, safer streets, more ways to get around besides cars and citywide action on climate change." Those issues will be among her priorities over the next four years, she said.

Tarrence Robertson-Bayless, who came in second in Ward 4 with 27 percent of the vote, said, "running this campaign renewed my sense of hope in politics, but it also reaffirmed that there is much work yet to be done. With so much divisiveness we see playing out online and via social media, it's refreshing to outreach directly with constituents and have perfect strangers open up their doors and share their hopes, frustrations and visions for

CITY COUNCIL ELECTION ►5

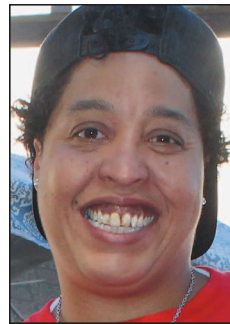
Teachers Union endorsees win four open seats on School Board

BY KEVIN DRISCOLL

Two incumbents and two political newcomers topped a field of nine candidates on November 5 to gain the four open seats on the seven-member St. Paul School Board. Winners Steve Marchese, Zuki Ellis, Jessica Kopp and Chauntyll Allen all had the endorsement of the St. Paul Federation of Educators (SPFE). They garnered between 14 and 17 percent of the vote, at least 5 percentage points better than fifth-place candidate Charlie Castro.

Kopp, 45, is one of the newcomers, but she is no stranger to schools. A former middle school and high school teacher, she has a master's degree in secondary education from the University of St. Thomas.

Kopp said she is looking forward to "working with families and schools to identify what's working, what can be better, and how we share power in the creation of learning communities that work for all students." She wants to use her "deep interest in policy, pro-



Chauntyll Allen



Steve Marchese



Jessica Kopp



Zuki Ellis

cess and partnership to reimagine what St. Paul schools can be by improving district and board accessibility and internal and external communications.

"I can best contribute by using my organizing and communication skills to make space for schools and communities that have been left out of decision-making," Kopp said. Her teaching experience "revealed to me over and over the importance of open, effective communication between all partners in a student's

education," she said, "teacher to parent, parent to district, district to teacher and teacher to student. If we can improve the way we communicate and engage one another, we can transform and improve every student's learning experience."

Chauntyll Allen, 45, the other newcomer to the School Board, said she is "excited to explore options for getting new funding and helping manage our existing budgets. I also look forward to bringing the voice of the stu-

dents and educators to the School Board and working with other board members to have a different perspective in the room."

Allen works as an educational assistant at Como Park Senior High School and is a student of psychology and African-American studies at Metropolitan State University. A leader of the Black Lives Matter chapter in St. Paul, she said, "I want to see (the public schools) make meaningful progress on my vision for a school-to-success pipeline." That will involve making schools "trauma-free by getting paraprofessionals properly trained in urban trauma and implementing restorative justice, bringing the trades into schools and laying the groundwork for broader relationships with other governmental units," she said.

Allen said she can best help the School Board by bringing to it "my classroom, my educator- and youth-focused point of view, my lived experience with urban trauma, and

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION ►5

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



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Bowie said she saw the election as “an introduction to my neighbors and their collective ideas to solve our toughest problems. My campaign did exactly what electoral justice is all about—empower the forgotten, embrace difficult conversations and expand new voices. Our elected officials and political organizations should take notice: This grassroots campaign of newcomers won 300 votes away from victory. In the great words of Hubert Humphrey, ‘never give in and never give up.’”

Marchese's priorities for his second term include "providing public accountability as the district implements SPPS Achieves," its new strategic plan, and "working with families, staff, bargaining units and local officials

Jane Prince	2,831	61.69%
David Thom	770	16.78%
Mary Anne Quiroz	661	14.40%
Kartumu King	278	6.06%
Write-In	49	1.07%

Ellis, 45, said her priority for her second term on the School Board is “overhauling the system by which we create the district budget. It’s very important that we handle these changes in a way that best supports our schools. Our community needs to know how and why we make financial decisions for programmatic, academic and student support. And as the representative of the St. Paul and Minneapolis school boards to the Minnesota State School Board Association, it’s important to me to work with board members statewide and locally to advocate for education priorities and fully funded schools at the Capitol.”

'Mid pleasures and palaces though we may roam, Be
it ever so humble, there's no place like home; Home,
home, sweet, sweet home! There's no place like home, oh,
there's no place like home. Home, home, sweet, sweet home!

Citizens, city officials address the rise in gun violence

By JANE MCCLURE

With 30 homicides already in 2019—26 of them by shootings—gun violence is increasingly on the minds of many St. Paulites. Almost 250 people turned out on November 7 to hear from Mayor Melvin Carter and share their ideas on how to stem the tide of gun fatalities and injuries.

The meeting at Central Baptist Church in St. Paul's Midway neighborhood was the first of three the mayor held across the city in response to the surge in violent crime. Carter's administration and members of the City Council will review the public comments as they consider a supplemental public safety budget to add to the \$105 million the mayor has already proposed for the St. Paul Police Department's budget in 2020.

"We mourn the unfortunate reality of

increased violence," said the Reverend Troy Wilson, the pastor of Central Baptist. He spoke of "lives stolen" by the spate of shootings and urged those in attendance to consider solutions.

St. Paul has seen almost 150 people injured by gunfire this year. Almost half of the 30 homicides have happened since Labor Day. The day before the November 7 meeting, an individual was shot in a motor vehicle stopped at an East Seventh Street gas station and Henry Sibley High School senior Da'Qwan Jones-Morris was fatally shot in his family's West Side home when two friends brought over a stolen handgun and accidentally fired it.

St. Paul Police Chief Todd Axtell attributed much of the increased violence to a feud between the city's gangs and their illegal access to guns. Mayor Carter described the problem as "a complex challenge (that) will require a

set of complex solutions." The need, he said, is to break long-term cycles of violence and address factors that lead to violence.

"I grew up in this city and I love this city," Carter said. He said he was pleased to see the diversity of people at the church willing to share ideas. "We need your help to solve our problems," he said. "We've lost too many lives."

Carter said that he, other city leaders and the St. Paul police have heard citizens demand "community-based solutions" to crime. "We need a new toolbox to keep the community safe," he said. "What I hear you tell me is that we can't expect our police officers to do everything."

The mayor described the homicides as a "public health crisis." St. Paul's record year for homicides was 1992 when the city tallied 33. Many people fear the city could surpass that number in 2019.

A walk past the small groups discussing the matter at Central Baptist revealed a wide range of proposals. Some people spoke of their own experience as crime victims. Several said they were weary of hearing gunshots in their neighborhoods. Others called for more jobs and recreational activities to keep young people occupied and give them a sense that they have a stake in the city. Still others wanted more youth outreach workers and police and new technology in the fight against crime, such as the "shotspotter" gunshot detection program.

Carter added nine police officer positions in the city's 2019 budget. In August he proposed increasing the police budget by \$4.5 million in 2020, but cutting five of those police officer positions and devoting more

GUN VIOLENCE ON THE RISE ►7

Committee supports plan to narrow Ayd Mill Road to two lanes

By JANE MCCLURE

Plans to convert Ayd Mill Road from four motor vehicle lanes to two next year and provide dedicated space for bicyclists and pedestrians on the other two lanes received unanimous support from more than two dozen people who attended the Union Park District Council's Transportation Committee meeting on November 11.

Committee co-chair Henry Parker said the recommendation of support will be taken up by the full district council on December 4, before its decision is forwarded to St. Paul officials. Mayor Melvin Carter wants to reconfigure Ayd Mill Road at a cost of \$5.2 million as part of his 2020 budget.

Twenty-six people at the committee meet-

ing indicated their support for the mayor's proposal. No one favored the city's earlier plan to simply resurface the roadway.

Suggestions for the long-term future of the 1.5-mile city street were decidedly mixed. Seven people favored maintaining it as the planned two-lane street. Nine people supported replacing Ayd Mill Road with a linear park. Four people wanted a north-end connection to Marshall, Concordia or St. Anthony avenues to relieve traffic backups on Selby Avenue. Six people wanted to see Ayd Mill Road converted for express bus or commuter rail.

The mayor's administration, City Council members and local district councils have differed in their opinions in recent weeks over whether a traffic study on Ayd Mill Road

should be conducted before any conversion takes place. The Macalester-Groveland Community Council suggested that during the replacement of the Summit Avenue bridge, Ayd Mill Road be reduced to two lanes for its entire length and the traffic impacts studied, but that request was rejected. Carter and Public Works director Kathy Lantry said that the city has already spent years studying the roadway.

Ayd Mill Road was built in the 1960s as a connection between I-35E and I-94. The connections were not made at that time due to staunch neighborhood opposition. The street was extensively studied in the 1980s and '90s. The City Council in 2000 recommended the roadway be converted to two lanes with an indirect connection to I-94.

After a series of tests, the south end of

Ayd Mill Road was permanently connected to I-35E in 2004 by the order of then-Mayor Randy Kelly. In 2009, then-Mayor Chris Coleman and the City Council agreed to another study of Ayd Mill Road. However, despite requests from the Union Park District Council and others, nothing has happened since then. Carter is citing the 2009 resolution that called for a two-lane roadway to make the change next year.

Efforts have been made to add bike and pedestrian connections along Ayd Mill Road in the past. However, the Canadian Pacific Railroad has opposed having bike and pedestrian paths so close to its tracks.

In 2010, St. Paul had to forfeit a \$4.5 million grant because the railroad and city officials could not reach an agreement.



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The Harper (right), a 163-unit apartment building with first-floor commercial space, is slated to open in the spring on the southeast corner of Selby and Snelling avenues.

PHOTO BY
BRAD STAUFFER

1◀ SELBY-SNELLING LOOKING UP

the new \$15 minimum wage, and competition from the many tap rooms springing up in St. Paul. He said he thought he could have operated the smaller pub for five or six years, but that the prospects for long-term success were not good. He thanked everyone who patronized O'Gara's in the past for their "love and friendship."

O'Gara's was founded in 1941 by Dan's grandfather, Jim O'Gara. The restaurant had expanded over the years from two to a half-dozen rooms, and it regularly hosted private parties, charitable fundraisers, business meetings and concerts. However, it was O'Gara's generosity and commitment to the neighborhood that particularly impressed local business and civic leaders.

"O'Gara's was a family business with Irish roots," said Mike Ryan, president of the north region for Ryan Companies. "We've celebrated many moments big and small there, and this is sad for us on both a personal and professional level."

The closing "was definitely a curveball we didn't expect," said Brandon Long, executive director of the Union Park District Council. "We know a lot of folks in the neighborhood are upset because it was an institution. It was more than just a bar and restaurant; we've lost a community gathering space."

