

Local officials brace for battle against destructive ash borer

Hard-to-stop pests already found in 59 trees in St. Paul

By Jane McClure

The discovery of the emerald ash borer in St. Paul has sparked a search for the pest that has extended into the Merriam Park and Macalester-Groveland neighborhoods. A plan to slow the spread of the insects could be released as early as this week.

The insects' presence has sparked a flood of calls to city and state officials. More than 80 people turned out for a meeting on May 20 in St. Anthony Park to discuss the extent of the problem. State and local officials are asking property owners with ash trees to hold off on removing the trees until a disposal plan is in place. It is likely that much of the wood will be burned by District Energy for its downtown heating and cooling system.

Meanwhile, transportation of firewood has been banned in Ramsey and Hennepin counties, and Ramsey County compost sites are no longer giving away wood chips.

The emerald ash borer, which is about a half inch long and named for its iridescent green color, was discovered in mid-May in the Hampden Park area of the St. Anthony Park neighborhood, northeast of I-94 and Highway 280. That prompted a search within a two-mile radius by inspectors from the Minnesota

Department of Agriculture, Department of Natural Resources, Extension Services and St. Paul Parks and Recreation. The search began on May 19 and was to wrap up last week with a tree survey and the trapping of insects. After the area is surveyed and the extent of the problem is determined, the next steps will be outlined. A total of 59 infested trees had been discovered in St. Paul as of May 28.

"We know we can't stop it," said Minnesota Department of Agriculture entomologist Mark Abrahamson. "It's impossible to stop it in its tracks."

City officials are bracing themselves for a repeat of the 1970s, when Dutch elm disease devastated many of the trees on St. Paul's boulevards and in its parks. "This is probably going to change my life for the next five years," said Rich Lallier, operations manager for St. Paul Parks and Recreation.

The insects were first discovered by a private tree service, said Geir Friisoe, director of the Department of Agriculture's Plant Protection Division. That surprised state officials, whose focus has been in southeastern Minnesota because the insects are already in western Wisconsin.

Still, Friisoe said state and local officials are ready. "We've been planning for this day for many, many years," he said.

Emerald ash borers have killed millions of

EMERALD ASH BORER ►3



Grand Old Day is here again

Sisters Kaylie, 6, left, and Annika Youngberg, 4, cooled off with frozen strawberry smoothies at last year's Grand Old Day. For information on the 36th annual celebration of summer, see the eight-page special section beginning on page 33. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Residents object to Walgreens' plans for Ford Parkway corner

Opponents fear new store could drive nearby Snyders out of business

By Jane McClure

Many area residents apparently oppose the idea of a new Walgreens being built in Highland Village, but there may be little they can do to stop it. That was the message more than 100 people heard during a meeting of the Highland District Council's Community Development Committee on May 19.

A campaign initiated by Snyders, 2083 Ford

Pkwy., drew many Walgreens foes to the meeting, about half of them from across the Ford Bridge in Minneapolis. Snyders employees have gathered more than 2,500 signatures on a petition protesting the Walgreens project.

Walgreens wants to demolish the building housing Party City and the now-closed Oasis Market at the northeast corner of Ford Parkway and Finn Street. In their place, Walgreens wants to build a 9,483-square-foot store. The new store would abut Snyders' parking lot.

Three site plans were presented at the meeting by Walgreens' architect, John Kohler of Semper Development. All had the new store on the east side of the property. One plan had a separate, 450-square-foot retail building at

Ford and Finn, while the other two had a bus shelter at that corner. Having the retail building would require a parking variance, Kohler said. Without it, there would be room for 43 parking spaces, which would not require a variance.

The new store would be less than half the size of other local Walgreens, Kohler said. Walgreens has a purchase agreement for part of the property and a long-term lease-to-buy agreement for the rest.

Some of those who attended the meeting asked why Highland Village needed a Walgreens and expressed concern that it could drive Snyders out of business. Snyders, a regional chain based in Minnetonka, has been

in business since 1928. The company has struggled recently, announcing in February that it would close or sell 19 of its 47 corporate stores. Snyders also has 30 independently owned stores. The Highland Village store is corporately owned and has been located at two different sites on Ford Parkway for the past 38 years.

Walgreens was founded in 1901 in Chicago and has 6,629 stores nationwide, including one at Randolph and Snelling avenues and another at 46th Street and Hiawatha Avenue. According to Walgreens' website, the company plans to have 7,000 stores by 2010.

WALGREENS ►6

CLOSE TO HOME



Sibley site is 99 ►11

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Protests sound over Cultural STAR allocation

Council shifts dollars earmarked for arts to balance library budget

By JANE MCCLURE

Despite the protests from several cultural groups, the St. Paul City Council voted 4-2 on May 26 to use \$178,000 in the city's Cultural Sales Tax Revitalization (STAR) dollars to balance its 2009 library budget.

The shift was outlined in the city's 2009 budget adopted last December, but has become an issue as council members and the mayor's administration struggle to balance both the 2009 and 2010 city budgets.

Council members Lee Helgen and Dave Thune, who voted against the shift, led an unsuccessful effort to find another source of funding for the library. Thune then tried to take \$25,500 out of the library allocation and redistribute it to other Cultural STAR projects, but that effort also failed and the allocations were approved as proposed by the mayor's administration.

The city doles out about \$1.5 million in STAR grants to art and cultural groups each year in biannual funding cycles. The money comes from St. Paul's extra half-percent sales tax.

Joe Spencer, who oversees cultural programs for Mayor Chris Coleman, said the spring 2009 funding cycle for cultural programs was one of the most competitive he has seen. The Cultural STAR board received 54 requests totaling \$2.43 million and recommended 33 projects worth \$567,966.

The \$178,000 library allocation was proposed by Coleman. He also trimmed many of the board's recommendations, bringing the total approved by the City Council to \$655,091.

Helgen and Thune said using STAR money to balance the library budget hurts the cultural groups that rely on it. "The problem is, some of these organizations are so small, a 10 to 20 percent cut could kill them," Thune said. "This



John Raymond lit up the stage with his trumpet during the Selby Jazz Fest, which is recommended to receive Cultural STAR funds. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

will put some of the smaller organizations out of business."

The use of Cultural STAR money for the city's libraries was opposed by the Arts and Culture Partnership, which includes several organizations and was formed in 2007 to raise more than \$50 million to provide an endowment for the Ordway and rebuild its 306-seat McKnight Theatre. Last fall, the City Council approved \$300,000 per year for the next 10 years in Cultural STAR funds toward that effort.

"We're pleased that our voice was heard (by Thune and Helgen)," said SteppingStone Theatre managing director Ross Willets, who is a member of the partnership. He said the group will continue to advocate against the use of STAR money to balance the city's general fund. "We think that sets a bad precedent," he said.

Use of Cultural STAR money for city operations is troubling, Thune said, because of the promises made to cultural groups when the extra half-percent sales tax was first proposed in 1991. The city already uses \$3.5 million per year in Neighborhood STAR money to pay for capital improvements. Thune said the May 26 vote was a continuation of the trend to raid STAR for city operating expenses.

"There will be no STAR money com-

ing back to the community—period," he said. "That's not what we created the STAR program for. This money was never to be used to balance the city budget."

Other council members said the city's intent was clear when the 2009 budget was adopted, adding that they have few other options. "We're in very, very difficult budget times and we need to maintain flexibility," said council member Russ Stark.

"Honestly, there has to be some recognition of the reality we're in these days," said council member Kathy Lantry.

Of the 54 Cultural STAR grant requests, only a handful came from the area served by the *Villager*. The CSPS Hall on West 7th Street received \$18,480 toward a fire sprinkler system. The Highland Business Association received \$5,460 to bring the Naked Stage theater company to this summer's Highland Fest. Penumbra Theater received \$21,000 for theater renovations. The Selby Area Community Development Corporation received \$6,300 for its annual jazz festival. SteppingStone Theatre received \$10,080 toward a collaborative project with a dance theater group.

Local requests for Cultural STAR funds that were turned down include those from ArtStart (\$10,000) and the Highland Friendship Club (\$15,224).

Local capital improvement projects ranked

By JANE MCCLURE

More than 70 people attended a public hearing on May 26 to hear the St. Paul Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) Committee present its rankings for 150 projects competing for funding in 2010-2011. The committee will vote on its final recommendations on June 8 before sending them on to Mayor Chris Coleman and the City Council for review as part of the city's 2010 budget process.

Much of the testimony at the public hearing came from people who oppose the city's plans to replace the Como Park Pool and from people who want to see a combined community center and library in the Payne-Maryland area. More than a dozen people also showed up to support funding for Fitzgerald Park in downtown St. Paul. The pool replacement and Payne-Maryland project failed to make the cut. Fitzgerald Park is in line to get \$2.1 million.

The CIB Committee is recommending support for 57 projects as well as 40 annual maintenance programs. At this point, it appears that only 10 projects in the area served by the *Villager* are in line for funding.

Three of the projects relate to the Cen-

tral Corridor light-rail transit line. They include streetscape improvements (tied for sixth), with \$500,000 recommended in 2010 and \$1.5 million in 2011; completion of north-south sidewalks linking to the Central Corridor (tied for seventh), with \$175,000 in 2011; and off-street parking improvements (tied for eighth), with \$175,000 in 2010 and \$175,000 in 2011.

Here is how the other area projects were ranked by the CIB Committee:

- Hamline Avenue Bridge replacement over Ayd Mill Road (tied for second) would receive \$450,000 in 2010 and \$450,000 in 2011. The city would also seek other funds for the \$4.9 million project.

- Palace Recreation Center's renovation and expansion (tied for eighth) would get \$150,000 in 2010 and \$215,000 in 2011.

- Bicycle lanes and other bike-related improvements on Prior Avenue in Merriam Park and Hamline-Midway (tied for 14th) were recommended to get \$53,000 in 2011.

- Planning for future improvements to Merriam Park (tied for 15th) was penciled in for \$64,000 in 2010.

- Bike lanes on Jefferson Avenue in Macalester-Groveland and the West

End (tied for 15th) would get \$250,000 in 2010. Transit for Livable Communities has offered to match that amount.

- Reconstruction of Fairview Avenue from Randolph to St. Clair avenues (20th) was recommended to get \$1.6 million in 2010 and \$525,000 in future years.

- Reconstruction of Fairview Avenue from St. Clair to Summit avenues (24th) would get \$1.6 million in 2010 and \$525,000 in future years.

Local projects that were not recommended include continued renovation of the Highland Park Pool and bathhouse, renovation of the Highland Pavilion and the Highland National Golf Course clubhouse, streetscape improvements on Western Avenue, West 7th boulevard trees, renovation of the Hillcrest Recreation Center/Highland Library, Marshall Avenue median work in Merriam Park, off-leash dog parks, Shepard Road reconstruction between I-35E and Highway 5, improvements to the Elway Street entrance to Crosby Farm Park, reconstruction of the Grotto Street stairs, Grand Avenue traffic calming and street lights, and Selby Avenue streetcar tunnel restoration.

1 ◀ EMERALD ASH BORER

trees in eastern U.S. states since being discovered in Michigan almost a decade ago. The insects are believed to have been transported here from China in shipping crates.

The condition of the diseased trees here indicates the borers could have been here for five years, Abrahamson said. "The insect is hard to find and you never quite know where it is," he said. It is the borer's larvae that actually kill the trees.

State officials estimate that there are about 900 million ash trees in Minnesota. It is unclear how many of them are in the two-mile radius or in the St. Paul as a whole. Cy Kosel, natural resources manager for St. Paul Parks and Recreation, figures that about one-third of the city's 40,000 boulevard trees and one-fourth of the 100,000 trees in city parks are ash. An unknown number of ash are on private property.

The day before the borers were discovered in St. Paul, the city's Parks and Recreation Commission discussed the insects and the city's control plans. Though the control plans are current and being coordinated with the state, the city's overall tree plan has not been extensively update since the 1970s. That update has started and may be accelerated due to the discovery of the emerald ash borers.

"Starting in the 1970s, ashes were widely planted as an alternative to elms," Kosel said. However, the city stopped planting ash trees about five years ago due to concerns about ash borers, said city forester Chris Bache. "In that way, we're ahead of the game, he said.

Still, he and retired city forester T.K. Walling said that there are entire areas of the city where the boulevard trees are ash, including areas in Highland Park, Como Park and the East Side. Many of those trees are near the end of their lives,



The emerald ash borer (pictured) is about a half inch long and named for its iridescent green color. Its larvae kill ash trees by tunneling under the bark.

making them more vulnerable to pests.

The challenge for St. Paul and other cities is to deal with the emerald ash borers at a time of tight resources, said Parks and Recreation director Mike Hahm. "If there's a bad outbreak, we'll pretty much have to cease doing everything else" to deal with the diseased trees, he said. The city will have to weigh whether it is more cost-effective to treat the trees or cut them down. Either way, Hahm warned, the costs could overwhelm city resources.

The 2009 Minnesota Legislature did approve \$2 million to help cities address diseased trees, said Senator Ellen Anderson. The money comes from the Legacy Act.

Another worry is that the borers will attract another kind of pest—people trying to make a profit from the problem. Bob Fitch, director of the Minnesota Nursery and Landscape Association, said area residents should not deal with people who sell trees or offer tree removal and insect treatment services door-to-door.

"Whenever we see a pest outbreak like this, we see the woodies," Fitch said, referring to people who go to woods, dig up trees and try to sell them, which further increases the risk of spreading insects and disease.

Several of those attending the meeting on May 20 asked about protecting ash trees from the borers. Treatments can cost \$50 to \$200 per application, Fitch said, depending on the size of the tree. A

tree professional will know if a tree can survive longer with treatment or if it is already too late.

Lallier said the city has not decided whether it will treat its ash trees or will allow home owners to inject ash trees on their boulevards, which has been allowed with elms. However, state officials warned that injections will only slow the disease, not eradicate it.

Emerald ash borers attack green, white black and blue ash trees, with the green and white varieties being the most common in Minnesota. Mountain ash and prickly ash are not true ash trees and will not fall victim to the borer.

One of the easiest ways to recognize mature green or white ashes is by their diamond-patterned bark. Ash trees may also be recognized by their compound leaves, with as many as 11 leaflets on one stem. The leaves may or may not have toothed edges.

Because the borers infest the trees beneath the bark, they are hard to see at first. One sign of infestation is thinning leaves at the tree's top, before the tree loses all of its leaves. Cracks in the bark and the presence of woodpeckers are another sign, as is a tiny D-shaped hole where borers enter the bark. When the bark of an infected tree is peeled off, squiggly patterns left by the larvae can be seen on the trunk.

For more information, visit the Department of Agriculture website at www.mda.mn.us or call 651-201-6684.

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Governor leapfrogs legislative impasse over state budget

Pawlenty rejects DFL plan for tax increases, says he'll cut spending through unallotment

By KEVIN DRISCOLL

Minnesotans will have to wait to find out just how the state will spend its money over the next two years. After close to five months of debate, the DFL-controlled House and Senate approved a biennial budget bill on May 18 that Governor Tim Pawlenty promptly vetoed. It was an acrimonious end to what seven-term incumbent Representative Michael Paymar called "the most challenging session I've ever experienced."

"We began the session knowing that budget cuts would have to be made," said Paymar (DFL-District 64B), referring to the \$4.8 billion state budget deficit projected for the two years beginning July 1. "But we also had hoped for a balanced approach, including some tax increases, government reform and budgetary changes that provided a stable source of revenue in the future."

Paymar accused the Republican governor of refusing to compromise with the DFL majority in the House and Senate. Pawlenty, for his part, had warned DFLers that he would not accept any tax increases, especially in these tough economic times.

The budget bill passed by the House and Senate contained nearly \$1 billion in tax increases, including a new 9 percent tax bracket for couples with annual incomes of more than \$250,000, an increased tax on alcohol and a new tax on credit card companies charging interest rates of more than 15 percent. The idea, according to Senator Richard Cohen (DFL-District 64), was to make up through new taxes the \$1 billion in revenue that Pawlenty proposed raising by selling bonds that the state would have to pay back over the next 20 years.