"We're eternally grateful for what the O'Gara family has done for the Selby-Snelling community over the past 70 years," said Joe Hughes, owner of Union Park Management, which manages several buildings in the Snelling-Selby area. "They've carried the torch and led the way and were the cause of a lot of the development that has occurred here."

Gayle Winegar, president of the Sweatshop Health Club, has watched the neighborhood change over her nearly three decades at Selby and Snelling. "I'm so grateful this neighborhood has evolved into one of the most vibrant urban neighborhoods with people living and working here," she said. "I couldn't be happier about the changes. The corner is really vintage St. Paul."

Winegar credits O'Gara's and the old Liberty State Bank for being the original anchors of the corner. Today that has shifted to Whole Foods Market buttressed by the many small, locally owned retail stores and restaurants in the area, many of them owned by women, Winegar said. The retail stores, apartments and other housing create a rich urban mosaic, she said.

O'Gara's was to occupy a 4,000-square-foot

space on the ground floor of the Harper, a 163-unit apartment building that is scheduled to open around St. Patrick's Day 2020. The first apartment lease has already been signed, according to Tony Barranco, Ryan's regional vice president for development. The Harper will also include a ground-floor co-working center that can be shared as office space by small, independent business people.

Ryan Companies has received "a lot of calls" in the past three weeks from businesses interested in filling what would have been O'Gara's space, Barranco said. "We think it will be something great," he said. "We're committed to retail on the corner, and we'll see what comes of it. We're trying to get our hands around a strategy, and we've been lucky enough to hear from groups from across the retail side saying they have an interest."

According to Barranco, the Selby-Snelling business district remains an attractive location due to the stability of many longstanding businesses there, the addition of new businesses, and its proximity to the new Allianz Field soccer stadium. "We're bullish about the corner and the neighborhood in general," Barranco said.

The Union Park neighborhood has become one of St. Paul's most active residential hot spots with hundreds of new apartments planned or now under construction between University and Summit avenues. The Harper stands across the street from the Vintage on Selby, a 210-unit mixed-use apartment building on the northeast corner of Selby and Snelling that Ryan Companies opened in 2015 and sold in 2017.

Retailers at the corner have embraced the new apartment buildings and the many patrons they have brought to their businesses. "We're super-grateful to be part of this neighborhood," said Naughty Greek manager Natalie Singer. "We've been here three years, and it's been really wonderful. And our success in this location has propelled us into a second location on University Avenue."

Joining the Naughty Greek this fall are a host of new eateries, among them Red Savoy's Pizza and Dunkin' Donuts at 143 N. Snelling Ave. and Firebox Deli in a former flower shop that Hughes owns at Marshall and Snelling avenues.

The Snelling-Selby corner also benefits from its proximity to I-94, Ayd Mill Road, the light-rail Green Line and the A Line bus rapid transit, according to Hughes. "It's probably one of the best corners in St. Paul, if not the best," he said. "It's booming, and we're all excited about that."

detective unit. Several officers from the FBI's local Safe Streets Task Force have been temporarily assigned to the St. Paul Police Department. Meanwhile, four St. Paul police officers and two sergeants who were assigned to the FBI detail will return to help the city's gang and homicide units. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the U.S. Marshals Service are also coming in to help.

The St. Paul Police Department is also shifting funding for a full-time narcotics testing chemist to that of a full-time DNA analyst at the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension to speed up DNA testing in cases related to gun violence. That is expected to reduce the testing turnaround time from 90 to 20 days.

6◀ GUN VIOLENCE ON THE RISE

resources to addressing crimes that arise due to mental health crises.

Axtell described the steps his department has taken to address gun violence in recent months. After three people were shot and killed in a 24-hour period in September, the police chief announced a plan to shift officers to problem areas. He also met in early November with the U.S. Attorney's Office to discuss other changes in local law enforcement.

Two federal prosecutors are expected to take a lead on gun cases in St. Paul. The FBI is stepping in to help solve homicides and reduce the work overload in the St. Paul police's

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Viewpoint

Inbox

Apology is due for trash debacle

St. Paul residents deserve a public apology from Mayor Melvin Carter and the members of the City Council who voted for the flawed trash contract because this all could have been avoided. An apology is overdue from you for treating trash critics as the enemy.

As David Schultz outlined in an op-ed piece in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, had city officials listened to residents and worked with residents, the trash referendum would not have been necessary and the resulting problems would not exist. As things stand now, no one is pleased with this unresolved, worsening trash debacle.

Since 2017, flaws were known, yet you as city officials ignored calls for improvement. Instead, you signed a five-year non-negotiable contract. Following this, you declared war on your critics and enlisted monied special interests to ensure that the trash referendum resulted in a “yes” vote to keep your failed program.

So, here we are, saddled with a trash program that goes from bad to worse daily. Haulers want more money. Residents face higher trash fees. Low-income and elderly residents will pay more. Incentives for recycling are weakened. Worse yet, your intransigence created deep divisions among your constituents.

Mayor Carter and City Council members who pushed this bad trash deal, for the good of St. Paul, make a public apology and rightly serve the people you represent. These actions will go a long way to restore public trust in you and heal this divide.

*Kate Hunt
Highland Park*

Regrets in the wake of election

When I was a kid, two of the earliest lessons I learned were, 1) if you couldn't pay for it, you didn't buy it; and 2) that once you'd bought something, you had the obligation to maintain it. Therefore, though I might have come up with the money to keep a horse on my family's small acreage, I couldn't afford all of the equipment and upkeep, so no horse.

So, before our handsome and glib mayor rushes forward with yet another spending plan for St. Paul, I suggest he sit with paper and pencil and learn about negative sums. There's a limit to the depths of citizens' pockets, and some of our pockets already have holes in them. What we have now isn't being decently maintained.

I've become quite the cynic lately after seeing City Council member Jane Prince standing alone against the mayor's six rubber-stamp City Council members, who continue in office re-elected by people who have never been to a City Council meeting and seen Ward 3's Chris Tolbert not even being a good enough actor to pretend he was interested in citizen comment.

In Ward 3 we could have had activist Patty Hartmann as our next City Council member. And citywide, with a majority “no” vote, we could have had some elective choice in trash costs, despite the mayor's threats of property tax increases. Yessiree, we surely deserve to get what we got in this election.

*Kathleen Deming
Macalester-Groveland*

For a business-friendly St. Paul

The city of St. Paul needs to make a serious effort to attract large businesses to replace the ones that have closed, relocated or consolidated their operations out of state. It wouldn't be the worst idea to consider hiring for this purpose professional salespeople who have extensive business backgrounds. This modest-size sales force would have one primary objective: selling large out-of-state companies on the benefits of relocating all or part of their operations to St. Paul.

Are Mayor Melvin Carter and the City Council just going to wish our business climate improves without remaking the city's image from anti-business to business-friendly?

Consider this walk down memory lane: Hamm's Brewery, Stroh's Brewery, Schmidt Brewery, Landmark Brewing, Kmart, Walmart, Sears, Powers, Montgomery Ward, Dayton's, Macy's, Donaldson's, Emporium, Ford Motor



Company, Whirlpool, Gillette, American Hoist & Derrick, Taystee Bakery, International Harvester, Brown & Bigelow, Fairway Foods, Rainbow Foods and Red Owl.

Personally, I favor the tax revenue of commercial and industrial property instead of Carter and the City Council taxing St. Paul homeowners and multifamily residential property owners into oblivion.

*Bob Grossman
Highland Park*

Why are we paying the haulers?

It just does not make common sense. Why are we paying the garbage haulers directly? We as St. Paul homeowners do not have a contract with the haulers. The city has a contract with the haulers. So why are we paying directly to the haulers? Is it legal for the city to be doing this? Where is the common sense of it all?

*Andy Pakalns
Highland Park*

Cracking down on criminals

Having just seen our mayor attempt to explain away the recent murders, attempted murders and assaults in St. Paul as products of homelessness, hopelessness, helplessness and mental illness, I have to wonder if the mayor's father, a long-serving St. Paul police officer, ever explained the difference between criminals and crazies to his son. These are criminals. They are shooting people and inadvertent bystanders for the benefit of a criminal activity. They are not sociopaths with long rifles and bizarre agendas. They are not the misunderstood and the alienated. They are criminals, and they commit crimes as a way of living.

Last year someone, appointed by the mayor, was going to use certain data to hopefully anticipate and deter this kind of behavior. This process would have identified potential high-risk circumstances and behavior that would have allowed for early, life-saving intervention. This talented person quit in disgust when it was decided that this approach was not politically acceptable.

Something has to be done. Our city is not perceived as safe, and this past month of mayhem reinforces this perception and is not lost on anyone who wishes to visit or attend events in St. Paul. Walmart is not leaving Midway because they are not selling enough merchandise, but because the cost of doing business is too high. This is true of other retailers, and if their customers cannot safely park or shop they will go also.

It might be time to return to the only proven solution to gun violence. “Stop and frisk” worked in the days when the mayor's dad was on the police force, and it still works. Admittedly, it was subject to abuse and caused

embarrassment and humiliation when misused, but it certainly reduced gun violence and kept guns off the streets. Now, with the advent of police body cameras, there is accountability that was lacking before. A police officer can stop and frisk an individual or a party of individuals if the officer has reason to suspect these people are armed, but the police better have their cameras on and explain their suspicions in a way that will stand up in court.

*Tom Dunne
Downtown St. Paul*

Make Ayd Mill a state highway

Ayd Mill Road is in an ideal location, running alongside railroad tracks. It is a good cutoff for cars coming from the south on I-35E and wanting to go west on I-94. Why waste gas and time by driving all of the way to the Capitol? Most travelers on Ayd Mill Road are Minnesota residents, so the city of St. Paul should not have to pay to maintain the road. It should be made a state highway and the Minnesota Department of Transportation ought to maintain it.

*Al Pruszinske
Macalester-Groveland*

Blown away by the noise

It's 11 a.m. and I've been hearing the constant drone of leaf blowers since 9 a.m. I often hear them, an hour at a time, until dark. It's like having a tree removed in your yard every day, May to November. We love our tree-lined street, and enjoy putting our yards to bed for the winter. Or used to.

Neighbors who hire companies to do your lawn care, are you aware of how disturbing this is? Maybe you're not home to know during those times. Please keep our neighborhoods enjoyable, and hire only companies that use low-decibel equipment next year.

*Roberta Aitchison-Olson
Macalester-Groveland*

Do write, won't you?

The *Villager* welcomes letters to the editors 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 send your commentary to the *Villager* at 757 S. Snelling Ave., St. Paul, MN 55116 or email it to letters@myvillager.com.

Federation supports 7-story building on W. 7th

By JANE MCCLURE

Plans for a seven-story building with 153 apartments atop two levels of above-ground parking and a small retail space at 337 W. Seventh St. were recommended for approval by the West Seventh/Fort Road Federation on November 11.

"This is an interesting site," said Aron Johnson of DJR Architecture, who is working with Northland Real Estate Group/Valerian LLC on the project.

The site, which is less than 75 feet wide in places, is bounded by Smith and Grand avenues, and Leech and West Seventh streets. It includes a shop owned by Bonfe Auto Service & Body Repair and two adjacent parcels. The developers have not yet purchased the property and Bonfe is still operating there.

The north end of the block is lined with commercial buildings, including a new Residence Inn by Marriott Hotel and a restored

fire station that recently opened as Hope Breakfast Bar. The area also includes the new St. Paul Labor Center.

The project's partners need a change in the property's zoning from Traditional Neighborhoods 2 to TN3, a conditional use permit for the building's proposed height, and the vacation of an alley. TN3 zoning allows building heights of up to 55 feet. The planned building would be about 75 feet tall.

The project calls for five levels of apartments, ranging from studios to two-bedroom units, above two levels of parking with 94 spaces for vehicles and 70 spots for bicycles. The underlying bedrock at the site makes building underground parking expensive.

The top floor of the building would be stepped back to allow for an outdoor deck. Vehicles would enter and exit off of Smith, which is where the main lobby would be located. The small retail space would be on West Seventh.

Project manager Michael Margulies of Valerian said the project would meet the demand for smaller apartments located within walking distance of downtown. Most of the units would be one bedroom and rent for about \$1,100 per month.

"The market we're targeting isn't asking for big, expensive units," Margulies said.

Support for the project was expressed by board members of the district council on November 11 and by members of its Transportation and Land Use Committee on November 6. Though some concerns were raised by neighbors about parking, Johnson said the project will have more than the required 90 off-street spaces.

This is the second development proposed for the site within the past year. In the fall of 2018, McGough Development proposed a five-story mixed-use building with 103 microapartments atop two floors of above-ground parking.

Grand Avenue's bus route in line for improvements

By JANE MCCLURE

Metro Transit is considering changes to bus service on Route 63 along Grand Avenue with fewer stops, but more frequent trips. Part of Metro Transit's Better Bus Routes initiative, the changes will be discussed at an open house from 5-6:30 p.m. Thursday, November 21, in the Theater and Dance Building at Macalester College.

Bus riders are being encouraged to attend and comment on the possible changes. Comments may also be emailed to service.development@metrotransit.org. Metro Transit will

release a draft of the plan in early 2020, and the changes could be made as early as June.

Bus trip intervals on Route 63 would be reduced from every 20 to every 15 minutes. At the same time, about half of the bus stops would be eliminated to speed up trips. The bus stops, which are now at every cross street, would be at every other cross street.

As part of the Better Bus Routes project, Metro Transit will also consider pedestrian safety improvements near bus stops, including better sidewalks and signage and improved visibility for motorists. It could mean more and better bus shelters at the stops with new

lighting and heaters. Concrete pads would also be added to meet the requirements of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act.

Route 63 extends from the light-rail Green Line's Westgate Station on University Avenue to Cretin Avenue to Grand Avenue to downtown St. Paul to SunRay Shopping Center to Battle Creek Regional Park.

Route 63 averages 4,500 weekday boardings. While that level of ridership does not justify bus rapid transit, it does merit faster service, said Metro Transit project manager Michael Mechtenberg, and the changes could entice more people to take transit.

Help deliver meals this Thanksgiving

Whipping up a Thanksgiving feast for the whole family can be time-consuming enough. Imagine preparing enough meals to feed several thousand, and then delivering them as well.

Bill Foussard, Barb Aslesen and a cadre of volunteers have been doing just that every Thanksgiving morning for the past 49 years, delivering full-course turkey dinners to families in need throughout the metro area.

Come Thursday, November 28, their non-profit Thanksgiving Meals on Wheels will be

at it again, supplying more than 19,000 freshly prepared dinners to more than 4,000 families who would otherwise likely go without.

"Once again, what we really need are volunteers to deliver the meals," said Foussard, a Highland Park resident.

Anyone with a vehicle and a few hours to spare is invited to show up at 7 a.m. to pick up the meals and a routing map at the entrance to Cretin-Derham Hall, 550 S. Albert St. Volunteers should be able to be back home by 10:30 a.m., giving them plenty of time to enjoy their own Thanksgiving meals.

"We request that there be two adults per vehicle to deliver the meals, and we invite parents to bring along their kids and make it a family outing," Foussard said.

About 2,500 volunteers help with cooking, packaging, routing, distribution and traffic control to make the meal delivery run smoothly. Foussard said anyone who wants to help package food for the drivers should show up between 2-2:30 a.m. on Thursday at CDH.

"It's such a special day," Foussard said. "There are so many young people and families involved. Some have helped out for years and are into their third generation."

Monetary donations are still being sought to help defray the cost of the food that is not donated. Contributions may be sent to Thanksgiving Meals on Wheels in care of Alliance Bank, 55 E. Fifth St., St. Paul, MN 55101. For information, call 651-699-5404.

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Maurice F. Mischke, 1920-1991

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Landmark Center will open its doors for the 41st Annual Landmark Center Old-Fashioned Holiday Bazaar featuring beautiful and unique gift items handcrafted by over 70 of the area's best artists.

This year's Holiday Bazaar is Thursday, December 5 and Friday, December 6, 10 am to 8 pm, and Saturday, December 7, 10 am to 5 pm. Admission is \$5; children ages 12 and younger are free. "Twilight Shopping," guests receive a free festive beverage (wine, beer, hot cider) with admission on Thursday and Friday, 5-8 pm.

The Bazaar features quality handcrafted items, selected by jury, including jewelry, decor pieces, food items, paintings, woven and wearable art, handmade lotions, soaps and more. Festive live music and delicious treats add to the enjoyment of holiday shopping.

The Landmark Center Holiday Bazaar also offers shoppers a chance to win one or more of 75 items donated by each of the exhibitors.

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The Kiosk

Friday/November 22

THE WARNING SIGNS of mental health problems in adolescents will be addressed in a free youth mental health first aid training course from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at the National Alliance on Mental Illness, 1919 University Ave., Suite 400. The course will cover the importance of early intervention, how to help a youth in crisis and continue to offer support. For the required registration, call 651-645-2948 or visit namimn.org.

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN will serve its 70th annual Lutefisk Dinner with seatings at 4:30, 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. in the church at 104 S. Snelling Ave. The family-style dinner will feature lutefisk with melted butter and cream sauce, meatballs and gravy, Yukon gold potatoes, early June peas, cranberry sauce and Scandinavian fruit soup. Meal tickets are \$20, \$5 for children under age 12. For reservations, call Russ Edhlund at 651-698-1260. A bake sale with lefse, Scandinavian delicacies and other baked goods will run from 3-7 p.m. Proceeds will support the church's local and global mission programs. Child care will be available. Entertainment will be provided by the Young Fiddlers of Minnesota. Immanuel's Boy Scout Troop 90 will be selling pickled herring.

DR. ADAM GAFFNEY of Physicians for a National Healthcare Program (PNHP) will speak at 7 p.m. in the ballroom of the St. Paul Athletic Club, 340 Cedar St. PNHP opposes a for-profit health system controlled by corporations. It favors public administration of health care and single-payer financing. Free and open to the public, Gaffney's talk will be followed by questions and answers. Visit pnhp.org.

"IN PRAISE OF THE EARTH, Food and Our Hands" will be addressed by Audrey Arnor of Moonstone Farm in a free program at 7:30 p.m. in the lecture room of the student center at Macalester College. Sponsored by the Institute of Theological and Interdisciplinary Studies, the program is free and open to all and so is the buffet dinner that will be served at 6:30 p.m. For reservations, call 651-430-0361.



Monumental service.

The Cretin-Derham Hall JROTC presented the colors on November 11 at the dedication of a new bronze plaque on the nearly 100-year-old Veterans Monument at Summit Avenue and Mississippi River Boulevard. At left, Julie Kirscht, Tracy MacAllister and Dianne Plunkett Latham of the Minnesota State Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution unveiled the plaque, "A tribute to past and present defenders of our freedoms."

PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

THE SUMMIT AVENUE Residential Preservation Association will hold its annual meeting and fall social from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Macalester College's Brigg's House, 1644 Summit Ave. The casual get-together for Summit Avenue neighbors and supporters will feature heavy hors d'oeuvres and desserts as well as beer, wine, soda and hot cider. Brent Christensen of St. Paul's Public Works Department will speak at 6 p.m. on the replacement of the bridge over

Ayd Mill Road, and new SARPA board members will be elected. Visit sarpa.org.

Saturday/November 23

CRAFTACULAR, St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran's eighth annual craft and bake sale, will be held from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. today and 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday, November 24, at the church, 100 N. Oxford St. Local artisans will be selling their jewelry, pottery, woodwork

and other handicrafts. A sale of baked and pickled foods will also be featured. Visit stpaulref.org or call 651-224-3371.

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR, 330 S. Exchange St., will hold its annual Christmas Boutique from 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m. today and Sunday, November 24. Dolls, purses, household goods and gift baskets will be featured along with a silent auction and bake sale. Get started on your Christmas shopping and stick around for a dinner of ham or sloppy joes. Meal tickets are \$11, \$6 for children. Call 651-227-0336.

MINNESOTA ARTISANS will present their second annual Makers Market from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. in the Victoria Crossing West mall at 867 Grand Ave. The pop-up shop will feature a host of handcrafted goods sold by those who made them.

Sunday/November 24

A BREAKFAST OF FRENCH TOAST, pancakes, sausage, fruit, juice, milk and coffee will be served by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the CSPS Hall, 383 Michigan St. The cost is \$8, \$6 for children under age 9, or \$26 for a family of four. A koláče and craft sale will also be held.

Wednesday/November 27

THE CARD CLUB has opened a new season of bridge, 500 and cribbage at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 S. Snelling Ave. New members are welcome to join in the competition at 8:30 a.m. every Wednesday. Participation is free. An optional lunch is served at noon for \$10.

Saturday/November 30

CZECH AND SLOVAK Sokol Minnesota will present a pop-up shop of artisans from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at the CSPS Hall, 383 Michigan St. Among the handmade gifts will be pottery, jewelry, woodcarvings, folk art cards, clothing, Czech and Slovak goods and Nordic imports. Baked goods will also be for sale. For more information, call 651-290-0542.

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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—Numerous items were stolen from an attached garage on the 1300 block of Bohland Place on November 3-4.

Theft—Items stolen from vehicles included a catalytic converter on the 1200 block of Colette Place on November 2-3, cosmetology supplies on the 700 block of South Cleveland Avenue on November 5, a MacBook Pro on the 2700 block of Gannon Road on November 5, and a cellphone on Cleveland Avenue and Pinehurst Street on November 10.