This isn't the first time the Legislature has adjourned without a balanced budget. However, this

time, Pawlenty said, there will be no special session to overcome the impasse. Instead, he said, he will balance the budget through line-item vetoes and unallotment, unilaterally cutting money from various programs already appropriated by the Legislature.

"The basic responsibility of the Legislature is to responsibly pass a balanced budget," Pawlenty said on the day after the session ended, "and the DFL failed. They spent \$34 billion when they only had \$31 billion available. But politics as usual around this place is over. We're not going to have a special session or a state government shutdown."

Pawlenty used his unallotment authority in January when he cut \$271.4 million from various appropriations to help address a \$426.4 million shortfall in the state's 2008-2009 budget. The cuts affected local government aid to cities and counties, various human service programs, higher education and various funds not yet spent by state agencies. Those entities can expect more of the same for the 2010-2011 biennium, according to Cohen.

Pawlenty spokesperson Brian McClung denied that the governor has any preconceptions of where his budget axe will fall. "The governor has said he will use executive actions to bring the state budget into balance," McClung said. "That includes the governor's unallotment authority. Our administration will be looking across state government to find areas that can be reduced."

Pawlenty vetoed 30 of the 179 bills passed by the Legislature this session (22 full vetoes and eight line-item vetoes), according to McClung. Among the vetoed bills were sweeping changes to state election procedures, including more early voting, revised absentee balloting and an August primary election; an enhanced anti-bullying measure for public schools; the legalization of marijuana for medical purposes;



A view of the state Capitol from inside the Minnesota History Center.

and the funding of a new mediation process between homeowners and lenders prior to mortgage foreclosure proceedings.

Pawlenty did sign a bill this session that protected health care coverage for 113,000 Minnesotans on MinnesotaCare, according to Cohen. However, 35,000 others, "including many who are on welfare or can't afford MinnesotaCare, will lose their health care coverage," Cohen said, "and state nursing home facilities will see severe cuts."

Due to Pawlenty's veto of the higher education bill, "we'll see higher tuition rates at the University of Minnesota and state colleges and universities," Cohen said. However, thanks to federal stimulus funding, the budget cuts will be a relatively modest 2 percent at the University of Minnesota and 1 percent for the

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system.

Despite the budget impasse, state legislators across the *Villager* area chalked up some successes for the 2009 session.

Paymar was the chief author of a public safety finance bill that the governor signed. Though the state deficit forced \$60 million in cuts to that appropriation, Paymar said, "we did provide needed funding for the courts and public defenders, a small increase to the state Department of Corrections...and we shielded battered women's and sexual assault programs and the Department of Human Rights from big cuts." Paymar also authored a bill increasing penalties for sex traffickers that the governor signed.

Representative Rick Hansen (DFL-District 39A), one of two

House members on the Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council, helped draft a plan for spending revenue from the new Legacy Amendment and its 0.375 percent sales tax approved by voters last fall.

The statewide sales tax is expected to raise \$398.5 million in the coming two years for the state's natural and cultural resources, including \$65 million for a Parks and Trails Fund, \$87.5 million for an Outdoor Heritage Fund, \$151 million for a Clean Water Fund and \$95 million for an Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

Hansen also helped shepherd a bill into law this session that directs the state Department of Natural Resources to draft new rules to govern redevelopment along the metropolitan stretch of the Mississippi River from Dayton to Hastings.

Senator Patricia Torres Ray (DFL-District 62) chaired the Legacy Amendment's Parks and Trails Subcommittee this spring. "I truly believe we crafted a fantastic piece of legislation that will really make Minnesotans proud," she said.

Representative Carlos Mariani (DFL-District 65B) called the passage and signing of the K-12 education bill "a big story because, even in the present economic circumstances, we didn't cut school funding."

Representative Erin Murphy (DFL-District 64A) authored several bills that became law this spring, including a measure addressing the licensing and accessibility of flu vaccines and the creation of a state Department of Revenue electronic citizen notification system for any changes in sales and use taxes.

Murphy acknowledged Pawlenty's constitutional authority to make unallotments. However, she added, "I think his use of unallotment in this way is an expansion of gubernatorial authority. If allowed to stand, it will erode the balance of power between the executive and legislative branches of state government."

According to Murphy, Pawlenty's unilateral approach begs the question, "Why would any governor work with the legislative branch to balance the budget?"



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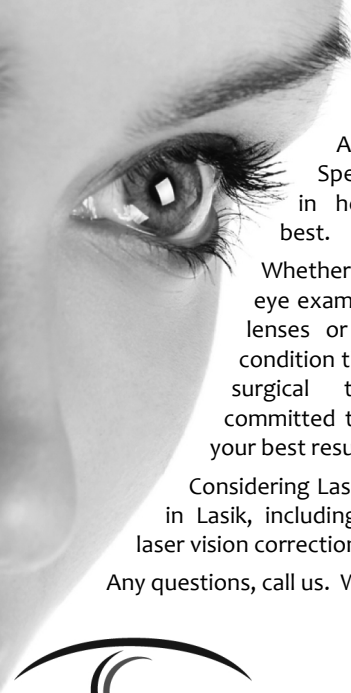
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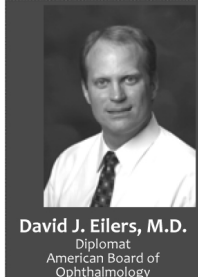
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With help from teacher Hannah Edwards, Longfellow kindergartner Chanella Eason and her classmates are tutored in the computer lab using Kidpix. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Longfellow parents are briefed on proposed closing of school

School district officials answer a lot of what-ifs

BY KEVIN DRISCOLL

The 50 parents and teachers who attended a May 20 meeting at Longfellow Elementary School appeared resigned to the imminent demise of the 126-year-old institution. The school at 318 Moore St. in Merriam Park is one of three elementary schools slated for closing at the end of the 2009-10 school year as part of a proposed plan for Large Scale System Change in the St. Paul Public Schools. Roosevelt on the West Side and Sheridan on the East Side are the others that were chosen for closing based on the condition of their buildings, their academic performance and their enrollment in relation to the size of their buildings.

Longfellow's enrollment in grades pre-K to 6 has dropped from 412 in the fall of 2001 to a projected 200 students in the fall of 2009. The school has the capacity for 504 students.

Enrollment has been declining across the school district over the past decade, from a high of 45,000 students in 1998 to 38,500 in 2008-09. That trend is expected to continue for at least the next four or five years, according to Sharon Freeman, the school district's director of elementary education.

By closing the three schools, the school district could save nearly \$2.5 million per year, Freeman said. Longfellow's portion of those savings would be \$586,522. "That may not seem like much," she said, "but the projected budget for all three schools for the next two years is \$8 million—for an estimated enrollment of fewer than 1,000 students. That's money that could be spread out over the other elementary schools in the district."

Longfellow was planning to introduce classical studies and Latin to its humanities programming this fall. Why, asked a Longfellow parent and site council member, would the school district do away with its only classical program when other elementary schools have also been experiencing declining enrollments?

It could be that the other elementary schools have a better record of meeting state goals for adequate yearly progress (AYP) in academics under the federal No Child Left Behind Act, replied district chief of schools Nancy Stachel. Longfellow has failed to meet its AYP goals in each of the last three years. The results for the 2008-09 school year are not yet available.

Freeman said she knows "how difficult and emotional this is for those who have worked to instill the classical approach to study at Longfellow, and we really appreciate your hard work." She said the school district hopes to establish a similar program at other schools in the district.

Longfellow has also created a new Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS)

system to serve as a model for the entire school district. "Why can't we stay open to be that model?" asked Longfellow kindergarten teacher Patti Nelson.

"Longfellow is a model for PBIS," Stachel said. "So good a model that we plan to take that program and expand it throughout the district. In fact, many of the programs at Longfellow are excellent ones that we plan to emulate. But unfortunately, it's the other factors that influenced our recommendation to close it."

The St. Paul School Board will hold a public meeting on the proposed school closings at 5:30 p.m. Monday, June 15, at the school district's administration building, 360 Colborne St. The board is expected to vote on the plan for Large Scale System Change as well as the school district budget for 2009-10 at its regular meeting on June 16.

If the School Board decides to close Longfellow, Stachel said, school district staff will meet several times over the next year with Longfellow parents to discuss where they prefer to move their children and the logistics necessary to make that happen.

A lot depends on the future disposition of the plan for Large Scale System Change. As part of that plan, the School Board is considering changing the district's school choice program by dividing the city into three regions. With a few exceptions, free transportation would only be available to students who live more than a half-mile or possibly a mile from school and then only if that school is in the same region in which they live.

Students could still choose to attend a school outside their region, but unless it is one of the seven magnet schools that would retain their citywide enrollment status, they would have to provide their own transportation. "Popular and successful magnet programs would be replicated in each of the three regions," Stachel said.

Longfellow is currently a citywide option school open to students living anywhere in St. Paul. Though more than 700 school-age children live in Longfellow's attendance area, only 35 of them are among the 214 students currently attending Longfellow, according to school district data.

One parent asked, "What can we do to prevent the closing of Longfellow?"

"None of this is set in stone," Stachel replied. "You can continue to make your feelings known to the School Board. If anyone has a better idea on how to deal with the school district's structural deficit, achievement gap and ongoing financial problems, we want to hear it. We don't pretend to have all the answers, much less the right ones. This proposal was based on all of our research and feedback from several public meetings beginning last September."

For more information on the school district's plan for Large Scale System Change, visit www.spps.org or call 651-767-8100.

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1◀ WALGREENS

"It's extremely important to us to not have this Walgreens here," said Dave Leonard, president of Snyders. "It would be difficult to have two drugstores so close together."

Many of those attending the meeting demanded that the Highland District Council and Ward 3 City Council member Pat Harris stop Walgreens from coming to the Village. However, HDC committee chair Shawn Bartsh and Ward 3 legislative aide Dennis Rosemark said they do not have that power.

"The city doesn't get to choose who comes to the neighborhood," Rosemark said. The site is already zoned for business use and there are no special licensing requirements that prevent Walgreens from coming in.

"I'm as frustrated about this as you are," Bartsh told the crowd, "but there isn't a lot we can do about it."

Bartsh, who represents the Highland Business Association on the district council, drew groans when she noted that CVS Pharmacy also has sought a Highland Village spot for some time.

Several speakers said Walgreens would hurt Snyders and other existing businesses in Highland Village, but Bartsh noted that the economic impact on nearby businesses are not considered a factor in city officials' decision to accept or reject a site plan.

The site plan Walgreens ultimately chooses will be reviewed by city staff to see if it meets certain conditions, such as those involving motor vehicle and pedestrian traffic, storm and sanitary



One of three site plans for a new Walgreens at Ford Parkway and Finn Street.

sewer capacity, landscaping, lighting, fencing and access for disabled people.

Site plan reviews also may be sent to the St. Paul Planning Commission for a public hearing. The commission's decision is final unless it is appealed to the City Council. Because of the possibility of an appeal, Harris cannot take a position on the issue lest he have to recuse himself from a council vote.

Some neighbors were frustrated that their concerns about the site plan got drowned out in the opposition to Walgreens in general. Neighbors to the north had specific concerns about traffic, pedestrian safety, parking and lighting. Pinehurst Avenue resident Mat Hollinshead said Finn Street, which dead-ends at the Ford-Pinehurst alley, should be restriped with a turn lane for southbound vehicles. "Give me a bucket of paint and I'll do it tomorrow," he said.

Others spoke for banning parking on Finn, making physical changes to deter wrong-way traffic in the alley and making safety improvements for pedestrians who use a north-south walkway from Pinehurst to the alley. Kohler said Walgreens would work with neighbors, the city and the HDC to improve the traffic conditions in the vicinity.

Highland Parkway resident Rick Dagenais called the Walgreens plan "an antiquated design." The building would be brick and precast stone, like the one at Randolph and Snelling. He urged the HDC to hold out for a more attractive design.

The Community Development Committee has scheduled a meeting for neighbors to meet with Kohler about design changes for Walgreens at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 3, at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy.

Hamline, Victoria, Western station area planning begins

BY JANE MCCLURE

Planning for the areas around three proposed Central Corridor infill light-rail transit stations on University Avenue will begin this summer. The St. Paul Planning Commission voted unanimously on May 22 to initiate planning for the stations at Hamline Avenue, Victoria Street and Western Avenue. The intent is to come up plans for future transit-oriented development plans for those areas, including everything from new commercial and residential uses to new parks and trails connecting to the light-rail line.

A citizen committee will start meeting

in September. The goal is for the committee to meet through the fall and winter, host open houses to review the plans and have the plans ready to adopt by the Planning Commission next January, and by the City Council next spring.

The city is responsible for land-use changes along the light-rail line, which will connect the downtowns of St. Paul and Minneapolis. Plans have already been completed for the areas around the other Central Corridor stations from downtown St. Paul to the city's western boundary.

Residents and business owners along University Avenue pushed for the three additional stations to reduce the dis-

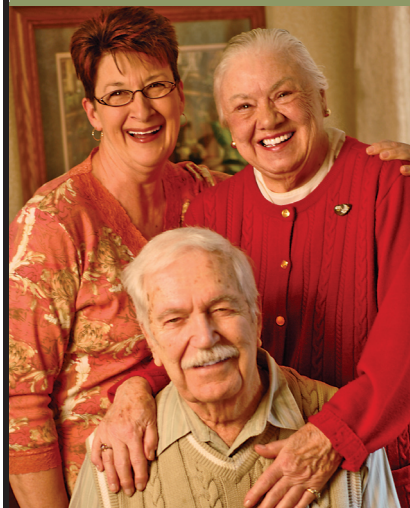
tance between stops for transit riders. The other rail stops on University Avenue are at the Capitol, Rice Street, Dale Street, Lexington, Snelling, Fairview, Raymond and Westgate.

In 2008 the Metropolitan Council agreed to add the three infill stations to the Central Corridor plans, with the idea of providing the infrastructure for them when the rail line is built. The stations themselves would be added as funding is available.

Some utility work has already started in downtown St. Paul in anticipation of the light-rail line. Full construction will not begin until 2010, with completion slated for 2014.

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News Briefs



Nobel Peace Prize winner, former United Nations Secretary General and 1961 Macalester College graduate Kofi Annan returned to Macalester on May 20 for the unveiling of a bronze bust of his likeness. The sculpture by Elizabeth Jones is displayed in the college's new Institute for Global Citizenship on Snelling and Grand avenues. PHOTO BY CHAS JENSEN

Long-serving Tom Conlon resigns from School Board

After 17 years, Tom Conlon will be resigning from the St. Paul School Board to operate a historic inn he recently purchased in Asheville, North Carolina. The longest serving member of the School Board and its only Republican, Conlon will step down on July 6, the day before candidate filings open for the 2009 election.

Four seats on the School Board will be open this fall, three of them for four-year terms beginning January 1 and one for the remaining two-plus years in Conlon's term. The School Board has not announced whether it will appoint someone to replace Conlon for the four months between his resignation and the November 3 general election.

A Macalester-Groveland resident, Conlon graduated from Highland Park High School in 1978. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1978-82, earned a B.A. in journalism and political science and an M.A. in public administration at the University of North Carolina, then worked for three years in Dallas before moving back to St. Paul in 1989.

Conlon will say goodbye to friends, associates and constituents at public receptions from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. Monday, June 8, and 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Sunday, June 14, in the basement of the Church of the Good Shepherd, 1849 Marshall Ave. Entertainment will be provided by caricature artist Carol Sue O'Malley and Minnesota Companion Bird Association president Julie Sands and her parrots.

The St. Paul Republican City Committee invites the public to join them in honoring Conlon for his years of public service at a free event at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 10, at O'Gara's Bar and Grill, 164 N. Snelling Ave.