—Vehicles were stolen from Seventh Street Storage at 2060 W. Seventh St. on November 3, the 1300 block of West Maynard Drive on November 5, the 2000 block of Bordner Place on November 7 and the 2000 block of Ford Parkway on November 10.

Lexington-Hamline

Theft—A vehicle was reported stolen on the 1200 block of Marshall Avenue on November 5.

—A woman was arrested for trying to steal more than \$500 in merchandise from the Midway Target at 1:39 p.m. Saturday, November 9.

Sex crime—A rape was reported on the 200 block of North Lexington Parkway at 1:56 a.m. Friday, October 25.

Macalester-Groveland

Burglary—Occupied residences were burglarized on the 2100 block of Lincoln Avenue on November 5 and on the 1800 block of Randolph Avenue on November 10-11.

—A vehicle was reported stolen from a garage that was broken into on the 1600 block of James Avenue at 6:27 a.m. Thursday, November 7.

Theft—A cargo trailer with painting tools was stolen on the 200 block of South Albert Street between November 3-8.

—Vehicles were reported stolen on the 1400 block of James Avenue on November 7, the 1200 block of Stanford Avenue on November

8 and the 700 block of Woodlawn Avenue on November 10.

Weapons—A firearm was reported stolen from a vehicle on the 2000 block of Stanford Avenue at 5:10 p.m. Friday, November 1.

Miscellaneous—A 22-year-old man was arrested for felony drug possession after he was found asleep behind the wheel of a vehicle while stopped at the light on Cretin and Summit avenues at 1:30 a.m. Friday, November 8.

Mendota Heights

Burglary—Two attempted burglaries were reported on the 700 block of Main Street during the evening of November 5-6.

Theft—Police arrested the juvenile driver of a stolen vehicle that was seen being driven recklessly in the Sibley High School parking lot at 2:27 a.m. Sunday, November 3.

—Two laptop computers were reported stolen from a vehicle on the 1000 block of Highway 13 at 8:11 p.m. Tuesday, November 5.

Miscellaneous—A discussion about crime will be led by Police Chief Kelly McCarthy at 6 p.m. Wednesday, November 20, at Mendota Heights City Hall, 1101 Victoria Curve.

Merriam Park

Burglary—Jewelry was reported stolen from an apartment on the 400 block of West Lynnhurst Avenue at 9:57 a.m. Friday, November 1.

Theft—Items stolen from vehicles included a catalytic converter on Finn Street and Selby Avenue on October 27-29, and a purse on the 400 block of Otis Avenue on November 9.

—Vehicles were stolen on Selby and Snelling avenues on October 30-31, the 400 block of North Wilder Street on October 31, Marshall Avenue and Moore Street on November 1, and the 2100 block of Marshall Avenue on November 10.

Weapons—An 18-year-old man was arrested for possession of a firearm by a felon at 8:23 p.m. Saturday, November 9, on Snelling and University avenues after he was seen boarding a light-rail train with a gun.

Snelling-Hamline

Burglary—Several firearms were reported

stolen from a storage unit at 5 Star Storage, 1400 Selby Ave., at 7 p.m. Sunday, October 27.

Theft—More than \$500 was reported stolen at ACE Cash Express, 1532 University Ave., at 12:40 p.m. Saturday, October 26.

—A group of 15-20 kids stole multiple items from Speedway, 56 N. Snelling Ave., at 7:14 p.m. Saturday, November 9.

Summit Hill

Theft—Items stolen from vehicles included laptop computers from two cars on Grotto Street and Lincoln Avenue on October 28, and the catalytic converter from a car on the 900 block of Benhill Road on October 28-29.

—Vehicles were stolen on the 500 block of Grand Avenue on October 28-29, the 700 block of Grand on October 31-November 1, the 900 block of Fairmount Avenue on November 1, and the 700 block of Grand on November 3.

—A woman was arrested for stealing a vehicle on Grand Avenue and Victoria Street at 9:55 a.m. Saturday, November 2.

Sex crime—A window peeper was reported on the 700 block of Linwood Avenue at 8:11 a.m. Saturday, October 26.

Miscellaneous—Police received a call regarding disorderly conduct by 30-40 protestors who were unwilling to leave Chase Bank, 1039 Grand Ave., at 9:07 a.m. Tuesday, November 5.

—An intoxicated 48-year-old woman was cited after she drove into a crane in the construction area by the Summit Avenue bridge over Ayd Mill Road at 7:09 p.m. Thursday, November 7.

Summit-University

Burglary—A suspect entered an occupied home and stole the keys to two vehicles on the 400 block of Iglehart Avenue during the evening of October 31-November 1.

—A purse and cash were stolen from an occupied residence on the 800 block of Marshall Avenue during the evening of November 3-4.

Theft—Vehicles were stolen on the 500 block of Marshall Avenue on October 27, the 600 block of Portland Avenue on October 28, Oxford Street and Ashland Avenue on

October 28, and the 1000 block of Dayton Avenue on November 5.

—The catalytic converter was reported stolen from a vehicle on the 800 block of Summit Avenue on Thursday, November 7.

Assault—A male checked himself into the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries after being shot near Milton Street and Carroll Avenue at 4:23 p.m. Tuesday, November 5.

Weapons—Someone fired gunshots at a residence on the 500 block of Selby Avenue at 3:30 p.m. Saturday, November 2.

—A 28-year-old man was arrested for felony possession of a gun by a felon, having a stolen firearm and reckless discharge of a gun after police received a call of a man shooting off rounds on the 700 block of Concordia Avenue at midnight Saturday, November 9.

West End

Robbery—A man was assaulted with a metal pipe in a robbery on the 100 block of Forbes Avenue at 3 p.m. Sunday, November 3.

—A 42-year-old homeless man was arrested for pushing a female to the ground and stealing her headphones at 12:43 p.m. Monday, November 11, on I-35E and Randolph Avenue.

Burglary—Winslow Commons, 160 S. Western Ave., was broken into and several items were stolen between October 25-28.

—Dannecker's Grocery & Liquor, 793 Randolph Ave., was broken into at 6:36 a.m. Sunday, November 10.

Theft—Vehicles were stolen on the 500 block of Jefferson Avenue on October 28, the 300 block of Spring Street on October 31, the 600 block of Armstrong Avenue on November 9 and the 730 block of Mercer Street on November 8-9.

—Items stolen from vehicles included a police tactical vest on the 100 block of West Seventh Street on November 5 and a laptop computer on the 200 block of West Seventh on November 7.

Assault—A male was hit in the head with a baseball bat on the 700 block of Armstrong Avenue at 10 p.m. Friday, October 25.

Weapons—A male was seen waving a handgun around at the BP Station, 675 W. Seventh St., at 4:29 p.m. Friday, November 1.

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On the Town

A book about books

His mother's death reawakens the writer in novelist Hamilton

BY ANNE MURPHY

The essence of one's life and times can be bookmarked through literature. That is one of the ideas that Summit-University author Colin Hamilton invites readers to ponder in his debut novel, *The Thirteenth Month*.

The new book is "an autobiographical story that came out of my mother's death five years ago," Hamilton said. "The death of your mother makes you reflective. There are thoughts about youth being over. When I was younger, when my dad was about 50, he said, 'If I die tomorrow, I want you to know I've had a wonderful life. I wasn't cheated.' That was hard for me to hear at the time, but now I understand it. Sad doesn't have to mean tragic. The big tragedy is if you feel regretful."

"My mom's death sparked a change in my life, a new sense of mortality, time, priority, reflection. All of those things reopened writing for me, and when I came back to it, I think I did as a more generous writer than when I was younger—less interested in impressing readers, more committed to telling a good story."

The Thirteenth Month tells the story of the narrator's mother's death from Alzheimer's and how she chose to end her life rather than let the disease take a further toll on her and her family. "The first version of the book was a straight memoir," Hamilton said. "Although that was satisfying to me in some ways, I knew I needed to bring more fiction into it if I wanted to engage others. It's a dark story with both death and disappointment at the center, but it's also about rising through those things with a sense of humor and purpose."

"*The Thirteenth Month* is often a book about books or at least writers," Hamilton said. "It includes pieces that are almost essay-like about Bruno Schulz, Fernando Pessoa, Italo Calvino, Roberto Bolano and others. Toward the end, it shifts to imagined books that I wish existed."

Married and the father of two sons, Hamilton grew up in Iowa where reading is a prized pastime, he said. In early adulthood, he focused on writing poetry and began a career in public affairs for such entities as the Minneapolis Central Library. He now works for Public Radio International.

Asked about the title of his book, Hamilton said, "it's from Bruno Schulz. It describes an unnatural time when one can be 'touched by the divine finger of poetry.' I immediately liked that and thought it captured something about this story, which at some level is about

what happens when you read too much poetry as a young person."

Schulz was a Jewish writer from Poland who was killed by the Nazi SS during World War II. His 1934 short-story collection, *The Street of Crocodiles*, introduces a calendar with a 13th month representing myth and a loss of the definite. The original title of Schulz's collection was *Cinnamon Shops* and that is the title of Hamilton's third chapter, which reads:

*During my adolescence, the Kuchars, a pair of Polish neurologists who had been misplaced in Iowa, were my parents' closest friends.... I was still reading Cavafy and Gilbert, but the writers I knew best were the wholly male American trinity of Mark Twain, Hemingway and F. Scott Fitzgerald. Faulkner was a bit too obscure, his South too impenetrable. Branching out, barely, I had gulped down Raymond Carver, so clean and perfect.... Suddenly other books from around the world, like Salman Rushdie's *Midnight's Children*, Milan Kundera's *The Unbearable Lightness of Being* and Yukio Mishima's *The Sound of Waves* were beginning to infiltrate my shelves.*

*For my 17th birthday, Andrzej and Hanna gave me a copy of Bruno Schulz's *The Cinnamon Shops*. Just holding it I felt a little older. And then I opened it. Schulz was a thicket—long, knotty sentences, unexpected twists, shadows and ambiguities—but rather than lock me out, it was as though the narrowest of doors had opened and once I stepped through, they pulled shut behind me, locking me in a world utterly different—more alluring, more nourishingly deviant—from anything I'd known before.*

Of his debut novel, Hamilton said, "the question I've struggled most with is the most basic: 'What is it about?' I have a hard time answering that, either because I don't know or I do know but don't like the answer. I know that some readers have resonated with the story of my mom's death and her choice to end her life rather than go further into Alzheimer's. I know others have connected with the more literary side of it and came away with a list of other books they now want to read. My hope is that those two strands come together and that there is a story about what books and fiction allow us to imagine and do differently in our lives."

"When I was younger, I wrote at least two full poetry manuscripts, but neither ever clicked with publishers, probably for good reasons. I put aside writing for the better part of 15 years, and it was never clear to me that I



Author Colin Hamilton at home in Summit-University. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

"The Thirteenth Month is a dark story with both death and disappointment at the center, but it's also about rising through those things with a sense of humor and purpose."

would come back at all. That place in my life was filled by other things: family, work."