Council OKs 'winter bond sale' for upcoming capital projects

St. Paul's 2009 capital improvement projects can move ahead following City Council approval of several bond issues. The May 20 vote ended weeks of certainty over whether the projects would be canceled or scaled back in light of the city's financial situation.

The bonds are typically sold earlier in the year and are known as the "winter bond sale." The sale had to be delayed so that the city could make spending cuts and replenish its financial reserves, which it had to dip into in late 2008 after Governor Tim Pawlenty unallocated state funding. The city's efforts to hold the line on spending have included a hiring freeze, early retirements and holding off on major purchases. That helped city financial staff replenish the city's funding reserves and, in turn, improved the city's bond rating.

The council approved the sale of \$4.5 million in capital improvement bonds, \$11.2 million in street improvement bonds, \$9 million

in sewer revenue bonds and \$15.1 million in bonds for the new fire station and fire administration building now going up at Randolph Avenue and West 7th Street. The city used an internal loan to get the fire station started.

All of the planned 2009 projects are expected to go forward. The lone exception could be the West 7th Street/Douglas Street Residential Street Vitality Project, one of four street paving projects slated for 2009. Paul Kurtz of the St. Paul Department of Public Works said that if construction bids come in higher than anticipated, the West End project would be bumped to 2010. The status of the project should be known in the next few weeks.

Another street paving project planned for this year is in the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood. Residents of Goodrich Avenue between Cretin Avenue and South Mississippi River Boulevard convinced the city to rebuild their stretch of street with bricks, which will add about \$480,000 to the project's cost. The added cost will be split between the property owners and the city. Ninety percent of property owners on three blocks signed a petition in favor of the bricks.

St. Paul adds extra fee for bars that stay open until 2:00 a.m.

St. Paul bars with a 2:00 a.m. closing license will have to pay an extra \$50 annual fee for that privilege, the St. Paul City Council unanimously decided on May 27. Although bar and restaurant owners throughout the city have balked at increased fees in the past, no one attended a public hearing the week before to speak against it.

Six years ago, the Minnesota Legislature passed a law allowing bars to stay open until 2:00 a.m. at the request of the state's hospitality industry. The additional hour was opposed by activists from several neighborhoods where bars have been a problem, including the West End and Summit Hill.

The city had the option of passing its own 2:00 a.m. closing license at the time, but opted not to. One challenge for city officials since then has been tracking which bars have licenses to close at 2:00 a.m. and to keep up with the requests that go to the state.

The new license and fee were introduced at the request of the city's Department of Safety and Inspections. Not only do the licenses give city staff the ability to track which bars and restaurants are open until 2:00 a.m., it makes it easier for the city to attach penalties in the event of any license violations.

The City Council also adopted an ordinance change that will allow a revoked liquor license to be issued for the same location after 15 years has elapsed. Previously, when a liquor license was revoked, another one could never be issued for those premises again.

News Briefs were compiled by Jane McClure and Dale Mischke.

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Viewpoint

Another nice mess in Minnesota

BY PHIL KRINKIE

An exasperated Oliver Hardy would often say to Stan Laurel in the midst of one of their comedic dilemmas, “Well, here’s another nice mess you’ve gotten me into.” House Speaker Margaret Anderson Kelliher might well have said the same thing to Senate Majority Leader Larry Pogemiller at the conclusion of the 2009 legislative session.

Only it wouldn’t have been funny.

If you watched the final minutes of the House or Senate debate that night, you too might have asked: How *did* they get us into this nice mess?

Rewind to the end of the ’08 legislative session. Minnesota legislators didn’t really balance the budget last year, but merely pushed the budget problem into the ’09 session. Nearly a quarter of this year’s budget problem—\$1 billion—is due to overspending last year.

Between June and November of ’08, the bottom dropped out of the national economy. Last November’s state budget forecast showed the state with a projected \$4.8 billion deficit for the 2010-2011 biennium—roughly a 12 percent shortfall. And with this year’s March budget forecast, the budget problem grew worse—a \$6.4 billion shortfall. Only with the infusion of federal money was Minnesota’s budget deficit now calculated to be \$4.6 billion.

At the outset, Governor Pawlenty stated that he was committed to balancing the state budget without raising taxes, and he presented a proposed budget in late January reflecting that commitment. The response by the DFL was to mount a “Misery Tour” around Minnesota to bash the governor’s budget, even though they had no alternative budget proposals of their own.

Finally in April, the Democrats revealed their plan: massive tax increases and relatively small spending reductions. The House passed a \$1.5 billion tax increase and the Senate a hefty \$2.2 billion tax increase. The stage was set from that point for a showdown.

Just 10 days before the constitutional deadline for adjournment, the Democrats rushed through the legislative process a smaller \$1 billion tax bill. But even if they’d been able to entice the governor to support that version, it still would have left a \$2 billion budget gap.

Pawlenty’s response was swift. He vetoed their tax bill at 3:00 a.m., just hours after the bill had passed.

On May 13, the Legislature completed its work on all major finance bills and sent the final appropriation bills to the governor. The expectation was that Pawlenty would veto several large spending bills and Round 2 of the budget battle would begin, probably necessitating a special session.

Instead, Pawlenty announced he would sign all of the Democrats’ spending bills, the catch being that if the Legislature could not complete its budget-balancing through shifts and spending cuts before adjournment, the governor would execute line-item vetoes and “unallotments” to unilaterally balance the budget. The Democrats had passed spending bills totaling \$34 billion and could account for only \$31 billion in revenue, leaving a \$3 billion budget hole.

The DFL leadership was torn over how to spend the remaining days of the session, with some legislators wanting to propose further cuts and others wanting to blame the governor for the spending reductions. In the final moments of the session, the Democrats heaved one last Hail Mary, passing a \$1 billion tax increase along with a K-12 accounting shift. That bill, too, earned a gubernatorial veto.

So with state lawmakers now at home, the burden of balancing the state budget lies with the governor. While it ended in a more abrupt, and certainly more timely, fashion than many had anticipated, the outcome of the session was obvious from the outset. Pawlenty was not going to raise taxes, there would not be three Republican House members willing to override the governor’s vetoes, and the Democrats would not bring themselves to reduce spending.

The 2010 legislative session is likely to be a replay of ’09, with the Democrats pushing for more unsustainable levels of spending, creating another nice budget mess in Minnesota.

Phil Krinkie is a former Republican state representative and current president of the Taxpayers League of Minnesota.



Snelling redesign divides neighborhood

Median removes hazards for pedestrians, cars alike

BY GENA BERGLUND, SARAH DIRKSEN AND TOM WELNA

After three years of careful consideration, the Macalester-Groveland Community Council voted to support the construction of a 10-foot-wide landscaped median on Snelling Avenue between St. Clair and Grand avenues. Its goals were pedestrian safety, accident reduction, traffic calming and beautification. The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) and the St. Paul Department of Public Works, along with Macalester College and the Macalester-Groveland Council, worked in a public process to consider and revise a plan for a safer Snelling.

Accommodating neighbors’ and business’ concerns has been a priority at every step in the process. Important changes have been incorporated that were not part of the initial plan: A parking bay has been added at Immanuel Lutheran Church for limousines and hearses. Homeowners’ driveways that front on Snelling will be reoriented to alley entrances. A bus bay has been added near Macalester’s athletic facility. A large parking lot has been added at Macalester. New lighting is minimized to avoid unnecessary glare for residents, and a landscaping and tree plan has been carefully developed to beautify the corridor while maintaining visibility.

The biggest challenge has been to maintain safe access to the businesses at Lincoln Commons. During a test in September 2007, Lincoln Commons customers were frustrated by the restrictions on left turns from southbound Snelling. Goodrich Avenue residents were suddenly inundated with motorists using their street to turn around. Immanuel Lutheran members had to drive on Goodrich then through an alley to reach the church parking lot.

To address these concerns, traffic engineers have significantly re-engineered the plan. A break was added in the proposed median with a left-turn lane from southbound Snelling onto Lincoln Avenue. Lincoln, currently one-way from Saratoga to Snelling, would be opened to two-way traffic for the nonresidential section on the west end of the block. This solution isn’t perfect, but it addresses the concerns that were initially raised. Church members could access their parking lot from Lincoln. Customers would have several ways to reach Lincoln Commons from the north without disrupting a residential street: They could turn around by using one of the driveways on Lincoln, make a three-point turn on Lincoln or simply make a U-turn on Snelling.

MnDOT engineers were asked to consider leaving the left-turn lanes as currently configured, starting the median south of Lincoln. They said no. Here’s why: From 2004 to 2007, there were 100 accidents on Snelling between St. Clair and Grand,

Median is mere cosmetic that won’t cure traffic ills

BY PHILIP JACOBS

It’s getting to be like Whack-A-Mole with the pro-Snelling Avenue median folks—a process of endurance and exhaustion that must have been modeled after the stadium debates. Recently their tactics have turned dirty, such as calling St. Paul City Council member Pat Harris an obstructionist for listening to the concerns of people who actually live near the proposed median and those of local business people who would be cut off.

A recent guest editorial in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* by three members of the Macalester-Groveland Community Council’s Transportation Committee cited 100 vehicle accidents on Snelling Avenue as justification for the median, even though the median has always been proposed as a pedestrian-safety issue. Only three of the 100 accidents they cited involved pedestrians, but would the median prevent these, especially if they occurred near an intersection where the median stopped?

And if the Macalester-Groveland Transportation Committee is so concerned about traffic safety, why are they focused on only the short stretch of Snelling that adjoins Macalester College? Why not champion a Snelling median from the existing median near Highland Park High School to the existing median north of I-94? Could it be a lobbying effort by Macalester College and its High Winds Fund that encouraged a letter-writing campaign to sway opinions and to ask for an up-or-down vote by the full City Council? And isn’t the Transportation Committee trying to use its weight in the process while casting disparaging remarks about Harris for fulfilling his duties as a City Council member?

The Macalester-Groveland Transportation Committee members cited a margin of 53 approving comments to 20 opposing comments—after 79 non-residents of Macalester-Groveland were filtered out—as proof of overwhelming support for the Snelling median. But even these respondents mentioned pedestrian safety as a key concern, not the 97 other vehicular accidents the editorial cited.

Council member Harris has taken the time to meet face to face with area residents, and does not require attending three meetings over a period of months in order to express an opinion or to be allowed to vote on an issue. He is doing his job by representing these people and their concerns in this process, not just swooning at pretty architectural drawings.

Snelling Avenue traffic is a difficult problem, partially due to its being one of the few major north-south routes connecting Bloomington, Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and I-494 to I-94, the state fairgrounds, Roseville and I-694. There is a limited amount of space on Snelling, and inserting a 10-foot-wide median will not reduce traffic and parking, but

Inbox

A redundancy of pharmacies

A recent letter to the *Villager* welcomed a proposed Walgreens to Ford Parkway and Finn Street. Although it is great to embrace a new business in our area, Walgreens is not a new business. A redundancy of pharmacies is as unwelcome as a Caribou across from Brewberry's. Why don't we welcome something with some vibrancy and vitality? I have lived in Highland for six years—not as long as most—and I can see this area needs more than the same old same old.

Be smart, Highland, and invite greater business to this fabulous area. Let Walgreens go into the new megaplex that will fill the Ford Plant someday.

Johnny Hagen
Highland Park

Where's the outrage over abortion?

Emotions are running high regarding the family whose mother whisked away her 13-year-old son to avoid potentially life-saving chemotherapy treatments. Many are angry at her for denying her son this treatment. I have overheard, "If her son dies, she should be put in

jail," and worse. Every single day in America, a mother and a father have the legal right to decide if their child will live or die. It's called abortion. Where is the outrage over this injustice?

Ann Redding
West St. Paul

Outrageous images in Highland

Can anything be done about the increasingly frequent photographic display of bloody decapitated baby's heads in front of the Planned Parenthood clinic on Ford Parkway? I get free speech, but are there limits? Doesn't Highland Village want to be a place where families can gather at the Dairy Queen, library, rec center or day care without fear of subjecting children to violent images? Why does the city permit this?

Could the image of a bloody decapitated adult head be displayed? Could I show a porn movie on the baseball field? Could we show photos of genital warts? Why don't the surrounding businesses make this an issue?

INBOX ►10

9◀ FOR SNELLING MEDIAN

according to city traffic engineers. Of those, an astounding 60 accidents occurred in the 300-foot section of Snelling between Grand and Lincoln. Seven resulted in injuries, and three involved pedestrians. In 2008 two Macalester students and three staff were hit while walking on Snelling near Grand Avenue.

The indisputable fact is, the two left-turn lanes between Grand and Lincoln don't meet state safety standards. The short left-turn lane into Lincoln Commons barely accommodates two cars. The left-turn lane from northbound Snelling to westbound Grand is also substandard and presents serious safety issues, but it cannot be lengthened as long as the left-turn lane into Lincoln Commons remains.

Based on the analysis of traffic flow and traffic accidents as well as an assessment of future risk, MnDOT is insisting this unsafe situation be corrected. Since improving safety has been the first priority of all of the partners, leaving the very dangerous left turn into Lincoln Commons is not an option. Direct access to Lincoln Commons from southbound Snelling was a mistake. It needs correction. Given the public's focus on the problem, it's likely to be removed by MnDOT anyway.

In a recent meeting, Lincoln Commons' owner argued that businesses in the shopping center such as Coastal Seafoods are "impulse retail." As regular customers of the business, we cannot disagree more. Coastal Seafoods is destination retail. For product quality and freshness, there is no other option nearby. No doubt, there will be a period for customers to get reoriented, but they won't stop patronizing this great store. In fact, there may be an uptick in pedestrian traffic from the construction of a pedestrian-friendly median. Businesses in Highland Village thrive with medians and restricted access. So, too, will the businesses near Snelling and Grand.

Tom Welna is director of the High Winds Fund at Macalester College. Gena Berglund is vice president of the Macalester-Groveland Community Council. She and Sarah Dirksen live in the neighborhood just east of the proposed Snelling Avenue median.

9◀ AGAINST SNELLING MEDIAN

squeeze it onto and through adjoining neighborhood streets.

I live a few hundred feet from Snelling, its traffic and its noise, and I would love to see it calmed, but the proposed median is a cosmetic solution aimed more at enhancing the appearance of the new Macalester athletic facility than addressing vehicle collisions. If we really want to address the Snelling traffic issue, we need to look at solutions that address the root causes, such as traffic volume and traffic enforcement. Traffic can only be reduced on Snelling if it is redirected onto other routes. I do not see the Transportation Committee calling for a city-wide up-or-down vote on the proposal to open up an Ayd Mill Road connection between I-35E and I-94, which would take truck traffic off of Snelling Avenue from Montreal Avenue all the way to the Midway area. This proposal is unpopular with residents of that part of the city, but a no-brainer to most of the rest of us.

Traffic medians do not enforce traffic laws, and cars routinely exceed the speed limit in this area, drive through red lights and ignore pedestrians. Increased enforcement is a simple, administrative control that is much less expensive than a multimillion-dollar median financed with money that comes from taxpayers regardless of whether it is at the federal, state or local level. This enforcement approach must also apply to pedestrians who cross Snelling Avenue midblock to access the Macalester athletic facilities and to bicyclists who seem to make up their own rules as they pedal along.

If we solve these fundamental issues and then want to pursue the median for aesthetic purposes, we need to address the potential for having to take several feet of boulevard from each side of the street along with many mature trees.

Macalester College must also commit to increased responsibility for its parking pressures on the neighborhood by building an underground or low-rise parking ramp near the athletic complex or on the west side of campus. This should include capacity for its students, faculty and visitors, reducing the need for people to park on the east side of Snelling and walk through traffic.

VILLAGER

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Maurice F. Mischke, 1920-1991

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The Villager serves the Highland Park, Lexington-Hamline, Macalester-Groveland, Merriam Park, Snelling-Hamline, Summit Hill, Summit-University and West 7th neighborhoods of St. Paul, the Longfellow and Nokomis neighborhoods of Minneapolis, Lilydale, Mendota and Mendota Heights.