Hamilton is now at work on a second book. "It's a collection of stories that read a bit like essays about imaginary books discovered in a library's discard room, books that never quite found their readers, books that are generally flawed but which always have something remarkable about them."

Also remarkable for Hamilton is the publishing scene in the Twin Cities, "led by Graywolf Press, but also Coffee House and Milkweed," he said. "They're all national or international publishers, but they each seem to have some curiosity about local talent,

and they've helped put Twin Cities writing on a great stage. But it's not just them. It's Rain Taxi, the Loft, the Center for Book Arts, the libraries in both cities, a decent number of independent book stores. This remains a bookish city. You can see it when you go into peoples' homes and there are still bookshelves. I don't see that everywhere I go."

And what is Hamilton currently reading? "I've just started rereading Rachel Cusk's *Outline* trilogy, and I'm excited to pick up her new book of essays, *Coventry*. I also have a copy of a book my dad just published, *A Certain Arc*, and I've been on a Georges Simenon binge. Do you know he used to make himself write 80 pages a day, and then he'd double over vomiting from the exhaustion? As someone who's produced one 150-page book in half a lifetime, I find that astounding."

Hamilton will read from and discuss *The Thirteenth Month* in free programs at 7 p.m. Wednesday, November 21, at Next Chapter Booksellers, 38 S. Snelling Ave., and at 7 p.m. Wednesday, December 4, at Moon Palace Books, 3032 Minnehaha Ave. S. in Minneapolis.



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On the Town Briefly

Theater

Big city idealism runs up against small town realities in *In a Stand of Dying Trees*, playing through November 23 at Off Leash Art Box, 4200 E. 54th St. in Minneapolis. The new play by Uprising Theatre Company tells of Ben and Amanda, who love their home town but find it threatened when Ben's old college buddy visits on a campaign to get people to vote "blue." Show times are 7:30 p.m. Friday and 1:30 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday. Tickets are \$20. Call 612-520-1230.

Into the Darkness, two dark and dreamy one-acts that explore the transformational power of love, are being performed through November 24 by Collective Unconscious. The plays tell of a princess and her pursuit of a husband though her radiant beauty blinds anyone who would look upon her, and a young woman who travels east of the sun and west of the moon in hopes of rescuing her best friend. The curtain rises at 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday at the Shakespearean Youth Theatre, 550 N. Vandalia St., Suite 306. Tickets are \$15-30 with discounts for students. Visit intothedarkness.brownpapertickets.com.

Pride and Prejudice, a clever comedy adapted for the stage by Kate Hamill from the 19th-century novel by Jane Austen, will open on November 22 on the proscenium stage at Park Square Theatre, 20 W. Seventh Place. Directed by Lisa Channer, the play offers a decidedly progressive take on Austen, whom many consider to be an early feminist. Sara Richardson, China Brickey, Kiara Jackson, Paul Rutledge, McKenna Kelly-Eiding and Neal Beckman star. For show times and tickets, call 651-291-7005.

The Jungle Theater's holiday hit of 2017, *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley* will return on November 23 to the stage at 2951 Lyndale Ave. S. in Minneapolis. The sequel by Lauren Gunderson and Margot Melcon imagines the characters of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* reunited at the Darcy home. Directed by Christina Baldwin, the love story stars Christian Bardin as Mary Bennet, the ever-dependable middle sister, and Reese Britts as shy bookworm Arthur de Bourgh, whom Mary sees as a kindred spirit and intellectual equal. Following previews on November 20-22, the play will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays



and at 2 and 7:30 p.m. Sundays through December 29. Tickets are \$15-\$50. Call 612-822-7063 or visit jungltheater.org.

Agatha Christie's *Towards Zero* is playing through December 15 at Theatre in the Round, 245 Cedar Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Lady Tressilian invites her ward for a long weekend. He surprises everyone by bringing his current wife and his old flame. When a brutal murder interrupts the party, the twists and turns of a true Christie script keep the audience guessing. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays. An audience discussion with members of the company will follow the show on December 1. Tickets are \$22. Call 612-333-3010.

Iphigenia and Other Daughters, a modern retelling of the Greek tragedy, will be performed by Hamline University's Department of Theatre & Dance at 7:30 p.m. Thursday

Beyond the Rainbow,

playwright William Randall Beard's musical tribute to Judy Garland is playing through December 26 at History Theatre, 30 E. 10th St. The drama is set in 1961, when Garland played Carnegie Hall to a packed house. Ivey Award-winner Jody Briskey stars as that Garland. Elena Glass plays her in flashbacks to the events that inspired and haunted the singer and actress. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays and 1 p.m. Tuesday, November 26. Tickets are \$15-\$65. Visit history-theatre.com or call 651-292-4323.

through Saturday, November 21-23 in Anne Simley Theatre at Hamline, 1536 Hewitt Ave. The drama by Ellen McLaughlin lays bare how women of myth wrestle with fate, building startling images of women trapped and desperately trying to find their way out. Tickets are \$2-\$8. Call 651-523-2905.

A holiday tradition, Langston Hughes' musical drama *Black Nativity* returns on November 21 with 31 afternoon and evening performances through December 22 at Penumbra Theatre, 270 N. Kent St. Directed by Lou Bellamy with musical direction by Sanford Moore, this retelling of the Christmas story features the Kingdom Life Church Choir, lead vocalists and the choreography of Alanna Morris-Van Tassel. Tickets are \$15-\$40. Call 651-224-3180.

A New Works Festival showcasing new and original scripts by Minnesota playwrights

will be presented by the Highland Park Community Center Theatre from 1-4 p.m. Saturday, November 23, at the Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. New plays will begin every half hour. Tickets are \$12. Call 651-695-3706.

The six wives of Henry VIII join forces in an electrifying pop concert, grabbing the spotlight and bringing their identities out of the shadow of their infamous spouse in *Six*. The musical will be presented in 28 evening and matinee performances from November 29 through December 22 at the Ordway Music Theatre, remixing 500 years of historical heartbreak into a power-packed celebration of female empowerment. For tickets, visit ordway.org or call 651-224-4222.

Books

Local poets Donna Isaac and Margaret Hasse will read from their latest verse in a free program at 7 p.m. Wednesday, November 20, at Tillie's Farmhouse, 232 N. Cleveland Ave.

Next Chapter Booksellers, 38 S. Snelling Ave., will play host to free readings with Adam Minter from his book, *Secondhand: Travels in the New Global Garage Sale*, at 7 p.m. November 20; Colin Hamilton from his novel, *The Thirteenth Month*, 7 p.m. November 21; and Patricia Hampl, Leslie Adrienne Miller, Mark Ehling and Jennifer Grotz from the late poet Paul Otremba's collection, *Levee*, 2 p.m. November 24. Call 651-225-8989.

SubText Books, 6 W. Fifth St., will play host to free readings with Laurie Allmann and her new poetry collection, *An Hour From Now*, at 7 p.m. November 20; Jon Kerr and his book, *Mohamed's Dream*, 7 p.m. December 4; and poet Warren Woessner and his new collection, *Exit Sky*, 7 p.m. December 5. Call 651-493-2791.

Haitian writer Edwidge Danticat will read selections from her new short-story collection, *Everything Inside*, from 7-8 p.m. Monday, November 25, in the University of St. Thomas' Anderson Student Center. Admission is free and open to all.

Tellabration, a dozen classes, workshops and panel discussions on storytelling, narrative technique and how to craft and refine a



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A TIME FOR GIVING THANKS

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story, will be presented by Cheap Theatre, the Northlands Storytelling Network and Story Arts of Minnesota from 10 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Saturday, November 30, at Open Book, 1011 Washington Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Live music and storytelling will be featured from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. An open mic will be offered to amateur storytellers from 1-5 p.m., followed by the Traditional Story Challenge. Local storytellers and spoken-word artists Kevin Kling, Amie Durenberger, Barbara Schutzgruber, Danny Klecko, Jim Stowell, Khary Jackson, Maria Vorhis and Nothando Zulu will close the affair with an evening concert. The classes and programs are free and open to all, though donations will be appreciated. Visit tellationmn.org.

Family

Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy., will offer the following free programs: Read Brave Storytime with St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter, 10 a.m. Wednesday, November 20; Nature Smart, a trading post in natural science, 4 p.m. Wednesdays; Createch, high-tech fun for teenagers, 3:30 p.m. Thursdays; Yarn Night for all ages and abilities, 6:15 p.m. November 21; Children's Storytime, 11 a.m. Saturdays and 10:30 a.m. Mondays; Amharic storytime, 6 p.m. Tuesdays; and Baby Storytime, 10:15 and 11:15 a.m. Wednesdays Call 651-695-3700.

Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave., will offer the following free programs: board game competition for all comers, 2-4:30 p.m. Wednesdays; Family Storytime, 10:30 a.m. Fridays; and You Can Make It STEM crafts and activities, 3-4:30 p.m. Mondays. Call 651-642-0385.

Annie Jr., the heartwarming musical about a spunky child who at age 11 moves from the hard-knock life of the orphanage to the world of billionaire Oliver Warbucks, will open on November 22 at SteppingStone Theatre, 55 N. Victoria St. Filled with radiant melodies and dance moves borrowed from the 1930s, the hour-long show will be presented in 15 afternoon and evening performances through December 22. Tickets start at \$14. Call 651-225-9265 ext. 212.

Red Balloon Bookshop, 891 Grand Ave., will celebrate its 35th birthday on Saturday, November 23 with a Happy Birthday Storytime at 10:30 a.m. and a Birthday Bash featuring a trivia challenge, door prizes, birthday cake and refreshments from 4-6 p.m. Admission is free. Call 651-224-8320.

"Night Trains" has returned from 6-9 p.m. Saturdays, now through February, at the Twin City Model Railroad Museum, 668 Transfer Road, Suite 8. This holiday tradition turns the museum into a winter wonderland with the miniature villages buried in snow and the shops, streets and vintage passenger trains aglow in holiday lighting and decorations. Santa will appear at the museum on December 14 and 21. Admission is \$15, free for children age 4 and under. Visit tcmmr.org or call 651-647-9628.

Exhibits

"Everything We've Ever Been, Everything We Are Right Now," an exhibit by multidisciplinary artist Nicholas Galanin, is on view through December 8 in the Law Warschaw Gallery in the Fine Arts Center at Macalester College. Galanin disrupts the definitions, limitations and representations of indigenous culture while celebrating its knowledge and aesthetics. Admission is free. Call 651-696-6279.