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9◀ INBOX

Regardless of personal beliefs, we pay a premium to live in this neighborhood. I'd love to patronize local businesses with my young nieces without being apprehensive about subjecting them to gruesome images.

*Jennifer Duda
Highland Park*

Time to update river protections

All of us in the Twin Cities metropolitan area are indebted to Representative Rick Hansen (DFL-District 39A) for his remarkable work this past legislative session to update the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area legislation (*Villager*, May 6). This program was originally established in 1979 to ensure that the Mississippi River corridor from Dayton to Hastings was managed in a way that did not damage or destroy this resource of statewide and national significance. After 30 years, it is time to modernize its framework.

Representative Hansen's bill (HF424) is the result of three years of study with business groups, citizens and government working together. The resulting legislation strikes a balance among diverse interests, so that decisions about regulation, plans and variances can be made at the local level, but with more clarity for everyone involved. It has been a long and difficult process, but because of Representative Hansen's commitment and leadership, we now have a Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area reform bill that will help ensure that the river is protected for future generations.

*Kathleen Stack
Highland Park*

Highland deserves better

I attended my first Highland District Council meeting on May 19. What a disappointment. I found the council to be a group of do-nothing, know-nothing people. They are not working on behalf of the residents of Highland Park. The chair of the group was rude, did not give any constructive suggestions as to ways we could proceed and treated numerous questions by brushing people off, especially if they were persistent in wanting their questions answered. "I don't know" and "There is nothing we can do" were repeated answers.

Why have a council if they do nothing? Why was there a meeting if no one was going to listen and give some guidance? Write to Pat Harris? Why isn't he at these meetings if he is our City Council member?

Our neighborhood deserves more. Snyder Drug is an established and caring business. It would be nice if our businesses had the backing of the district council. It appears you have to have a name and clout to get any place. If a jewelry store was planning on building next to Moeller's, I know action would be taken by the council. That is just one example.

*M. Miller
Highland Park*

Memories of the McQuillans

As someone who was baptized in the Church of St. Luke and graduated from St. Luke's School, I read with interest Lisa Heinrich's article on the newly named St. Thomas More church and school (*Villager*, May 20). My family's connection to St. Luke's goes back to the church's earliest days. Ms. Heinrich mentions that Anna McQuillan, my paternal grandmother, served as the organist in the original church on Summit Avenue and Victoria Street and that she was the aunt of F. Scott Fitzgerald.

Anna was the daughter of plumber James F. McQuillan (today's McQuillan Brothers plumbing company was built on his work), an alumna of the Academy of St. Joseph and an accomplished musician. She played piano and organ until the day she died in her 90s in 1976; taught her children and grandchildren to love music, sing and play instruments; and accompanied her husband, Henry C. Soucheray, a vocalist, in many churches in the St. Paul area.

Anna McQuillan undoubtedly played the organ at St. Luke's, her parish church, but she was F. Scott Fitzgerald's second cousin. Their common great-grandparents were Mary and James McQuillan. F. Scott's grandfather Philip and Anna's grandfather John were brothers. Our family is grateful to Pat and Mary McQuillan of St. Paul for creating a McQuillan family tree in 1991.

Thank you for all you do to keep the *Villager* coming to our doorsteps. In this day and age, we need a local newspaper as part of our many news sources.

*Melenie A. Soucheray
Macalester-Groveland*

Scots salute

On February 28, the Highland Park Senior High School PTA hosted its first annual Silent Auction Gala at O'Gara's Bar and Grill. The entertainment featured student musicians representing the high school's orchestra and jazz band and the student band the Docks of Bristol. Proceeds from the event funded technology for our school.

The Highland Park Senior High PTA would like to acknowledge the merchants of Highland Village and the surrounding area whose generous donations made the evening a success. We also extend our thanks to the dedicated parents, teachers and students who donated their time, talent and auction items.

*Missy Bruber, Claire Olson, Missy Struve, Co-Chairs
Highland Park Senior High PTA Silent Auction*

Supporting families in need

Thank you, Pat Harris, Melvin Carter III and the St. Paul City Council, for supporting Minnesota families. Especially in today's challenging economy, the illness of a child creates an even more stressful financial, not to mention emotional, situation. This forces families to make the difficult choice between working to pay their bills or being at the hospital with their child, potentially risking losing their home.

St. Paul City Council member Pat Harris understands this difficulty, which is why we want to thank him for drafting the proclamation to make May 4 Spare Key Day in the city of St. Paul. We also want to thank Melvin Carter III for his endorsement and the entire St. Paul City Council for passing the resolution.

Because of this support, Spare Key expects to serve even more Minnesota families, providing assistance to homeowners with seriously injured children by making a mortgage payment on the family's behalf, allowing them to spend time with their child. Over the past 12 years, Spare Key has helped almost 1,000 families and hopes to reach its goal of raising \$25,000 by June 1 to help even more.

We appreciate the efforts of the St. Paul City Council to raise awareness to assist local families, and we are confident that this work will enable Spare Key to achieve its goals.

*Amy Kamenick
University of St. Thomas
Opus College of Business*

*Rae Thiede
Executive Director
Spare Key*

How to help Haiti

Regarding "Summit Hill couple build support for children's clinic in Haiti" (*Villager*, May 6):

My wife and I have been traveling to Haiti every year since 1995 and recognize the plight of the Haitian people. I applaud the desire of Michelle and Jeff Boston to do something in Haiti to alleviate the suffering. There are so many things one can do to make a difference in the lives of Haitians, it can be hard to decide what to do or find the best way to help.

On the surface, building a hospital, especially for children, seems like a good idea. No doubt children are suffering needlessly for a lack of care. But Haiti is flooded with nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and missionaries doing good. Although there have been individual cases of success, as far as I can tell Haiti is no better for it.

Haiti itself has no economy. Of its \$6 billion gross domestic product, roughly \$2 billion comes from ex-patriates in the U.S. and \$2 billion from foreign aid. The rest is generated by their economy—a paltry sum. Sadly, efforts like the Bostons' undermine the economy. They import most of what they need instead of buying from local Haitians. Even the international community undermines Haiti's efforts to grow an economy by dumping rice on the dock in Port-au-Prince, forcing local rice farmers out of business. Collaborating with existing Haitian enterprises and Haitian partnerships is the only way to make headway in the absence of an economy.

It's time that Haiti, the international community and the NGOs and missionaries come together to develop a comprehensive plan for Haiti that encourages an economy to grow. Handouts and other "good deeds," however well-intentioned, don't help. Charity without involving Haitian input prolongs Haiti's agony.

*Greg Erickson
Summit Hill*

Do write

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

Mount Vernon of MN

Sibley House Historic Site stands at the epicenter of state's history

In the autumn of 1834, a small group of men on horseback rode over a hill and looked down on the modest cluster of log buildings that was their destination. In the distance loomed a large fort, and below it an island at the junction of two rivers, a site called "Mendota" in the Dakota language.

The fort was Snelling, the island was Pike, and the rivers were the Mississippi and Minnesota. The band of riders included Henry Hastings Sibley, who was to take over as the manager of this important trading post for the American Fur Company and would go on to become one of the most prominent men in what 24 years later would become the state of Minnesota.

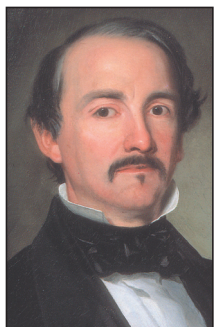
Sibley was only 23 when he arrived at what is now the village of Mendota. The local fur trade was thriving and his post was the only one for miles where traders could come to stock up on provisions.

Born into a prominent family in Michigan, Sibley studied law for two years before leaving home and working as a clerk in a sutler store and then at the American Fur Company on Lake Huron. In 1832 he became a purchasing agent for the company and when it was reorganized he was assigned to the post across the river from Fort Snelling.

Though he was impressed by the picturesque setting, Sibley was disgruntled by the lack of civilization when he arrived in Mendota. "When I descended into the amphitheater where the hamlet was situated I was disappointed to find only a group of log huts," he said in R.S. McCourt's *The History of the Old Sibley House*.

Sibley soon remedied the situation by building the first permanent, stone home in Minnesota in 1838. The Sibley House was built by local trappers, hunters and Indians. Its hand-hewn beams were held together with wooden pegs, the limestone exterior was quarried from nearby Wakan Island, and the roof was covered with hand-split shingles. Though the interior walls were later covered with plaster, some walls inside the house have been exposed to reveal the original construction material of willows wrapped in hay and fastened with wooden cleats.

Sibley prospered at Mendota and, according to McCourt's account, became an author-



Henry Sibley



Close to Home

By Lisa Heinrich

ity on the geography, resources and inhabitants of the Northwest Territory. He spoke French and the Dakota language fluently, and often slept in Indian lodges. He had an Indian wife who died a few years after their daughter was born. Sibley provided for his daughter's upbringing and kept in contact with her over the years.

Sibley then married Sarah Steele in 1843, and their house changed quite a bit after that. It was soon decorated with fine furniture, paintings and rugs. A parlor was created and an office was added. The second story, which had been built with an outside staircase so Indians and trappers could spend the night, was turned into family rooms. The house became known as the Mount Vernon of Minnesota.

Sibley was a prolific writer who introduced eastern Americans to life in the western territories under the pseudonym of Hal. A. Dakota as well as his actual name. However, he is best known for his political leadership.

Sibley's political career began in 1838 when he was appointed the first justice of the peace

Site marks its 99th year

The Sibley House Historic Site, 1357 Sibley Memorial Hwy., Mendota, will celebrate the 99th anniversary of its opening to the public from noon to 4:00 p.m. Sunday, June 14.

In 1910, the Daughters of the American Revolution, seeing the need to preserve the home of Minnesota's first governor, held an opening day celebration that included military music and speeches.

For the 99th anniversary celebration, visitors will be able to view early 19th century cars, play games, take tours of the site and



Jean Hewlett-Moline (second from left) portrayed Mrs. Sibley during a recent spring tea and tour of the Sibley House Historic Site in Mendota. The life-size portrait is of Henry Sibley's favorite hunting dog, Lion. PHOTOS ABOVE AND BELOW BY ANNE BRANDRUD

west of the Mississippi River. He was elected in 1848 as a delegate from the Wisconsin Territory to the U.S. Congress, where he worked to ensure passage of an act recognizing the Minnesota Territory. He insisted that his adopted home be named Minnesota rather than Itasca, the name preferred by the territorial bill's sponsor, Stephen A. Douglas.

According to McCourt's history, lawmakers in Washington were surprised when they first saw Sibley. They expected to see a "wild and woolly cowboy with a revolver in each hip pocket," but instead found a cultured gentleman dressed in Europe's finest threads.

Sibley was re-elected twice and helped ensure that St. Paul became the capital of the new territory. He became the state's first governor in 1858 and led the U.S. Army troops that quelled the Dakota U.S.-Conflict in 1862. For his efforts, President Abraham Lincoln made him a brigadier general.



enjoy birthday cake.

Admission is \$4.00-\$6.00. For information, call 651-452-1596.

Two years earlier, the Sibleys had moved to St. Paul and sold their Mendota house to the Church of St. Peter. The house was used as a school and in 1905 was rented to Esdras Bernier, who ran a general store on Main Street and introduced the locals to onion farming. The area came to be called the Onion Capital of the U.S. and Bernier its Onion King.

In 1901, Bernier bought the adjacent home of fur trader turned hotelier Jean-Baptiste Faribault and used it and the Sibley House to store his onions and other goods. He also arranged for a new railroad siding there to make loading easier.

The condition of the houses declined over the years and Bernier stopped using them for storage. The Daughters of the American Revolution bought the Sibley House in 1910 and began restoring it. The site also included a fur company cold store and a house built by Hypolite DuPuis, Sibley's secretary, which the DAR used as a tea house for many years. The funds raised by the tea house paid for the restoration and upkeep of the remaining limestone buildings until the DAR started running deficits in the 1980s. The ownership of the property was transferred to the Minnesota Historical Society in 1996. The DAR had formed a group called the Sibley House Association, which managed the site until 2004, when the Historical Society took over that task.

"My favorite aspect of the Sibley House is that all who come for a tour walk away with a sense of history," said site manager Ted Bores. "You can feel it come alive around you."

The Sibley House Historic Site is open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturdays and 12:30 to 4:00 p.m. Sundays. For more information, visit www.mnhs.org/places/sites/shs.

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Crime Report

The following calls were gathered from recent Community Watch reports by the Ramsey County Sheriff's Department. For weekly crime reports by neighborhood from the St. Paul Police Department, visit <http://stpaul.gov/index.asp?NID=2399>.

Highland Park

Robbery—Two women were robbed at gunpoint on the 600 block of South Cleveland Avenue at about 12:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 29.

—A male juvenile was arrested for robbery at Highland Park Senior High School on Monday, May 4. The robbery occurred at about 2:00 p.m. Friday, May 1.

Burglary—A home on the 500 block of Montrose Lane was broken into between 8:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Thursday, April 30.

—A home on the 1000 block of Colette Place was burglarized between 1:30 p.m. Wednesday and 1:30 a.m. Friday, April 29-May 1.

—A laptop computer, two digital cameras and jewelry were taken from a home on the 2100 block of Edgumbe Road between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 20.

—An attempted burglary occurred on the 1600 block of Niles Avenue between 8:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 20.

Theft—A large aquarium was stolen from Petco, 2277 Ford Pkwy., at about 10:00 a.m. Monday, May 4. The suspect left when a store employee confronted him.

—Two counterfeit \$20 bills were passed at Kiev Foods, 2509 W. 7th St., between 6:00 and 7:00 p.m. Monday, May 4.

—Fifty-six books of stamps were stolen from Sincerely Yours, 2140 Ford Pkwy., between 11:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Friday, May 15.

—A theft from auto occurred at Crosby Park between 10:00 a.m. and noon Sunday, May 17.

—Two women were arrested for trying to pass worthless checks at Mississippi Market, 1810 Randolph Ave., at about 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 19.

Miscellaneous—A man was arrested for assault on the 1500 block of St. Paul Avenue at about 1:30 a.m. Wednesday, May 20. He had come home intoxicated and hit his sleeping roommate in the head with an iron pot.

Lexington-Hamline

Burglary—An attempted burglary occurred on the 1300 block of Laurel Avenue at about 1:00 p.m. Thursday, April 30. The window on the back door was broken out and the resident was home at the time.

—A home on the 1100 block of Ashland Avenue was burglarized between 9:30 and 10:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 20.

Theft—A computer was stolen at Concordia University between 10:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday, May 5.

—A man's wallet was stolen at Dunning Field at about 9:00 p.m. Thursday, May 14.

Assault—Juveniles were assaulted at Dunning Field at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, May 16.

Macalester-Groveland

Burglary—Two homes on the 1500 block of Grand Avenue were burglarized at about 10:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 29.

—An apartment on the 1500 block of Grand Avenue was broken into between 1:00 p.m. Wednesday and 9:30 p.m. Thursday, April 29-30. A man was arrested in an alley at Grand and Snelling avenues for possession of burglary tools at about 11:00 p.m. Thursday, April 30.

—A home on the 100 block of Woodlawn Avenue was burglarized between 11:00 p.m. Friday and 7:00 a.m. Saturday, May 1-2.

—A home on the 2000 block of Jefferson Avenue was broken into between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 5.

—Cash was stolen from Complete Chiropractic Health Services, 1526 Grand Ave., between 7:00 p.m. Wednesday and 7:00 a.m. Thursday, April 29-30. Entry was forced through an office window.

—Multiple items were taken from a home on the 300 block of Warwick Street between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 20.

—An attempted burglary occurred on the 1300 block of Grand Avenue at about 4:30 a.m. Tuesday, May 19.

—The back-door lock was damaged in an attempted burglary on the 400 block of South Cretin Avenue between 10:00 a.m. Monday and 1:00 p.m. Thursday, May 18-21.

Theft—A black valise containing assorted equipment was recovered at the side of a home on the 1200 block of Jefferson Avenue on Monday, May 4.

Arson—A trash can was set on fire in the middle of Summit Avenue and Mississippi River Boulevard at about 2:30 a.m. Wednesday, May 20.

Merriam Park

Robbery—A man was robbed at gunpoint and assaulted on the 1700 block of University Avenue at about 1:30 a.m. Tuesday, May 19.

Burglary—A television was stolen during a break-in at the Blue Door Restaurant, 1811 Selby Ave., between 2:30 and 7:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 28.

—A home on the 2100 block of Marshall Avenue was burglarized between 3:30 p.m. Tuesday and 9:00 a.m. Thursday, April 28-30.

—A home on the 1600 block of Concordia Avenue was broken into between 11:00 p.m. Wednesday and 4:30 a.m. Thursday, May 20-21. The resident was asleep at the time.

Theft—A car was stolen on the 400 block

of North Fairview Avenue at about 4:30 p.m. Saturday, May 2.

—A moped was stolen on the 200 block of North Cretin Avenue between 11:00 p.m. Sunday and 7:30 a.m. Monday, May 3-4.

—Two computer monitors were stolen from an office suite on the 1600 block of Selby Avenue between 9:00 and 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, May 5. A computer also was stolen from the Livesay Law Office, 1599 Selby Ave., around the same time.

—A white 2001 GMC Denali was stolen from Bonded Transmission, 1790 University Ave., on Friday and Monday, May 15-18.

—Police were called to Cretin and Dayton avenues on reports of people breaking into cars at about 1:30 a.m. Tuesday, May 19. Two suspicious vehicles were stopped, but the suspects fled on foot and could not be located. One of the vehicles had been stolen from the 2100 block of Marshall Avenue.

Snelling-Hamline

Burglary—Three apartments on the 1500 block of Portland Avenue were broken into between 6:00 and 10:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 29. In one of the instances, an elderly resident awoke to see a stranger standing in her bedroom door with a flashlight. The suspect fled without taking anything. Entry was gained by cutting the kitchen window screen.

Theft—Stolen property was recovered on the 1500 block of Iglehart Avenue at about 3:30 a.m. Thursday, April 30. The property was found in a pile near where the suspect was standing.

Summit Hill

Burglary—The front door was kicked in and many items were stolen from a home on the 1000 block of Grand Avenue between 7:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 28.

—A home on the 500 block of Lincoln Avenue was burglarized between 9:00 p.m. Thursday and 6:30 a.m. Friday, April 30-May 1.

—A garage was broken into on the 700 block of Lincoln Avenue at about 3:30 a.m. Monday, May 4. Officers spotted two men with backpacks running through yards in the area and arrested them for burglary.

Theft—A laptop computer was stolen on the 100 block of South Chatsworth Street at about 7:30 a.m. Sunday, May 3. After a foot chase, police arrested a 28-year-old man for theft, fleeing police and possession of marijuana. He was also wanted on warrants for obstruction.

Miscellaneous—Police responded to a report of a man breaking car windows near St. Albans Street and Goodrich Avenue at about 6:30 p.m. Friday, May 15. Officers stopped the suspect, but the Summit Hill resident refused to follow police orders. He was Tazed and ar-

rested for obstruction.

Summit-University

Robbery—A man was robbed at gunpoint in his home on the 700 block of Carroll Avenue at about 9:00 p.m. Saturday, May 2.

Burglary—A Summit-University man was arrested for possession of stolen property on the 800 block of Selby Avenue at about 8:00 p.m. Thursday, April 30. He was carrying credit cards that were reported to be in a car that was stolen in Minneapolis. Police found the stolen car near the suspect's home.

—Two homes on the 100 block of Mackubin Street were burglarized between 8:30 p.m. Wednesday and 9:30 a.m. Thursday, May 20-21. The residents were home in one case.

Miscellaneous—A picture window was broken at the Louisiana Cafe, 613 Selby Ave., at about 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 29.

—Two couples were playing cards at a residence on the 600 block of Dayton Avenue when one of the men became angry and stabbed the other man at about 9:00 p.m. Friday, May 15. He also cut one of the women. The victims were taken to Regions Hospital.

West End

Burglary—A home on the 900 block of Otto Avenue was broken into between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Monday, April 27.

—A home on the 800 block of Palace Avenue was broken into between 7:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 28.

—Tavern on the Avenue, 825 Jefferson Ave., was burglarized at about 4:45 a.m. Tuesday, May 19.

Theft—Cash was stolen from an office desk at Adams School, 615 S. Chatsworth St., between 4:30 p.m. Thursday, April 30, and 7:30 a.m. Friday, May 1.

—Ten kegs of beer were stolen from Summit Brewing Company, 910 Montreal Circle, between 10:00 p.m. Friday and noon Saturday, May 1-2.

—A counterfeit bill was passed at Cooper's SuperValu, 633 W. 7th St., at about 5:00 p.m. Saturday, May 16.

Assault—An aggravated assault with weapons occurred on the 800 block of Juno Avenue between 9:00 and 10:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 20. A woman and a group of men forced their way into the upper unit of a duplex. One suspect hit a victim with a brick. The victim grabbed a knife to defend himself and the fight spilled out onto the street. The intruders fled after police were called.

Miscellaneous—A student brought an air gun in his backpack to Monroe Community School, 810 Palace Ave., on Monday, May 18. He was suspended from school and the gun was confiscated.

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2216 Swan Ct. 3BRs, Pristine 2-story w/3BRs 4BAs, completely updated top to bottom, stunning kitchen, wonderful family room & more! **\$479,900**



1271 Sylvandale Ln. Gorgeous contemporary with gourmet kitchen, 3BRs, 4BAs, beautiful gardens on 1/2 acre lot overlooking the creek. **\$699,900**



777 Ashland Ave. Classic 2-story with hardwood floors, beautiful woodwork, 3BRs, updated kitchen, 2-1/2 car garage. **\$259,900**



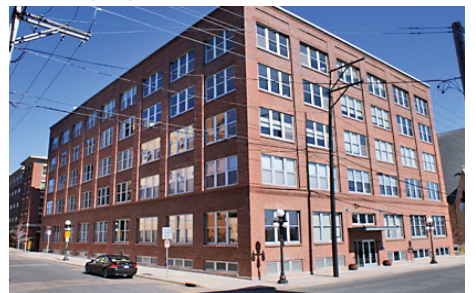
997-999 Fairmount Ave. Superbly maintained duplex with hardwood floors 4-car garage, new windows, large patio, 3BRs 1BA/unit **\$499,900**



784 Linwood Ave. Stunning French style 3-story, 5BRs, 5BAs, in-ground pool, 6-car garage, luxurious master suite. **\$1,695,000**



1009 Summit Ave. Meticulously renovated mansion w/5BRs, 4BAs, incredible character, wonderful porch overlooking the Governor's mansion. **\$2,150,000**



225 9th St E #403 Fabulous loft with 11 ft ceilings, create your own space! Superb kitchen with stainless appliances, 2-car heated parking. **\$274,900**



1468 Carroll Ave. Spacious 2-story with 3BRs, 3BAs, updated kitchen, main floor family room, 3-season porch, hardwood floors. **\$199,900**



2000 Carroll Ave. Superb duplex near Merriam Park with gleaming hardwood floors, large lot, first time offered in 40+ years! **\$299,900**



2097 Iglehart Ave. Pristine English Tudor in excellent condition! 5BRs 3BAs hardwood floors, newer kitchen & baths, roof & exterior. **\$829,900**



2202 Marshall Ave. Charming 2+ story with beautiful hardwood floors & woodwork, 3BRs, 2BAs, overlooking Town & Country Golf Course. **\$284,900**



378 Mississippi River Blvd N. Grand 8BR estate on one of St. Paul's most beautiful lots. Completely renovated, numerous amenities. **\$2,895,000**



519 Raymond Ave. A gardener's paradise! 4BRs 2BAs hardwood floors, fireplace, 4-season porch, 2-1/2 car garage. **\$349,900**



1822 Goodrich Ave. Handsome Arts & Crafts with 5BRs 4BAs, incredible master suite, hardwood floors, beautiful updates. **\$495,000**



2023 Jefferson Ave. Charming cottage style with 4BRs, 2BAs, 3 finished levels, porch, and beautiful gardens. **\$319,900**



1575 Summit Ave. Beautiful Summit Ave. mansion has been carefully updated, including a 4-car garage w/ basement plus 2-car carriage house! **\$1,499,000**



1530 Edgcombe Rd. Classic Colonial with 7BRs, 5BAs, elegant spaces, 3 fireplaces, overlooking the bluffs on wonderful 2 acre lot. **\$1,595,000**



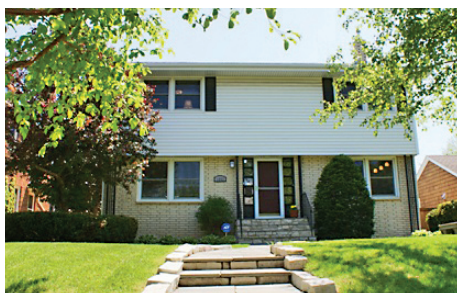
1594 Edgcombe Rd. Versatile 7,000 sq ft executive home with 4BRs, 7BAs, private pool & spa, lovely setting, prestigious street. **\$1,175,000**



2138 Edgcombe Rd. Fantastic family home just steps to Highland Park Golf Course. 5BRs 4BAs, gourmet kitchen, huge deck o'looking a lovely lot. **\$679,000**



1796 Mississippi River Blvd S. Picture perfect Cape Cod overlooks the Mississippi River w/5BRs 5BAs, completely updated & beautifully landscaped. **\$674,900**



1852 Pinehurst Ave. Immaculate Colonial with 4BRs 3BAs, gleaming hardwood floors, wonderful spaces for family living! **\$495,000**



1155 St. Paul Ave. Three finished levels! Darling 1-1/2 story w/3BRs 2BAs, beautiful décor, hardwood floors, 2-1/2 car garage. **\$259,900**



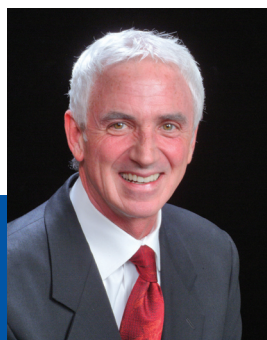
1917 Summit Ave. #2 Condo. Fabulous 5BR, 3 BA Condo on prestigious Summit Ave. **\$649,900**



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Wednesday/June 3

A NATIONAL NIGHT OUT kickoff picnic will be held from 6:00 to 7:30 this evening at the Como Park Midway Pavilion across from the Como Park Pool. All St. Paul residents are invited to the fourth annual event, which will feature free food and beverages, door prizes, balloons, face painting and information on planning for National Night Out on August 4. Call Pam McCreary at 651-266-5455.

THE OLD WAGON ROAD TRAIL off of North Mississippi River Boulevard in Merriam Park will be spruced up with native plants from 6:00 to 8:30 this evening by Friends of the Mississippi River. Volunteers are needed to help place native plants along the path. Tools and gloves will be provided. Supervised children are welcome. Contact Sue Rich at srich@fmr.org or 651-222-2193, ext. 14.

Thursday/June 4

"MINNESOTA PRINTMAKING: Past, Present and Future" will be presented at 7:00 this evening at the James J. Hill House 240 Summit Ave. Refreshments and a tour of the mansion will follow. Admission is \$5.00-\$7.00. Call 651-297-2555.

Saturday/June 6

"MARVELOUS MUSHROOMS," everything there is to know about the edible fungi, will be covered at 10:00 this morning at the Dodge Nature Center, 365 W. Marie Ave. in West St. Paul. The cost is \$7.00 per person or \$20 per family. For reservations, call 651-455-4531.

A TRANSIT TO GREEN SPACE tour will be held at 10:30 this morning beginning at Rice Park in downtown St. Paul. Participants are encouraged to bus, walk or bicycle to the park for a free tour that will take in Wacouta Commons, a potential park-and-bike facility and Bruce Vento State Park. Bob Spaulding, a member of the St. Paul Planning Commission, will be the guide. Call 612-659-9124.

Sunday/June 7

THE ALEXANDER RAMSEY HOUSE, 265 S. Exchange St., will hold an open house from noon to 3:00 p.m. today. Enjoy a free tour of the three-story mansion lead by a costumed interpreter. Visitors will meet the Ramseys' cook and sample a cookie baked in a wood stove. Call 651-296-8760.

THE JAMES J. HILL HOUSE, 240 Summit Ave., will hold a free open house from 1:00 to 4:00 this afternoon. The mansion will be open for self-touring and period music will be played while visitors view the current art



Mary Jo Culbertson, shown here helping student Sophie Black practice her matching skills, is retiring after 25 years of directing the Edgumbe Recreation Center's preschool program. An open house in her honor will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 10, at Edgumbe, 320 S. Griggs St. PHOTO BY ANNE BRANDRUD

exhibit "Minnesota Prints and Printmakers, 1900-1945." Call 651-297-2555.

THE MINNESOTA HISTORY CENTER, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd., will hold a free open house from noon to 5:00 p.m. today. Explore the new exhibit "Minnesota's Greatest Generation: The Depression, The War, The Boom" and participate in a History HiJinx craft activity of making a take-home World War II-era glider out of paper and wooden wheels. Call 651-259-3000.

A FULL MOON WALK through the Coldwater Spring area of South Minneapolis will be held at 7:00 this evening. To reach the spring, take Hiawatha Avenue and turn east at 54th Street, take an immediate right past the parking meters, through the cul-de-sac and the gates. Visit www.friendsofcoldwater.org.

THE ST. PAUL HIKING CLUB will meet at 2:30 this afternoon at Coopers SuperValu in Sibley Plaza for a hike around Fort Snelling. Visit www.stpaulhike.org.

THE ST. PAUL RED CROSS will hold a blood drive from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. today at 791-799 Grand Ave. during Grand Old Day. Call 1-800-448-3543.

Tuesday/June 9

THE COMO-MIDWAY LA LECHE League will meet at 7:00 this evening to discuss "Baby Arrives: The Family and the

take participants to the pubs, which are restricted to those age 21 and older. The cost is \$20-\$25. Drinks are not included, but drink specials will be available at participating bars. Call 651-259-3015 or visit www.minnesotahistorycenter.org.

Friday/June 12

MINNESOTA BIOBLITZ 2009 will be held from 5:00 p.m. today through 5:00 p.m. tomorrow at Crosby Farm Park. The free event brings together citizens and scientists to count as many species of plants and animals as possible in a 24-hour period. Armed with sonar detectors, bug lights, live traps and laptops, volunteers will explore a section of the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area that runs through Minneapolis and St. Paul. The base camp is at Crosby, which will feature a floating laboratory on the Jonathan Padelford. Tonight's surveys will include bats, owls, frogs and insects. Tomorrow's events will include a bird hike at 6:00 a.m.; a mammals, reptiles and amphibians survey at 8:00 a.m.; a Padelford birding trip at 8:00 a.m. (cost is \$15, call 651-227-1100); a fish survey with viewing from the Padelford at 10:30 a.m.; wetland sampling at 1:00 p.m.; and a prairie plants survey at 2:00 p.m. Visit www.bellmuseum.org/bioblitz.

Saturday/June 13

A WORLD WAR II WEEKEND to learn about Minnesota's role in battle and at home will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. today and tomorrow at Historic Fort Snelling. Historical displays, weapon-firing demonstrations and an encampment of WWII reenactors will be featured along with period crafts, games and an obstacle course. Winning films from the 2008 Greatest Generation project will be shown in the Visitor Center. Admission is \$5.00-\$10. Call 612-726-1171.