"History Is Not Here," paintings, drawings, photography, sculpture, book art, installation and video by 17 artists who reject history as a fixed category and look to alternative imagery to examine social, cultural and political issues, is on view through January 5 in

the Main Gallery of the Minnesota Museum of American Art, 350 N. Robert St. Presented in collaboration with the local Arab cultural organization Mizna, the exhibit is curated by Heba Y. Amin and Maymanah Farhat. Admission is free. Call 651-204-0700.

Experience nature's most toxic flora at the Bell Museum of Natural History, 2088 Larpenteur Ave. "Wicked Plants" introduces more than 100 species, providing a comprehensive overview of an obscure corner of the natural world with interactive displays. Learn how the most mundane foods can be poisonous under certain circumstances. Discover how plants and animals defend themselves with bad odors, annoying noises, bold patterns or weaponry. Produced by the North Carolina Arboretum, the exhibit will remain on view through January 5. Visit bellmuseum.umn.edu.

Handmade fiber art, everything from clothing and accessories to home decor and gifts, is being displayed for show and sale from now through December 24 in the Holiday Gallery Shop at the Minnesota Textile Center, 3000 University Ave. SE. in Minneapolis. Books, professional art supplies, fiber craft kits and other textile products may also be found in the shop. Artist trunk shows and demonstrations and hands-on activities will be offered during Meet the Maker Fests from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. every Saturday through the holiday season. The schedule includes Stitch Fest on November 23; Upcycle Fest, Friday, November 29; Needle Felting Fest, November 30; and Eco Fest, December 14. For shop hours, call 612-436-0464.

Raymond Avenue Gallery, 761 Raymond Ave., is presenting its sixth annual Yunomi Invitational through December 20. Thirty-eight ceramicists are displaying their version of the traditional Japanese handleless teacup. For gallery hours, call 651-644-9200.

"Caravan," 13 pieces by 31 international artists working collaboratively to address the humanitarian and political issues of immigration and the refugee crisis as a whole, will open with a public reception from 5-8 p.m. Thursday, November 21, in the galleries of the Art Center at Concordia University, 1301 Marshall Ave. Free and open to the public, the exhibit will remain on view from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday through December 13 or by appointment (email hunder@csp.edu).

Minnesota photographers Linda Brooks and Pao Houa Her are displaying their works through December 14 in the Catherine G. Murphy Gallery at St. Catherine University. Her is presenting her portraits of local Hmong Americans around the themes of displacement, geography and a yearning for home. Brooks, a former teacher at St. Paul Academy and Summit School, is showing images of heirlooms handmade by four generations of women in her family. Brooks will discuss her photos in the gallery at 7 p.m. Thursday, December 5. Admission is free. Visit gallery.stkate.edu.

"I Was A Stranger and You Welcomed Me," a new exhibit on the lasting importance of immigrants to the local church, is now on view in the lower level museum of the Cathedral of St. Paul. The exhibit delves more deeply into how the Cathedral itself is a monument to the immigrants who helped build it with its six chapels, known as the Shrines of Nations, representing the immigrant groups who settled Minnesota in the early 1900s — Italian, Irish, German, French Canadian, Eastern European and all others. The church's relationship to the Hmong-American community in St. Paul is also celebrated. Museum hours are noon-3 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays, noon-2:30 p.m. Thursdays, and 11 a.m.-noon on the first and third Sundays of the month. Call 651-228-1766.

"Elemental Entanglement," a multi-media exhibit that demonstrates how two artists



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using vastly different materials hone in on the essence of nature, will open with a public reception from 5-7 p.m. Thursday, November 21, in the North Gallery at Landmark Center. Kim Shuck is a poet, beadworker and textile artist. Elizabeth Jolly uses plant fiber to make sculpture that offers insights into the stories, mythologies and philosophies of various cultures. Their art will remain on view through January 5.

Do It Green! Minnesota will host its 14th annual Green Gifts Fair from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, November 23, at Midtown Global Market, 920 E. Lake St. Featured will be more than 85 vendors, umpteen educational booths and prizes, all of it focused on what is good for the natural environment. Live music, demonstrations and a silent auction will be part of the fun. Visit doitgreen.org.

Music

“Les Caractères de la Danse,” Baroque music written for dance and featuring the moves of Paige Whitley-Bauguess and Thomas Baird, will be presented by Lyra Baroque Orchestra at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, November 23, in Sundin Hall, 1531 Hewitt Ave. Baroque violinist Luis Otavio Santos will join Lyra in a program that includes Jean-Féry Rebel’s *Les Caractères de la Danse*, *La Fantaisie* and *Les Plaisirs Champêtres*, and Jean-Marie LeClair’s *Violin Concerto in D Minor* and *Violin Concerto in A Minor*. A \$20 workshop in Baroque dance will be offered by Whitley-Bauguess and Baird from 10 a.m.-noon that Saturday at Olivet Congregational Church, 1850 Iglehart Ave. A concert preview will be offered at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5-\$30. Visit lyrabaroque.org.

Chuck Suchy, a farmer, folksinger and guitarist born and bred in the blue hills of Mandan, North Dakota, will perform at 7:30 p.m. Friday, November 22, at Ginkgo



“Jazz & Romance.” Music by Clara Schumann, Nikolai Kapustin and Johannes Brahms will be performed by the Musical Offering at 3 p.m. Sunday, November 24, in Sundin Hall, 1531 Hewitt Ave. The concert will feature Schumann’s “Three Romances,” highlighting her genius as a pianist; a trio by Kapustin, whose jazz-inspired piano works were largely unknown until the fall of the Soviet Union; and Brahms’ masterpiece of chamber music, *Serenade No. 1*. Tickets are \$30, \$10 for students. Call 651-523-2459 or visit musicaloffering.org.

Coffeehouse, 721 N. Snelling Ave. Fiddler Tom Schaefer will join him on stage. Tickets are \$15. Call 651-645-2647.

Singer Connie Evingson will perform from the great American songbook in concert at 4 p.m. Sunday, November 24, at the Jungle Theater, 2951 Lyndale Ave. S. in Minneapolis. The program will trace popular music from 1899-1969, covering such styles as blues, ragtime, Tin Pan Alley, country, jazz, Broadway and folk by Scott Joplin, Duke Ellington, W.C. Handy, Hank Williams,

Meredith Wilson, Willie Nelson, Lieber & Stoller, Bob Dylan and others. Joining Evingson on stage will be pianist Jon Weber, sax player Dave Karr, bassist Gordy Johnson, and accordionist and steel guitarist Patrick Harison. Tickets are \$30. Call 612-822-7063.

The Twin Cities Music Lounge will present four Midwestern R&B artists in concert at 9:30 p.m. Saturday, November 30, at Can Can Wonderland, 755 N. Prior Ave. Brandon Trevon, Just Will and Loreda Rose will perform in a show emceed by Melody Waters

of The Juice Radio. Admission, open to those age 21 and older, is \$5.

The renowned organ duo of Raymond and Elizabeth Chenault will perform holiday favorites at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 3, on the 892-pipe Aeolian-Skinner organ on the Carlson Family Stage at Northrop Auditorium. Specialists in works written for four hands and four feet at one organ console, the Chenault Duo will offer a free master class at 10:30 a.m. November 30 at Northrop. Concert tickets are \$20. A reception will follow. Call 612-624-2345.

The original voice of *Riverdance*, singer Katie McMahon will return on Friday, December 6, with “Celtic Christmas,” a program of carols and stories and lively Irish dance that illuminate the innocence and wonder of children. The music will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the O’Shaughnessy at St. Catherine University. Joining her on stage will be Karen Mueller on autoharp and guitar, Zack Kline on fiddle, Norah Rendell on flutes, whistles and voice, percussionist Marc Anderson, singers Tim Jay and Everett Vass, the Corda Mor Irish dancers and the Minnesota Boychoir. Tickets are \$28 with discounts for students, seniors and military personnel. Call 651-690-6700.

“Sospiri di Natale,” Baroque music inspired by the Nativity of Jesus Christ, will be performed on December 6 and 7 by Sospiri. Singers Nerea Berraondo and Janna Kysilko and instrumentalists Phillip Rukavina, Bruce Jacobs, Dick Hensold and Joe Dolson will present vivacious guarachas, jacaras and villancicos to songs by such Italian composers as Monteverdi and Merula. The music begins at 7:30 p.m. Friday at St. Clement’s Episcopal Church, 901 Portland Ave., and 7:30 p.m. Saturday in the Art Gallery at Hennepin Methodist Church, 511 Groveland Ave. in Minneapolis. Tickets are \$15. Visit sospiri.org.

Support Minnesota farmers with Nothing But Hemp and Minny Grown

CBD and hemp products have exploded onto the scene across the U.S. in the last year, and conscientious customers can find themselves in a whirlwind without a tether to local businesses.

The surge in popularity isn’t surprising as many people who don’t smoke marijuana find in CBD a non-psychoactive, legal alternative with many of the same relaxing benefits. That’s why it’s important that Minnesotans know how they can support farmers from their state and area.

Nothing But Hemp opened some of its first locations in the broader Minneapolis-St. Paul metro area, from Lake Street in Uptown Minneapolis and on Grand Avenue in St. Paul to Forest Lake, Maplewood and Cloquet. Other licensees are located in Nevada, Florida and Wisconsin, but Minnesota holds firm roots with the team at Nothing But Hemp.

Minny Grown, an enterprise that combines the efforts of six Minnesota hemp farms, is a recent partner with Nothing But Hemp that will ensure visitors have options and education about how they can best support local entrepreneurs and family farms.

At Minny Grown’s Cannon Falls processing facility, a former peanut butter plant has

been converted to process huge amounts of Minnesota grown, Minnesota proud hemp and CBD products.

Hemp flower can be smoked in much the same way as marijuana flower, hemp plants can be converted into textiles and fabrics or even organic plastics, but it is by far most popular for its use in CBD oils and edibles.

Zach Rohr, the founder and CEO of Minny Grown and BZ Sciences CBD, said he focuses on organic full-spectrum oils and CBD isolates.

Rohr first connected with Steven Brown of Nothing But Hemp at the Minnesota Hemp Association, where he now sits as a board member. Both men’s Minnesota ties run deep and their approaches to hemp proved they were birds of a feather.

Minny Grown is revolutionary for its

local-first approach to hemp growing in Minnesota in a market crowded with national contenders from places like California and Colorado more known for cannabis. Still, Rohr said many have underestimated Minnesota’s capabilities.

Between the rich soil characteristics and the lack of need for irrigation, Minnesota offers serious benefits for hemp farmers despite its relatively short growing season.

That doesn’t mean the first harvest season this year was a breeze. Zach Rohr said the long hours in the hemp fields removing weeds by hand built up a sense of camaraderie between his team of growers and the others who contributed to Minny Grown.