Monday/June 15

A FINISHING SCHOOL for young ladies will be offered from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. today through Friday, June 19, at the Alexander Ramsey House, 265 S. Exchange St. Girls ages 9-13 will focus on a different Victorian-era theme each day: fashion, etiquette, handcrafts and personal expression, all culminating in a debutante tea party on the front porch. Each young lady will make a parlor fan and a take-home journal. The cost is \$160-\$175. A second session will be offered on June 22-26. Call 651-296-8760.

THE GARDEN CLUB of Ramsey County will meet at 7:25 this evening at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. Visit www.ramseygardeners.org.

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District Council News

Highland Park

www.highlanddistrictcouncil.org • 651-695-4005

Community Development update—The Highland District Council's Community Development Committee will meet at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 3, at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. The committee will discuss a parking variance for Massage Envy to locate in the former Act One Too photography studio at 2073 Ford Pkwy. Architect John Kohler also will go over design changes for a proposed Walgreens on Ford Parkway and Finn Street.

Railroad corridor cleanup—Volunteers are needed to help clean up the Canadian Pacific Railroad corridor at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, June 13. Those who are interested in helping out are asked to contact the HDC office.

Highland Block Nurse Program—The Highland Block Nurse Program has volunteers who provide senior citizens with transportation to medical appointments, grocery shopping, paperwork assistance and friendly visiting. In-home nursing and home health aide care also are offered on a sliding scale. Call 651-696-8425 or visit www.franciscancare.org.

Mark your calendar—Community Development Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 3, Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy.; National Night Out kickoff picnic, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 3, Como Park Midway Picnic Pavilion; HDC board meeting, 7:00 p.m. Thursday, June 4, Hillcrest; Community Services Committee meeting, 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 10, Hillcrest; Canadian Pacific Railroad corridor cleanup, 9:00 a.m. Saturday, June 13; and Community Development Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 16, Hillcrest.

Macalester-Groveland

www.macgrove.org • 651-695-4000

Teen Battle of the Bands—The annual Teen Battle of the Bands will be held from noon to 5:00 p.m. Sunday, June 7, on Grand Avenue and Macalester Street. Volunteers are needed

for judging, setup, cleanup and staffing the information table. To volunteer, contact the council office. Food shelf donations will be accepted at the event.

Paint the Pavement—The Macalester-Groveland neighborhood will organize its first Paint the Pavement project outside the Edgumbe Recreation Center beginning at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, June 13. The rain date is June 20. Contact Karmann Peters at the council office.

Get moving—Join MacGrove Moves to get fit and help reduce traffic congestion and gas emissions. Participants are being encouraged to leave their cars at home and to walk, jog or bike to their destinations at least 15 times before August 12. Those who complete a log sheet of their trips will be entered in a drawing to win prizes donated by area businesses. For a log sheet, visit the council's website or pick one up at the Edgumbe or Groveland recreation centers.

Mark your calendar—Grand Old Day on Sunday, June 7; board of directors meeting, 7:00 p.m. Thursday, June 11, Edgumbe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St.; Beautification Committee meeting, 7:00 p.m. Monday, June 15, Edgumbe; KidsPark Advisory Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m. Monday, June 15, Desnoyer Recreation Center, 525 N. Pelham Blvd.; and Community Outreach Committee/neighbor rep meeting, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 16, Edgumbe.

Summit Hill

www.summithillassociation.org • 651-222-1222

Plant & Prairie Party—The SHA's Environment Committee's will host a Plant & Prairie Party from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Saturday, June 13, at the Linwood Recreation Center, 860 St. Clair Ave. A neighborhood plant exchange will be held on the front lawn to kick off summer. Master gardeners will be on hand and information will be available on native plants, rain gardens, urban farming and more. There will also be a presentation on plans to restore the Sam Morgan Prairie.

Bike racks on Grand—New bike hitches will be installed this summer at several Grand Avenue locations between Dale Street and Cleveland Avenue. Grey metal hitches and racks

shaped like bikes are being installed to encourage bicycling to the avenue's businesses. The project is a collaboration of Grand Avenue property and business owners, and the Summit Hill and Macalester-Groveland district councils.

New to the neighborhood?—Stop by the SHA office in the Linwood Recreation Center and pick up a copy of the association's new welcome booklet to help new neighbors get acquainted with the many resources available in Summit Hill.

Dates to remember—Grand Old Day on June 7, SHA Communications Committee meeting on June 9, SHA board of directors meeting on June 11, and the Plant & Prairie Party on June 13. Most SHA meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Linwood Recreation Center. For details, call the SHA office.

Union Park

www.unionparkdc.org • 651-645-6887

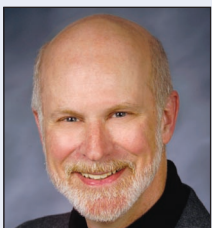
Paint the Pavement—A Paint the Pavement project will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday, June 5, at Iglehart Avenue and Moore Street. The program uses street painting to promote calming traffic and creating a neighborhood identity. Painters should bring sunscreen, a water bottle, paint brushes and rags. Coffee and baked goods will be provided by Trotter's. A pizza lunch will be served and there will be a potluck supper at 4:30 p.m. Potluck participants are asked to bring a dish to share and a chair or blanket. Paper goods and beverages will be provided. To register, call Pat Trotter at 651-644-9867.

Recycling bins available—Recycling bins are distributed free of charge from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at the Merriam Park Recreation Center, 2000 St. Anthony Ave. The next pickup dates are June 3 and 17.

Union Park news—The Union Park District Council's board of directors will hold its next meeting at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 3, in Concordia University's Library Technology Center, 1282 Concordia Ave. Residents are still being sought to join the Neighborhood Issues, Parks and Recreation, Land Use, and Internal Affairs committees. For information, contact the UPDC office or visit its website.



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DANIEL BUCHEN
651-282-9609



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651-282-9621 • \$589,000



Sarah Kinney

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Sarah Kinney

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Lovingly renovated, this 3-story home features new kitchen and baths, cozy main floor family room, master suite, 3rd floor family room, BR & 3/4 bath, hardwood floors and beautiful woodwork. 691 Goodrich.
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Jane Austin McGrath

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District 197 celebrates 150 years

June 6 event to feature parade, picnic, music, games, fireworks

School District 197 will celebrate its 150th anniversary of educating students in Mendota Heights, West St. Paul and Eagan on Saturday, June 6. The festivities are being held in conjunction with the annual Mendota Heights Parks Celebration, which will take place from noon to 3:00 p.m. in Mendakota Park off of Dodd Road.

The festivities will then move to the south lawn of Henry Sibley High School from 3:30 p.m. to dusk, where there will be an old-fashioned baseball game, parade of teachers and students, picnic, music, games, a history display and fireworks.

The district kicked off its year-long anniversary celebration with an old-fashioned schoolhouse raising last September at Matson Field in West St. Paul. The 150-square-foot building is a replica of the district's first schoolhouse that was built in 1859, just a year after Minnesota was granted statehood. Initially known as County School 3, the building was located about 40 yards from Delaware and Emerson avenues on the border of West St. Paul and Mendota Heights.

According to a history of the district written by Gloria Gritz, the school was moved in 1863 to the site of today's Somerset School on Dodd Road. That school burned down in 1899 and was replaced by the new Staples School, which in turn was replaced by the current Somerset School in 1936. Additions were built in 1953 and 1969, and the school was recently renovated, but the original part of the building is still in use.

School District 197 was officially formed



A replica of the district's first schoolhouse.

in 1957. Garlough Elementary (now an environmental magnet school) and Mendota elementary schools had just opened in Mendota Heights and West St. Paul, respectively. The district's other schools have a more recent heritage. Moreland Elementary in West St. Paul was built in 1964 and Sibley High School in Mendota Heights in 1971. The district's fifth elementary school, Pilot Knob, was built in 1974 in Eagan.

Heritage and Friendly Hills middle schools were completed in 1997 and serve students in grades 5-8. Heritage in West St. Paul is on the site of the original Sibley High School and the short-lived Grass Junior High. Friendly Hills is in Mendota Heights.

The 150th anniversary celebration is free and open to the public. Participants are invited to attend in vintage clothing, with cars, bikes or buggies. For information, call 651-452-5179 or visit www.isd197.org.

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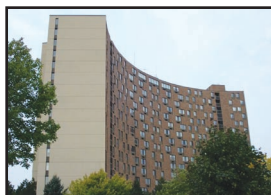


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Food



Home Fires

By Jo Marshall

Leftover magic: From salvage to succulence

When I was 6 years old, Mom pulled some strings at school and arranged for a weekly treat. Every Friday at lunchtime I was allowed to walk unescorted down the block to the old Victorian house of my grandparents. It was the high point of my week.

To me, that faded house was a castle, with its wide front stairway and narrow back hallways once used by “the help.” In the spring and fall, I’d invariably find Grandma hunched over her vegetable garden. Beyond the functional plots were remnants of an ancient bench, a crumbling statue and the ruins of a small pool. If I squinted, I could imagine it teeming with goldfish.

Grandma was a smiling soul, always happy to put down her trowel and lead me to the kitchen. It would be just the two of us. On these occasions I didn’t have to share her with parents or siblings or cousins, and Grandpa wouldn’t be home until later. Noontime invariably found him at the local café with other retired farmers, swapping stories about a favored steer or their son’s acquisition of another combine.

Grandma’s undivided attention was enough to make these occasions special. But, I have to admit, I really looked forward to the food.

It wasn’t that Grandma’s lunches were better than what we had at school. This was rural Iowa, long before school cafeterias were stocked with industrially produced taco fillings and frozen pizza. The food at school tasted pretty much like what we ate at home, likely because my mom and a lot of other moms took turns working in the school kitchen.

In fact, neither fresh ingredients nor culinary refinement was essential to the magic of Grandma’s cooking. Her lunches were enchanting because you never knew what would be in them.

Grandma’s chili, for example, was pure serendipity. It may have begun as a leftover pot of stew. But once that was on the stove, Grandma was back at the icebox, extracting bowls of untold ingredients. The chili placed before me might have corn or broccoli or green beans from the previous night’s supper, a dollop of fried potatoes, scraps of chicken or chunks of ham. I wouldn’t be surprised if, just for flavor, she stirred in a spoonful of the bacon grease.

The pleasure of Grandma’s company certainly enhanced the flavor. Still, I have a lingering admiration for those mystery lunches. Grandma kept eight children amply fed through the Depression, crop failures and farm foreclosures, and her ability to make much from little never waned. Forget the foams and froths contrived by modern chefs. If necessity is the mother of invention, Grandma was the most inventive cook I could imagine. And, I’m happy to report, her ghost makes frequent visits to my kitchen.

It started years back with the guilt brought on by the realization that my enthusiasm for adventurous cooking and gra-



Two or three overripe bananas are the main ingredients for a perfectly moist cake. PHOTO BY JANET HOSTETTER

cious entertaining was resulting in far too many food funerals hosted by the garbageman. Like a lot of cooks, I began to think of repurposing leftovers as a challenge, not a chore. Seamlessly working last night’s who-knows-what into tonight’s come-and-get-it became a pleasure.

By the time grocery prices spiked, I was already well-versed in dinner déjà vu. The financial challenges of the current economy only doubled the dare.

Many of us have well-established strategies for stretching food budgets. Just about any scraps of meat are fair game for quesadillas. Frittatas gobble up leftover greens and sausage. Steamed or baked potatoes get mashed, folded into leftover vegetables and topped with cheese for impromptu gratins.

I take regular stock of the fridge, and whatever is about to go south is promptly put to use. I’m also an avid bone collector, and not just the bones from major roasts. I have a beef bag for whatever came from a cow and a chicken bag for the bones from wings and drumsticks. Making stock means going to the freezer, not the store.

Cheese rinds get the cryogenic treatment to enrich a future stew. Crusty hunks of bread are frozen for crumbs and croutons. And those bottom stubs of asparagus that you end up with when you bend the spear to snap off the tender part? We’re often told to discard them, but they make a perfectly flavorful soup. Sure, they’re tough and stringy, but that’s why God invented blenders. Since I’m not in the mood for soup these days, this spring’s asparagus stubs are being frozen to be resurrected in the fall when cream of asparagus soup will be a welcome treat.

And while we’re in the freezer, I’ll reveal another collection. Martha Stewart or some such culinary sage once said to throw

overripe bananas in the freezer to be used for banana bread. Great idea, dismal results—for me, at least. Freeze a truly blackened banana and its pulp pretty much turns to liquid. Maybe it was just bad luck, but various recipes yielded consecutive batches of banana bread with insides the consistency of pudding. Specimens from my over-the-hill banana collection would occasionally get whirled into a smoothie or stirred into pancake batter, but supply outpaced demand and the cache grew and grew.

Then Grandma’s ghost stopped by for a visit. A couple of Sundays ago, I felt like baking a cake and started paging through my baking books. Coconut cake sounded good, but the pantry yielded no coconut.

Deflated, I flipped the page. And there it was, as though Grandma had placed it there—a stunning banana cake.

Did I have overripe bananas? I could barely open the freezer without having a banana hit my foot. I reasoned that, in a cake, that extra moisture might actually be an asset.

Perhaps I’m delusional, or just overly eager to out my inner grandma, but I swear, we nibbled at that cake all week and the last piece was as moist as the first. I like to think that, like Grandma’s lunches, there’s magic in that its cornerstone ingredient was resurrected salvage. Anyway you look at it, it was a luscious cake. I wouldn’t hesitate to bake it again for guests or take it to a party.

Hmmmm. Now that’s a thought: Repurposing what others might throw in the trash, propping it on a crystal platter, and marching it right up to the host’s front door. Amid the praise that followed, I’d demur, “Oh, it’s nothing, really,” because, in fact, that’s what it is.

Grandma would be proud.

Banana Cake for Grandma

1/2 pound unsalted butter
1 cup granulated sugar
2 eggs
1 cup mashed overripe bananas (2-3 bananas)
1-3/4 cups unbleached all-purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon table salt
2/3 teaspoon baking soda
5 tablespoons buttermilk (see note)
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
cream-cheese frosting (see recipe below)
1/3 cup finely chopped walnuts

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour two 9-inch round layer pans. Cream the butter with the sugar until light and fluffy. Add the eggs one at a time, beating well

after each. Add the mashed bananas (if your bananas have been frozen, they’ll burst from their skins pre-mashed) and mix thoroughly. Sift the dry ingredients together and add to the butter-banana mixture. Mix until well incorporated. Add the buttermilk and vanilla, mix well and continue to beat for an additional minute. Pour the batter into prepared pans and bake until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean, about 25-30 minutes. Place the pans on a rack to cool for 10 minutes, then turn the cakes onto the rack and let them cool completely. Assemble and frost with the cream-cheese frosting. Sprinkle the walnuts on top of the cake.

Note: If you don’t have buttermilk on hand, do what Grandma did: Add a little white vinegar to regular milk and let it stand for a few minutes to sour. For the purposes of this recipe, I added 1 teaspoon of vinegar to four tablespoons plus 2 teaspoons of milk. I tested this recipe with both buttermilk and soured milk, and both gave good results.

That said, buttermilk can be successfully frozen, so the buttermilk you invariably have left after any recipe needn’t go to waste. Buying it in plastic screw-top bottles makes for easy storage. Cream cheese and butter also freeze well, so thrifty cooks replenish stocks when the price is right.

Cream-Cheese Frosting

8 ounces cream cheese (low-fat if you like)
6 tablespoons unsalted butter
3 cups confectioner’s sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
Juice of 1/2 lemon (or more to taste)

Bring the butter and cream cheese to room temperature, then cream together. Slowly sift in the confectioner’s sugar and beat until fully incorporated and free of lumps. Add the vanilla and lemon juice and beat until fluffy.

On the Town

'The Last Cyclist'

Lex-Ham revives death camp drama from '43

BY BOB GILBERT

There was an old joke among the Jews living in Europe between the two world wars about a conversation among three men:

First man: The Jews and the cyclists are responsible for all of the problems in the world.

Second man: Why the cyclists?

Third man: Why the Jews?

Karel Svenk, a Czech Jew who was being held captive in the Theresienstadt concentration camp in Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia, expanded on that joke in 1943 when he wrote the play, *The Last Cyclist*. Theresienstadt's inmates rehearsed the satirical comedy under the direction of Svenk, but it never made it to the stage in Theresienstadt. Because the play portrayed the Nazis as morons, the Council of Jewish Elders in Theresienstadt shut it down for fear of reprisals.

The play has since been resurrected from the memory of a Theresienstadt actress who worked

on the project, and on June 5 it will open a three-weekend run in St. Paul.

"This will be the first time *The Last Cyclist* has been staged in America," said Urban Landreman, the play's producer and the director of the Lex-Ham Community Theatre. "It's funny and it makes you laugh, but then you realize, 'oh, that's right, these people are in a concentration camp.'"

The production is a collaboration among the Lex-Ham Theatre, the Blank Slate Theatre, the Jewish Community Center of St. Paul, the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of St. Paul, and Good Samaritan United Methodist Church of Edina.

"This is a community-building effort, uniting groups who usually don't talk to each other," Landreman said. "We each come to the play from a slightly different angle. The Czech groups are intrigued by it because it's written by a Czech playwright. The Jewish community is interested because it involves their history. We picked it because it's a damn good play."

Theresienstadt, or Terizen as the Czechs called it, was an old walled

city about 40 miles from Prague. During World War II, the Nazis forced the 6,000 local residents out and moved the Jews in. At one point, more than 60,000 Jews were living in the compound. Though they didn't know it, they were awaiting transfer to one of the Nazi death camps.

About 140,000 Jews in all passed through the Theresienstadt ghetto. Half of them were Czech, and many of them were painters, writers, musicians and other artists. Only 20,000 survived the war. Svenk was not among them; he died at Auschwitz.

The Last Cyclist tells of the inmates of an insane asylum who take over the world. Their dictatorial leader, Ma'am, once had a psychiatrist who stuck needles in her arms. This psychiatrist rode a bicycle, so the former inmates figure that if they can only get rid of all the cyclists in the world, their troubles will be over. The protagonist is a persecuted grocery store owner by the name of Bořivoj Abeles, a Charlie Chaplin-like



Adam Dielschneider and Shira Levenson star in the U.S. premiere of Nazi Holocaust victim Karel Svenk's *The Last Cyclist*. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

'THE LAST CYCLIST' ►22

Macalester-Groveland's Clark practices what she teaches

BY BILL STIEGER

Amy Leahy Clark is not one of those artists who pines to quit her day job. She sees her position as the art teacher at St. Peter Claver School as an extension of her creative work.

"The kids inspire me," said Clark from her desk in the Summit-University grade school's art room, which is wallpapered with the art of her students. "I didn't have my first show until 2005. I began showing my work, in part, because I couldn't tell these kids to be artists if I wasn't one myself. That led to my joining the AZ Gallery and finally exhibiting my work."

A lifelong resident of the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood, Clark will be showing her paintings and garden art through the end of June at the AZ Gallery in St. Paul's Lowertown. Her exhibit, "When the World Breaks Your Heart," will open with a public reception from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. Friday, June 5.

Clark, 44, is an energetic mother of two boys who on top of being a teacher and an



Artist Amy Leahy Clark. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

artist works as a volunteer for St. Peter Claver, raising funds and performing other duties for the school. She is now in the process of designing and building a community garden for St. Peter Claver. Friends describe her as "voracious," someone who "seizes the

moment" and "relaxes by remaining active."

Clark paints in oils and watercolors. Her murals have been seen nationally on the television show "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition," which featured the Swenson-Lee family of Minnetonka. Clark painted images of France on the walls of 12-year-old Taylor Swenson's bedroom.

"The show's producers e-mailed me," Clark said. "They'd seen the murals on my website. They asked to see more of my work and a resumé. They told me they had to look at some other artists, so I didn't expect to hear from them. But they called me back and I got the job."

Clark is also an avid gardener, and she crafts garden art and garden furniture for her clients. A sampling of her work can be viewed online at www.amyclarkart.com.

Amy Leahy (her maiden name) had the almost stereotypical St. Paul Irish Catholic childhood. She attended Nativity Grade School, graduated from Visitation High School in Mendota Heights, then studied for two years at the College of St. Catherine before financial circumstances forced her to

switch to a state college. "I ran out of money halfway through my undergrad studies," she said. "I got my bachelor's degree at Metro State in liberal arts."

The job offers weren't exactly pouring in for liberal arts majors, so Clark studied graphic design at Brown College in Minneapolis before being hired as a graphic designer for Shea Architects, where she stayed for 12 years.

"I left Shea in 2000 because I wanted to have another child," Clark said. "Then I stayed at home for five years to take care of my younger son and worked part-time as a care assistant for a disabled child. I'd done some volunteer work for St. Peter Claver during that period. The principal, Theresa Mardenborough, knew of my art background and encouraged me to apply for a teaching position."

St. Peter Claver is a small K-8 Catholic school located just east of the corner of Central Avenue and Lexington Parkway. Ninety-five percent of its students are

AMY LEAHY CLARK ►22

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On the Town Briefly

Theater

The Unexpected Guest, a murder mystery by Agatha Christie involving a dead husband, a penitent wife and her unexpected guest who isn't so sure of the wife's guilt, is playing through June 21 at Theatre in the Round, 245 Cedar Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Show times are 8:00 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2:00 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$20 with discounts for seniors and students. Call 612-333-3010.

Ivan the Drunk and His Terrible Tale of Woe, a new tragicomedy by Off-Leash Area co-directors Paul Herwig and Jennifer Ilse, will open on June 4 at Open Eye Figure Theater, 506 E. 24th St. in Minneapolis. Herwig stars as a clownish Russian combat veteran in a story about the price a soldier pays for his patriotism. Show times are 8:00 p.m. Thursday through Sunday through June 20. Tickets are \$12-\$18. Call 612-724-7372.

Spider's Web, an Agatha Christie whodunit in which the mistress of the murder mystery spoofs herself, will open on June 5 at Park Square Theatre, 20 W. 7th Place. Peter Moore directs a cast that includes Bob Davis, Allen Hamilton, Steve Hendrickson, Bruce Hyde, Michael Paul Levin, Carolyn Pool, Amy Schweickhardt, Piper Sigel-Bruse and Sid Solomon. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday through June 21. Tickets are \$15-\$39. Call 651-291-7005.

The Enemy: Time, a short play written by Tennessee Williams in 1952, will receive its world premiere from June 13-28 at the Gremlin Theatre, 2400 University Ave. Directed by Jef Hall-Flavin, the dense half-hour drama stars Peter Christian Hansen as Phil Beam, a fading Hollywood ne'er-do-well who falls victim to his past indiscretions. Williams will be feted prior to each show with a Southern social featuring live music and



Craig Verm and Norah Long star in *The Desert Song*, one of two light operas about love and courtship that will be performed by the Skylark Opera in repertory from June 13-21 in Pearson Theater at Concordia University, 312 N. Hamline Ave. The other production is Donizetti's *Don Pasquale*, a comic opera about a disinherited nephew, his effervescent fiancée and wealthy elderly uncle starring Rod Nelman and Robb Asklof. *The Desert Song* will be staged at 8:00 p.m. June 13 and 18 and 3:00 p.m. June 17, 20 and 21. *Don Pasquale* plays at 3:00 p.m. June 14 and 8:00 p.m. June 19 and 20. For tickets, call 651-209-6689.

nonalcoholic refreshments. The doors open at 7:30 p.m. June 13-14, 19-22 and 27-28. A party follows each performance at Jay's Café and Bar around the corner. For ticket information, call 651-228-7008.

Singin' in the Rain, one of the most celebrated movie musicals of all time, will be performed June 16-28 at the Ordway. Directed and choreographed by James Rocco, it stars Michael Gruber, Christina Saffran Ashford, Tony Vierling, Austene Van, Richard Ooms and Claudia Wilkens. Show times are 8:00 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, 2:00 and 8:00 p.m. Saturday and 2:00 and 7:30 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$49-\$75. Call 651-224-4222.

Dance

Israeli dance classes for novices and experts alike will be taught by Shira Schwartz from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. every Wednesday, June 3-24, at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. Open dancing will follow from 8:00 to 9:30 p.m. Admission is \$8.00. Call Penny Schumacher at 651-255-4732.

Ballet of the Dolls will reprise its 1991 ballet *Romiette and Julio* from June 18-28 in part to explore how people's perspectives may have changed over the past 18 years. The tale of love, passion and the cruelty of judgment examines AIDS, same-

sex marriages and homophobia. Show times are 8:00 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 7:00 p.m. Sunday at the Ritz Theater, 345 13th Ave. NE. in Minneapolis. Call 612-436-1129.

Exhibits

"Minnesota Prints and Printmakers," a showcase of fine-art printmaking between 1900 and 1945, is on view through September 7 at the James J. Hill House, 240 Summit Ave. Admission is \$2.00. Cole Rogers of Minneapolis' Highpoint Center for Printmaking will discuss "Minnesota Printmaking Past, Present and Future" at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, June 4. Admission to the lecture is \$8.00, \$6.00 for seniors and students, \$5.00 for children. Refreshments and a tour of the Hill House will follow. Call 651-297-2555.

"Interpretations of Faith," paintings, sculpture, drawings, prints, paper and mixed-media works by eight women working in the Judaic or Christian traditions, is on view through June 28 on the lower level of the Basilica of St. Mary in Minneapolis. The gallery is open from 10:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Saturdays and from 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Sundays. A reception for artists Robyn Stoller Awend, Kirsten Malcolm Berry, Joan Bohlig, Carolyn Brunelle, Leah Golberstein, Renanah Halpern, Lynda Monick-Isenberg and Lucinda Naylor and a panel discussion will be held at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, June 11. Admission is free. Call 612-333-1381.

"Wolves and Wild Lands," an exhibit by the International Wolf Center on the increasingly fragmented habitat for wolves, is being displayed through August 23 at the Bell Museum of Natural History, 17th and University avenues in Southeast Minneapolis. Admission is \$5.00, \$3.00 for students and seniors, or free for all

on Sundays from noon to 5:00 p.m. Call 612-624-7083.

"Sinister but Sweet," the art of D.C. Ice, will be shown from June 6 to July 6 at Frameworks, 2022 Ford Pkwy. An opening reception will be held from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Saturday, June 6.

"Piece Process," functional art and sculpture by Chris Ahalt, Garrett Glaser, Mike Larson, Josie Lewis, Holly Vrieze Murray, Kyle Osvog, Chris Rand and Jason Wismar, will be displayed from June 6 through August 1 at Vine Arts Center, 2637 27th Ave. S. in Minneapolis. An opening reception will be held from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. Saturday, June 6. Call 612-728-5745.

"Titanic," a 14,000-square-foot display of more than 250 artifacts from the ill-fated ocean liner recovered from the bottom of the North Atlantic, will open on June 12 at the Science Museum of Minnesota. Visitors to the exhibit are invited to assume the role of passengers, traveling back in time to April 1912, when the luxurious Titanic embarked on its maiden voyage. They will learn about the ship's construction, what life was like on board, the famous sinking and the efforts to recover the wreckage. They will also witness the world's reaction to the disaster and learn of their respective passenger's fate. The Titanic exhibit will remain on view through January 3, 2010. Tickets are \$23, \$18 for children ages 4-12 and seniors. For reservations, call 651-221-9444.

The College of Visual Arts will hold its annual Alumni Exhibition from June 13 through July 11 in the gallery at 173 N. Western Ave. An opening reception will be held from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Friday, June 12. Call 651-757-4000.

"Visual Jazz," an exhibit of jazz-inspired art curated by Seitu Jones, will open with a reception from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Wednesday, June

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17, at Grand Hand Gallery, 619 Grand Ave. Live music, wine and hors d'oeuvres will be featured. The art will remain on view through July 8. Call 651-312-1122.

Film

Journey 12,460 feet below the North Atlantic Ocean and view the wreckage of the world's most famous shipwreck in *Titanica*, opening June 12 (being shown through January 3, 2010) in the Science Museum of Minnesota's Omnitheater. The IMAX film features stunning images of the Titanic where it has rested since April 1912, when the luxury liner struck an iceberg and sank about 400 nautical miles southeast of Newfoundland. Detailed images of the wreck are juxtaposed with archival photos of the ship. Tickets are \$7.50, \$6.50 for children ages 4-12. Call 651-221-9444.

Books

Local authors Jane Gilgun, Jacqueline Mosio and Tom Swift will discuss their new nonfictional books at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, June 4, at the Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave. Sponsored by the Twin Cities chapter of the National Writers Union, the free program will feature Mosio's *Getting a Jump on Life: 90 Years of Flying in the Face of Obstacles, Overcoming Hardships and Making My Own Way*, about her coauthor, Aileen Fritsch; Swift's *Chief Bender's Burden*, the true story of the country's greatest American Indian baseball player; and Gilgun's *On Being a Shit: Unkind Deeds and Cover-Ups in Everyday Life*.

Common Good Books, 165 N. Western Ave., will present free readings by the following authors: Lynn Freed from *The Servants' Quarters* at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 4; Jane Hamilton from *Laura Rider's Masterpiece*, 7:30 p.m. Monday, June 8; Michael Stanley from *The Second Death of Goodluck Tinubu*, 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 10; Mary Hayes Grieco from *Be A Light: Illumined Essays for Times Like These*, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 18. Call 651-225-8989.

Minnesota author George Rabasa and soprano Jennifer Baldwin-Peden join in an evening of literature and song on Tuesday, June 9, to mark the publication of Rabasa's novel, *The Wonder Singer*. The story of a famous diva and an obscure freelance writer who seizes his last chance at greatness will be introduced at 7:00 p.m. at the Loft, 1011 Washington Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Admission is free. Call 612-215-2575.

The Central Library Book Club will discuss *The Lovely Bones* by Alice Sebold on June 11. The club meets at 10:30 a.m. on the second Thursday of each month in the 4th floor meeting room of the library, 90 W. 4th St. Admission is free and open to all. Call 651-266-7000, extension 5.

The Bloomsday Society will celebrate the life and work of Irish author James Joyce during its 24th annual Bloomsday celebration at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday June 16, at the University Club, 420 Summit Ave. Reading from Joyce's novel *Ulysses*, which is set on June 16, will be poet Donal Heffernan, Australian writer and photographer Michael Bayly, Minnesota Historical Society librarian Patrick Coleman, poet and actress Molly Culligan, singer and peace activist Brigid McDonald, and singer and guitarist Michael Ziegahn. Admission is free. An optional dinner is served at 5:00 p.m. For reservations, call 651-222-1751.

World explorer Dan Buettner will speak at the second annual Lunch for Libraries on Wednesday, June 17, in Kagin Commons at Macalester College. The fundraiser for the Minnesota Library Foundation will be emceed by actress Linda Kelsey. A book signing will open the affair at 11:30 a.m. Lunch and Buettner's talk will follow at

noon. Buettner is the author of *The Blue Zone: Lessons for Living Longer from People Who've Lived the Longest*, a New York Times bestseller. Tickets are \$40, or \$300 for a table of eight. Call Judy Todd at 651-645-5731.

Music

The St. Paul Chamber Orchestra and its Anniversary Chorale under the direction of Dale Warland will perform Mendelssohn's complete A Midsummer Night's Dream and Schumann's Quartet in E-Flat at 8:00 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, June 4-6, at the Ordway. Tickets are \$10-\$59 or \$5.00 for children. Call 651-291-1144.

"Converging Traditions," a concert by the Zeitgeist ensemble featuring Chinese pipa player Gao Hong's "Seasons" and the premiere of banjo player Paul Elwood's "Forty-Four Smokeless," will be presented at 8:00 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, June 4-6, at Studio Z, 275 E. 4th St. Hong and Elwood will join Zeitgeist in the shows. Tickets are \$10. Call 651-755-1500.