Those shared hardships and successes shine brightly through BZ Sciences award-winning CBD isolates and full-spectrum oils, whether customers get them in spearmint, lemon-lime or the newly released pumpkin pie flavor (just in time for Thanksgiving!).

Given how difficult it was to learn entirely new forms of agriculture, Minnesota farmers have more than a little pride in the success of their efforts in 2019. To show them you share that pride, check out Minny Grown products at a Nothing But Hemp location near you today!



844 Grand Avenue, Suite 1 | Saint Paul | NothingButHemp.com | 651-330-9810

Sports



The Wright Call

By Dave Wright

Bidding farewell to an original

Bernard "Toots" Shor ran a legendary saloon in New York City in the 1940s and '50s. His regulars included a Who's Who of the political, musical and sports worlds, as well as lesser-known folks. All were welcome and all were subject to the same good-natured needling from Shor.

Igy Theisen, who died on November 4 at the age of 81, was probably the closest thing to Toots Shor we've ever seen in these parts. Igy and his family ran Lendway's Lounge from the 1930s until it closed in 2003. Although it was located just off the northeast corner of Dale Street and University Avenue, it never suffered from the crime and urban blight visited on the surrounding area.

The neighborhood included the Faust Theatre, once a revered first-run movie house that later became a porn palace until it was torn down in the '90s. The Belmont strip club was right next door to Lendway's. The stage talents at the Belmont frequently came into the restaurant to pick up dinner to go and head back to work, and they did so without much ado from Lendway's employees or customers.

After the Belmont became a police station, the same routine would occur: The cops came in, picked up their dinner and left. Occasionally, an officer would come into Lendway's with a patron who had been overserved and would instruct the bartender to find someone to drive the miscreant home. The final words to the inebriated patron went something like this: "I know where your car is parked and it better still be there when I go off duty in the morning."

There was a back room at Lendway's. When the state Legislature was in session, many a bill was hammered out there. Some of the deals took days to finalize, but that was fine with the proprietor because more than one legislator rented an apartment over the bar.

As was the case at Toots Shor's, sports figures often came to Lendway's. "I maintain that Igy was the original sports bar owner," said Billy Leitner, a former Central High School athlete who owns Billy's Victorian Bar on Thomas Avenue and Victoria Street.

Indeed, it seemed the televisions were always tuned to a sports event at Lendway's, and it was one of the first places in the Twin Cities to run shuttle buses to the Metrodome for Twins and Vikings games.

Though he was rarely behind the bar, Igy oversaw it all.

Igy's annual trips to spring training brought him in close contact with the Twins. As a result, Calvin Griffith and his

WRIGHT CALL ► 20

Vis swims to 7th straight state crown

BY BILL WAGNER

Visitation started out with a splash and went on to win its seventh straight state Class A swimming and diving championship on November 16 at the University of Minnesota Aquatic Center.

It was the 11th overall title for the Blazers, who led from start to finish in racking up 318 points. Hutchinson finished second with 250 points to earn silver for the third straight season. Delano and Sauk Centre tied for third at 145.

This year's championship victory started off in a slightly unusual manner, with Visitation winning an individual event in the finals for the first time since 2016. The first race held in the title round on Saturday, the 200-yard medley relay, was won by the quartet of seniors Kali Fischer, Elinor Glass and Ava Hoffman and freshman Lucy Berg with a time of 1:45.64.

Coach Nate Linscheid couldn't stress enough the importance of winning that first event with such a solid effort.

"Knowing that we don't normally win events that often...putting those points on the board was just amazing," he said.

The Blazers' remarkable depth enabled them to score points in every event except diving on the day. The team had three swimmers in the 200 individual



Visitation's 200-yard medley relay team of seniors Elinor Glass and Kali Fischer, freshman Lucy Berg and senior Ava Hoffman took first to help lead the Blazers to another state Class A swimming crown. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

relay and two in the 500 free. All told, they had 12 of their swimmers competing in the finals.

"We knew we were a good team coming in," Linscheid said, "but we still had to perform up to our expectations."

He said the Blazers knew that Hutchinson would be probably right on their heels, which was a good thing. Linscheid noted that over the past three seasons, the Blazers have gone 1-1-1 with Hutchinson in dual meets.

"Having that team so close behind really inspired us," Linscheid said. "We

knew we'd be OK if we didn't have something go very wrong."

The Blazers got second-place finishes from Fischer in the 200 individual medley, Berg in the 100 butterfly, and the 200 free and 400 free relays. Fischer also was third in the 100 backstroke.

In addition, Visitation got fourth-place finishes by Berg in the 200 individual medley, Hoffman in the 100 free and freshman Ella Passe in the 500 free.

Hutchinson gave it a go by winning seven events, but it simply did not have the depth of the Blazers.

Paleen tops field in state cross-country

BY BILL WAGNER

The Highland Park High School boys' and girls' cross-country teams excelled in their respective Class AA state meets on November 2 in Northfield.

Led by senior Oliver Paleen, who captured the individual crown, the boys took third place with a score of 135, trailing only Mounds View (86) and Eden Prairie (87). The Highland girls made it to state for the first time in more than 30 years and finished sixth with a score of 168.

These dual successes underscored what Scots coach Brad Moening told his runners at the beginning of the season: "It all starts with setting a goal and doing the work for it."

Highland finished with four all-state runners on its two teams. Leading the pack was Paleen, who placed 10th last year and was the first to cross the line for the boys this fall with a time of 15:25.2 in the 5K (3.1 miles). Just as he had all season, Paleen was inspired by the rugged competition around him, according to his coach.

"Oliver is a smart cookie," Moening

said. "He plans and prepares."

Paleen, who has been running for the Scots since he was an eighth-grader, beat senior Nicholas Scheller of Chanhassen (15:30) and senior A.J. Green of Eastview (15:32). Scheller was the highest returning qualifier from last year's meet and Green was considered a threat down the homestretch as a nationally ranked runner in the 800. But on the toughest hill of the course, with about 100 meters to go, Paleen pulled away from them both.

"We knew A.J. would be a factor,"

HIGHLAND XC ► 20

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This is my prayer:

*that your love may increase ever more and more
with knowledge and full insight,
to help you discern what is best.*

~ Philippians 1:9-10, Second Sunday of Advent

Advent Evening Prayer

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet & Consociates invite you to join us this Advent for Holden Evening Prayer.

Sunday, December 1, 8, 15 and 22 @ 4:30 PM

Our Lady of the Presentation Chapel, 1884 Randolph Ave., St. Paul.
Light refreshments will follow.

19◀ WRIGHT CALL

family, as well as sports media types, were regular visitors at Lendway's. This went on long after Griffith sold the team. Griffith would often sit at a round table near the back door. Regulars would walk by and say, "Hi, Calvin," and perhaps offer a thought or two on how the ballclub was faring. But there was never a critical word directed Calvin's way.

The same was true for the politicians who came in for refreshments after a long day at the Legislature. There were occasional offenders of the established protocol who needed to be pulled aside and told the unspoken rules of the joint—namely, it was a place to relax and enjoy yourself. Newcomers either got the message, or were instructed to find another place to hang out.

Igy had a constant smile on his face, and often a groaner of a joke to go with it. He was the epitome of a guy who saw the glass as half full. When he was diagnosed with the cancer that eventually claimed his life, the prognosis was that it would be only a matter of a couple of weeks. Igy brushed aside the bad news, got out of the house when he could and lived almost eight months, smiling right up to the end.

Lendway's stories are legion. Here are just a couple of them. In 1991, a freelance writer named Neal Karlen popped in one night. Karlen had been assigned to write a travel piece about St. Paul for the *New York Times*. He was looking for a place that insiders knew about, but that the general public didn't. A friend suggested he go to Lendway's and order the Igy Burger, its version of a cheeseburger.

Karlen did and was charmed. When his story came out, he listed four must-go places for food and drink in St. Paul. The first three seemed obvious to locals—Mickey's Diner, the St. Paul Grill and the Lexington. The fourth was

Lendway's. One day, the *Times*' food editor called Lendway's asking for the ingredients for the Igy Burger. It was lunch time and Igy happened to answer the phone. "I've got customers. I don't have time to talk to you," he told the editor and hung up.

Fortunately, the food editor was undeterred. A call back produced the desired results.

In 1993, the St. Paul Saints brought in Joe Hauser from his home in Wisconsin to be honored at a Sunday afternoon baseball game. Sixty years earlier, Hauser had set an American Association record with 69 home runs for the Minneapolis Millers. But where do you take a down-home 94-year-old to dinner? The St. Paul Grill didn't seem like his style. It was decided to give Lendway's a shot.

Hauser came in the door, looked at the bartender and said, "Give me your best cigar and your best martini." The bartender smiled. "Cigars are a quarter," he said. "Good," Hauser replied. "Anything more than that isn't worth the paper it's wrapped in."

As for the martini, the bartender just smiled again and said to Hauser, "At your age, sir, you can have it anyway you want."

When Lendway's final night came in 2003, the overflow crowd spilled out into the parking lot to bid it a fond farewell.

St. Paul Saints co-owner Mike Veeck once said of his late, legendary father Bill, "You never heard a sad Bill Veeck story." So it was with Igy.

Every Igy Theisen tale told made folks smile at his wake and funeral, where the laughs outnumbered the tears. The words here hardly do his memory justice.

Dave Wright is at dwright53@msn.com.

19◀ HIGHLAND XC

Moening said. "On that hill, Oliver probably put 5 meters on A.J. in about 2 seconds."

Moening noted that after a while, a person runs out of superlatives to describe Paleen. "He's won every race this season," he said, including the prestigious Roy Griak Invitational.

Also named all-state for the Scots were seniors Calvin Boone (17th at 16:00) and Conor Gregg Escalante (20th at 16:04) for the boys, and sophomore Molly Moening (sixth at 18:19.5) for the girls.

Coach Moening saluted his daughter for her solid performance. "She took some kids on the same hill where Oliver made his move," he said.

The coach pointed to the season-long contributions of seventh-graders Ellie Moore and Hanna Koch. He also said senior Caroline "Hammer" Harding served as



Oliver Paleen heads toward the finish line at state.

the inspirational leader for the girls, while senior Marcus Hansen served the same role for the boys.

Sports Shorts

The St. Paul Ice Fishing & Winter Sports Show will feature more than 190 exhibits of products and services dedicated to ice fishing and other winter sports fans from December 6-8 at St. Paul's RiverCentre. More than 25,000 people are expected to attend. Tickets ar \$5-\$12, and free for children 5 and younger. Visit stpaulicefishingshow.com.

Amelia Hornseth, a 2017 graduate of Nova Classical Academy and now a junior on the Luther College cross-country team, has been named to the 2019 American Rivers Confer-

ence Fall Sports All-Academic Team. Hornseth is majoring in neuroscience and has a GPA of 3.65. She is the daughter of Gary and Kirsten Hornseth of St. Paul.

The North Star Ski Touring Club is offering Nordic skiers of all ages a free session to improve their core strength at 7 p.m. Tuesday, December 10, at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 104 S. Snelling Ave. Physical therapist Melissa Shirriff will discuss what "core" means, how to strengthen those muscles and why they are needed for skiing and other athletic endeavors.

All-session ticket packages are now available for the seventh annual 2020 Frozen Faceoff of the National Collegiate Hockey Conference. The Frozen Facoff will be held on Friday and Saturday, March 20-21, at Xcel Energy Center. The cost of the packages starts at \$60. Team practices will be open to the public on Thursday, March 19, followed by a Fan Skate. There will also be a Fan Fest featuring music, interactive games, food and drink during the two days of the tournament. For information, visit ticketmaster.com or NCHCHockey.com/tickets.

District Council News

Highland Park

highlanddistrictcouncil.org • 651-695-4005

Ford update meeting—Ryan Companies will present a neighborhood update on its plans for redeveloping the Ford site at 7 p.m. Thursday, November 21, in the Jeanne d'Arc Auditorium at St. Catherine University. Information will be shared regarding the recently announced redevelopment proposal for the site. Ryan will also discuss the results of a parks survey and upcoming opportunities for engagement related to parks programming and construction coordination plans.

Highland Park Turkey Trot—The annual Highland Park Turkey Trot, including a 1K "Gobble Wobble" at 8 a.m. and a 5K walk/run at 8:30 a.m., will be held on Thanksgiving morning, November 28, beginning at Highland Catholic School, 2017 Bohland Ave. The cost is \$25-\$35 for the 5K, \$10 for the Wobble. Tiffany Sports Lounge will provide free breakfast for all participants and a free Bloody Mary for those who are 21 and older. Visit highlandparkturkeytrot.com.

Night of Peace and Goodwill—The Highland District Council invites Jews, Christians and Muslims in the neighborhood to gather for a Night of Peace and Goodwill from 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, December 4, in the cafeteria of Highland Park High School, 1015 S. Snelling Ave. The family-friendly event will include a panel discussion with speakers from each faith. There will also be a potluck supper. For more information, contact the HDC.

Upcoming meetings—Community Development Committee, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, November 19; and Community Engagement Committee, 7 p.m. Monday, December 2. Both meetings will be held at the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy.

Macalester-Groveland

macgrove.org • 651-695-4000

Talking about transit—The Macalester-Groveland Community Council's Transportation Committee will hold its next meeting at 6:30 p.m. Monday, November 25, in the Harmon

Room of the Macalester College library. The meeting is expected to include a discussion about students and transit, permit parking and proposed changes to the Route 63 bus line on Grand Avenue. The agenda will be available on the council's website a week prior to the meeting.

Join the snow team—The community council is seeking volunteers to help keep its organics recycling drop-off site on Grand Avenue free from snow and ice this winter. Learn more or sign up by emailing mgcc@macgrove.org.

Order a century plaque—The owners of homes and commercial buildings in Macalester-Groveland that were built in 1925 or before are eligible to purchase an engraved plaque for their buildings. Orders received by November 30 will be filled before the holidays. For details, visit macgrove.org/100years.

Mac-Grove T-shirts—Show your neighborhood spirit by ordering a Macalester-Groveland T-shirt. They cost \$10-\$12 and may be ordered at macgrove.org/2019tshirt.

Board meetings—All meetings of the community council's board of directors are now being streamed live via Facebook beginning at 6:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month.

Upcoming meetings—Housing and Land Use Committee, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 20, Groveland Recreation Center; and Transportation Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, November 25, Macalester College. No committee meetings will be held in December.

Union Park

unionparkdc.org • 651-645-6887

Board election—The Union Park District Council held its annual meeting and board elections on November 6 at the Concordia University Technology Center. Newly elected to the board are Claire Warren in Grid 4, Mark Martinez in Grid 2, Jilla Nadimi in Grid 8 and Bruce Corrie as the Concordia University representative.

Upcoming meetings—Environment and Parks Committee, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 20, Merriam Park Recreation Center, 2000 St Anthony Ave.; Neighborhood Involvement Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, November 25, UPDC

office, 1821 University Ave., Suite 308; board of directors, 7 p.m. Wednesday, December 4, Otto Hall at Episcopal Homes, 1840 University Ave.; and Transportation Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, December 9, 1821 University Ave., Suite 127.

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

West Seventh

fortroadfederation.org • 651-298-5599

Board update—At their meeting on November 11, the board of directors of the West Seventh/Fort Road Federation voted to support a variance request for an additional 4 feet in height to build a single-family house at 697 Orrin St. It also supported a variance request for building an accessory dwelling close to the property line at 273 W. Goodhue St. where an existing garage is, and waiving the 45-day notice for liquor licenses at Tori Ramen's new location at 603 W. Seventh St.

The board also heard a presentation from the Northland Real Estate Group about a proposed seven-story building at 337 W. Seventh St. that would include 153 apartment units above two levels of above-ground parking and retail space on the first floor. The board agreed to support the project, including plans to rezone the site, construct a building up to 75 feet high and vacate the alley.

Upcoming meeting—The board of directors will hold its next meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, December 9, at the federation's office on the second floor of 882 W. Seventh St.

Join a committee—The Fort Road Federation has three standing committees: Transportation and Land Use, Fund-raising and Development, and Community Engagement and Outreach. For information about joining a committee, call the office or email emily@fortroadfederation.org.

Stay in touch—People are invited to "like" the West Seventh/Fort Road Federation on Facebook and subscribe to its electronic newsletter on its website. It also is now on Instagram and Twitter @West7thFortRoad.

Classifieds

LEGAL NOTICES

OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE, CERTIFICATE OF EXISTENCE AND REGISTRATION I, Steve Simon, Secretary of State of Minnesota, do certify that: The entity listed below was filed under the chapter of Minnesota Statutes listed below with the Office of the Secretary of State on the date listed below and that this entity or filing is registered at the time this certificate has been issued. Name: Cascade Therapy Group, LLC. Date Filed: 05/20/2019. File Number: 1085703000023. Minnesota Statutes, Chapter: 333 Home Jurisdiction: Minnesota. This certificate has been issued on: 10/21/2019.

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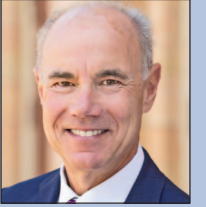
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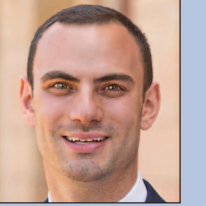
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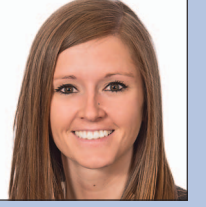
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Enjoy carefree living in this sun-splashed 2BR, 2BA unit at "Lot 270." Amenities include hardwood floors, granite countertops, stainless steel appliances. "Juliet" balcony, heated parking, city views & location! 270 - 4th Street E #309. *click on www.teamedelstein.com

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89 KENT ST #5
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STATELY STONE MASTERPIECE!
Truly magnificent 6BR, 5BA features modern updates paired with original grandeur. Rich woodwork, gorgeous hardwood, stained glass, 5-fireplaces. Two story library, holiday-sized formal dining, dream kitchen. 314 Dayton Avenue. *click on www.teamedelstein.com

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651-270-1667 • \$698,000



1742 SARTELL AVENUE
This move-in ready rambler features 3BR's, and 2BA's on large .28 acre lot. Recent updates include maintenance-free exterior, newer windows, updated kitchen, brand new lower level family room carpet, and new water heater!

MORAGHAN DeROSIA
952-486-3697



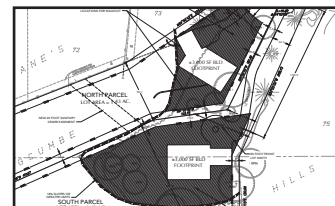
421 SUMMIT AVENUE #2, SAINT PAUL MN 55102
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2130 & 2134 Lower St Dennis: Two fabulous building sites in this unique wooded site. Each lot is 1.43 acres offering a fairly large building pad.

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1314 WATSON
Surprisingly spacious is this 1940's Cape Cod. Located in demand Highland Park, this 4 bedroom, 2 full baths, 2 car garage home has it all! Quality updates. Walk to simply everything! Contact Moraghan for details.

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QUALITY ONE LEVEL LIVING!
Walkability factor a "10" for this 3BR, 2 BA mid-century rambler owned by the same family and lovingly maintained for the last 50 years. Beautiful hardwoods and extremely spacious. LL family room with wet bar. 60' wide lot and no alley! 1931 Saunders.

LOLLY MCNEELY SALMEN
612-810-4138 • \$329,900



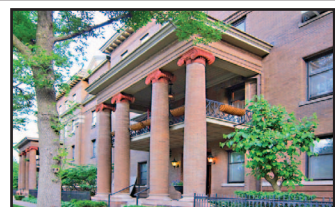
NEW MACALESTER GROVELAND LIST!
Great attention to detail abounds in this 3 bedroom, 2 bath extraordinary two story. Beautiful mahogany woodwork along with newer kitchen, baths, lower level and idyllic back yard gardens and patio. Location, location! 1876 Princeton.

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Beautiful '20's 4BR, 3BA 2-story lovingly maintained and updated by the same family for over 60 years! All period charm intact with stunning hrdwd flrs, corner cabinets and crown moldings, main flr FR and massive master suite. Highly sought after Macalester Groveland location.

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438 PORTLAND AVE #6
Fabulous Ramsey Hill condo has been completely renovated top to bottom. Cooks kitchen with Viking Stove and dishwasher, custom cabinets and counter tops. 2 new bathrooms. All new electrical and plumbing, refinished hardwood floors, air conditioning, garage parking.

SARAH KINNEY
651-282-9621 • \$548,500



2085 JEFFERSON
Mac Groveland home is on the bike route w/3BR, 3BA, dbl garage, hwd flrs, natural wdwrk, FP, modern light fixtures. Large patio in a lush garden setting. Walking distance to the river, less than 5 minute drive to Whole foods, Lunds & Byerlys, Highland shopping center.

SARAH KINNEY
651-282-9621 • \$450,000



570 LAUREL AVE TRIPLEX
Rare Opportunity to own a rehabbed Triplex in St Paul's historic Hill District. Remodeled as three handsome condo units. First and second floor have two bedrooms and one bath. Third floor is the remodeled attic with one bedroom and one bath.

SARAH KINNEY
651-282-9621 • \$665,900



79 WESTERN AVE #203
This 2BR, 2BA condo features a spacious master BR suite with private master BA and walk in closet, in unit laundry with washer & dryer and heated underground parking. You will love the premier location, close to charming shops of Grand Ave.

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