A free hip-hop concert featuring Doomtree, Toki Wright of Rhymesayers and Brandon Allday and Medium Zach of Big Quarters will be presented on Saturday, June 6, by McNally Smith College of Music. Hip-hop historian Davey D will open the program at 6:30 p.m. with an Inside the Hip-Hop Studio interview at the History Theatre, 30 E. 10th St. Reservations are required. Visit www.mcnallysmith.edu/hiphopkickoff.

"Summer at Northrop," a series of free concerts from noon to 1:00 p.m. weekdays through July 22 on Northrop Plaza at the University of Minnesota, will open on June 11 with Spanish music and dance by Michael Hauser. The schedule also includes the New Primitives Afro-Caribbean music on June 15; garage pop by France Has the Bomb, June 16; Summit Avenue pop rock, June 17; and the hip hop of Kristoff Krane, June 18.

One Voice Mixed Chorus, a choir of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and straight singers, will close its season with a musical celebration of the environment on June 13 and 14 at the History Theatre, 30 E. 10th St. Songs by St. Paul composers Steve Heitzig, Abbie Betinis and J. David Moore will be featured. The children's choirs from Shir Tikvah, Unity Unitarian Church and Mayflower United Church of Christ will join in two of the selections. The music begins at 7:30 p.m. Saturday and 3:30 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$18-\$25, \$10 for students and seniors. Call 651-298-1954.

Family

Red Balloon Bookshop, 891 Grand Ave., will present garden stories for babies at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, June 6; Erin Downing and her book for teenagers, *Juicy Gossip*, at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, June 6; and an origami workshop with Mary Holland at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, June 13. Admission is free.

"Under the Sea," an interactive program for 2- and 3-year-olds, will be offered from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. Thursday, June 4, at the Bell Museum of Natural History, 17th and University avenues in Southeast Minneapolis. Tots and their families can get a close-up looks at a shark's jaw and narwhal's tusk, practice swimming like a fish, listen to a story about life under the sea and paint a colorful underwater scene. Admission is \$5.00, \$3.00 for students and seniors. Registration is required. Call 612-624-9050.

The Minnesota Historical Society will hold free open houses at all of its museums and historic sites on Sunday, June 7. Among the special events will be the making of miniature World War II gliders at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd.; a screening of the film *Minneapolis in 19*

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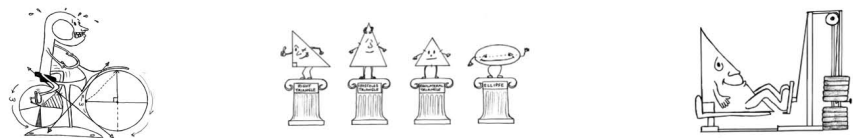
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"Paw Pals," a free storytime for children ages 6-11, will be conducted by Catherine Roach and her dog Taylor on Saturday, June 6, at the Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy. Fifteen-minute sessions are available between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m. Call 651-695-3700.

A close-up look at honeybees, their various jobs and the physical and behavioral adaptations that have made them successful will be offered from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Saturday, June 13, at the Bell Museum of Natural History, 17th and University avenues in Southeast Minneapolis. Participants may sample honey made by the museum's bees. Admission is \$5.00, \$3.00 for students and seniors. Call 612-624-7083.

Et cetera

The St. Anthony Park Arts Festival returns from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday, June 6, near the intersection of Como and Carter avenues. More than 100 artists will be showing and selling their works in pottery, fiber, painting, jewelry, sculpture and other media. Hands-on activities for children, a magic show, live music on two stages, a petting zoo, pony rides, food booths, plant sale, used book sale and retail sidewalk sale will also be featured in the free event.

The new Cretin-Derham Hall community theater will hold auditions for its upcoming production of *Noises Off* from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Monday, June 15, at CDH, 550 S. Albert St. The hilarious comedy by Michael Frayn tells of the on-stage and off-stage antics of a fifth-rate acting troupe. It will be performed July 24-26 and July 31-August 2. Contact Katie Kreitzer at 651-696-3333.

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19◀ 'THE LAST CYCLIST'

character who stumbles through situations that expose the absurdity of Nazi laws regarding race.

Lisa Peschel, a doctoral candidate in theater at the University of Minnesota and a Grand Avenue resident, brought *The Last Cyclist* to the attention of the Lex-Ham Theater. She discovered the play while researching her dissertation on the cultural life of Theresienstadt.

"The key to understanding this work is to realize that the actors at Theresienstadt were not trivializing their situation," Peschel said. "The inmates were in a dire situation that they could not control, and theater was a way to overcome their fear of not knowing what was going to happen to them from one day to the next. Though their comedy was ironic and allegorical in form, it allowed Svenk and his actors to feel, if only for a few hours, in control of their situation and to make the Nazis look ridiculous."

The Last Cyclist has only been performed for the public once before. It had a short run in Prague in 1961 as part of the 40th anniversary celebration of the Czech

Communist Party. The play was rewritten from the memory of actress Jana Sedova, who at the time was the only surviving member of the original Theresienstadt cast.

New York playwright Naomi Patz adapted the script for the Lex-Ham Theater. The current version is a play within a play, according to Adam Arnold, who directs the 14-member cast.

The Last Cyclist will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, June 5 and 6, and at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, June 7, at the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center, 383 Michigan St.; at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 11, and 2:00 p.m. Sunday, June 14, at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave.; at 7:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday, June 12 and 13, at Good Samaritan United Methodist Church, 5730 Grove St. in Edina; and at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, June 19 and 20, at the Blank Slate Theatre, located in the basement of the First Baptist Church at 499 Wacouta St.

Peschel and Patz will discuss "The Cultural Life of the Theresienstadt Ghetto" in a free program at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, June 4, at the St. Paul JCC.

Tickets for the play are \$18, \$12 for students and seniors. Call 651-222-7333.

19◀ AMY LEAHY CLARK

African American, and many come from families with low incomes and receive tuition assistance.

A walk through its art-festooned hallways can leave a visitor agog. The students were friendly and inquisitive, and all were polite in a manner that can be lost on most American students today.

"It's a very strict school," whispered Clark with a laugh. "But the students are given respect as well as being required to act respectfully."

Clark first became interested in art at Visitation. "Every artist seems to have had that one person who encouraged them," she said. "In my case it was Sister Jane Dechante, who taught art at Visitation. Sister Dechante kept telling me she saw talent in my work. She even submitted one of my paintings for the St. Paul Jaycees' Best 100 Juried Art Exhibition, and I was chosen."

Clark works in landscapes and portraiture, using mostly oils. She likes stark colors and bold strokes, though some are rendered in soft pastels as well. There is a religious aspect to some of her paintings—children praying at Mass or bantering with each other in a church pew. She cites as influences Edvard Munch, Edward Hopper and the French Impressionists.

"I get together and paint with my friend, Mary Esch," Clark said. "She's also been a real inspiration and influence on my work."

"Amy is a very spontaneous, unapologetic



Amy Leahy Clark and her art. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

painter," said Esch, who has exhibited at the Walker Art Center. "She's very into the moment and not much into editing. She's wild and sweet and spiritual, sort of like an eccentric nun. And those are the qualities you find in her painting."

With Clark's work as a teacher and volunteer along with her duties as a mother, where does she find the time to paint? "I work early in the morning and late into the night," she said. "I have a studio in my garage with an old-fashioned jukebox. But I wouldn't want to stay in my studio all the time. I enjoy my job as a teacher too much."

Clark's art will remain on view through June 30 at the AZ Gallery, 308 Prince St. Gallery hours are 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and by appointment. Call 651-224-3757.

Sports



The Wright Call

By Dave Wright

UST wins baseball title the hard way

It should have come as no surprise that the University of St. Thomas baseball team stretched its spring season into extra innings before claiming the NCAA Division III championship on May 26 in Grand Chute, Wisconsin. What else would you expect from a team whose head coach held the first practice of the season in a field house at midnight on February 1, the earliest moment the rules allowed?

Two days after the Tommies defeated Wooster (Ohio) 3-2 in 12 innings to win the national title, coach Dennis Denning admitted he was a bit tired, but sounded as if he was ready to repeat the whole experience. "Most teams were already busy recruiting, but we were still playing," he said. "Nothing's more fun than that."

It was St. Thomas' second national title in Denning's 15-year tenure at his alma mater. This one came the hard way, the Tommies having to play 17 post-season games in 17 days. They were shut out twice in that span and were outscored 27-1 in a ghoulis doubleheader against St. Olaf. Eight of the games were elimination affairs—with the MIAC, regional or NCAA title on the line—so the tension was ratcheted up several notches.

Through it all, however, the Tommies managed to keep their wits about them, finding different ways and different people to pull games out of the fire. So when Henry Sibley grad Dan Leslie singled home Matt Olson with the winning run in the bottom of the 12th inning of the final game, Denning wasn't totally surprised. "We've always looked for players who want to be in on the action with the game on the line," he said. "Matt Olson was terrific during the post-season for us. So was Dan Leslie."

However, even the ever-optimistic Denning admitted there were times when he looked at the box score after a game and said to his staff, "How in the world did we win this?"

For example, there was the 17-inning game against Wisconsin-Stevens Point that opened up the regional weekend in Oshkosh. St. Thomas managed just six hits in 55 at bats—a less than crisp .109 team batting average. The Tommies' best pitcher, Matt Schuld, threw 12 innings before giving way to Kris Edwards, who had only worked six innings all season. But Edwards tossed five scoreless frames, keeping his team afloat until Taylor Rahm, who didn't even enter the elongated affair until the 14th inning, homered to end the game.

"We have all sorts of expectations of our players," Denning said. "One of them is that they keep battling to find a way to win. That's what we did in that game."

St. Olaf was in that same regional and beat the Tommies two days later. But it takes two losses to go home and St. Thomas bounced back to defeat Stevens Point a second time and turn the tables on the Oles to move to the region title game. With the season on the line, Denning gave the ball to

WRIGHT CALL ► 24



Senior Emily Engdahl slides home safely, knotting the score at 3-3 as her Redhawks squared off with St. Anthony in the first of two games for the Section 4AA title on May 27. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Redhawks run down state softball berth

BY BILL WAGNER

Talk about cutting it close. Minnehaha Academy earned its first trip to the Class AA state softball tournament with a 4-3 victory over St. Anthony on a drizzly afternoon at Hamline University on May 27. But it was the way the Redhawks did it that was nerve-racking for their fans.

Minnehaha, seeded second in Section 4AA, entered the championship round needing only a single win over St. Anthony to clinch a state tourney berth. At first, it looked as if the Redhawks would get the win easily. They jumped to a quick 2-0 lead in the first inning on sophomore Sarah Winter's tape-measure, two-run homer. Minnehaha had other chances in that first game, including two players in scoring position with no one out in the fourth inning. However, the Redhawks failed to score each time.

Senior ace Emily Engdahl was the losing pitcher after St. Anthony rallied from behind on Elaina Hamann's three-run triple in the fifth. Engdahl gave up only six hits, but was done in by five errors by the Redhawks in the 6-4 loss.

In the second game, Minnehaha had to sweat it out right to the end. The last out was recorded on a rundown between third and home, and the Redhawks finally had their hard-earned victory.

Senior Liz Mrozek, who usually plays

shortstop, took the mound for Game 2, and answered the call with a three-hitter. Mrozek, who was 3-1 on the year as a pitcher, benefitted from some much-improved Minnehaha defense as the Redhawks made only two miscues.

Minnehaha's margin of victory can be traced to the third inning against the Huskies' Jyll Tusa, who pitched both ends of the doubleheader. In that frame, senior Sarah Lucht started things off with a walk. Senior AnnaMarie Martino's single put runners at first and second. The runners moved up on a wild pitch, and then Engdahl executed a suicide squeeze bunt before an error and Winter's single finished off the three-run splurge. The Huskies threatened to tie it or go ahead in the seventh inning, but Mrozek and her mates kept their composure.

Minnehaha coach Mike DiNardo was pleased with the way his team reacted to the early adversity. "It was a rough start for us today," he said, "but we battled through it. This team has done that all year. We've always been able to regroup when we had to."

DiNardo saw some items of concern after Game 1 and with a few between-game words, basically told his athletes to relax and enjoy themselves. "Our defense broke down," he said. "St. Anthony is a good team that puts a lot of pressure on its opponents. They put the ball in play any way they can, whether it's by driving the ball or slapping and bunting. But we

didn't help ourselves when our defense didn't get the job done. I thought Emily pitched well enough to win. Our defense played much better in the second game, and Liz came through for us."

The Redhawks' journey through the section playoffs was fraught with danger. Conference rival Visitation, which had beaten Minnehaha during the regular season, loomed as the No. 1 seed. The Redhawks breezed past Edison 17-0, DeLaSalle 17-5 and Blake 9-0 in the first three rounds to set up a rematch against Visitation. This time, Minnehaha had the Blazers' number, topping them 4-1 to advance to the title game without a playoff loss.

Visitation, which had defeated St. Anthony 10-9 in the third round of sections, lost a chance to face Minnehaha again when it fell to the Huskies 14-3 in the losers' bracket final.

"You never know what's going to happen in the playoffs," DiNardo said. "Our girls responded. Now we're looking forward to state."

Minnehaha (21-5) will open the two-day state tournament against Mound-Westonka (18-7) at 1:00 p.m. Thursday, June 4, at Caswell Park in North Mankato.

The Redhawks head to state with the knowledge that Mrozek can back up Engdahl on the mound. And they both swing good bats out of the Nos. 1 and 2 spots in the order, respectively.

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Sports Shorts

A Josh Kadrie-Maloney benefit golf tournament will be held on Saturday, June 20, at the Highland National Golf Course. Kadrie died from metastatic melanoma cancer on June 12, 2008, and one of his last wishes was to help find a cure for melanoma. The tournament will begin with a shotgun start at 8:00 a.m. The cost is \$80 per person and \$20 per team for skins games. The deadline is June 13. Reservations, e-mail Kathy Maloney at stitchabove@comcast.net or make checks to Josh Kadrie Cancer Fundraiser and mail to: Kathy Maloney, 2060 Charlton Street #113, West St. Paul, MN, 55118. A celebration of Kadrie's life will follow at 2:00 p.m. at Shamrocks, 995 W. 7th St. A \$10.00 donation will be asked at the door. There will be food, drinks, prizes, raffles and a silent auction.

The Minnesota Bicycle Festival will be held from Wednesday through Sunday, June 10-14. The festival will feature the Nature Valley Grand Prix, which is the top-ranked women's and second-ranked men's professional bicycling race in the country. The staged race will open with a time trial at 8:30 a.m. beginning under the High Bridge in St. Paul and then traveling through Lilydale Park before ending with a brutal climb to the top of the High Bridge. The winner will wear the coveted yellow jersey as the race continues that evening through downtown St. Paul. The race will resume in Cannon Falls on

Thursday, Minneapolis on Friday, Mankato on Saturday and Stillwater on Sunday. Spectators are being encouraged to ride their bikes to all race and bike corrals will be available at all sites for them. Spectator activities, including the Wheaties Fan Zone, musical entertainment and bike and fitness expos, will also be offered at all five race locations. Free races for children 12 and younger will take place between the women's and men's races at each stage this year. Visit www.minnbikefestival.com.

Logan Marks, a Mendota Heights resident and senior at St. Thomas Academy, will play for the All-Metro team in the 36th annual Minnesota High School All-Star Football Game on Saturday, June 27, at St. Cloud State University. Marks caught 16 passes for 250 yards and four touchdowns last fall as the starting tight end for the Cadets. He also played defensive end.

The 2009 Freedom Cup, an International Gymnastics Federation World Cup event, will be held from July 10-12 in Roy Wilkins Auditorium. More than 200 gymnasts from around the world will compete in the event. The U.S. Acrobatic Gymnastics Junior Olympic National Championships will also be held from July 12-16 in conjunction with the Freedom Cup. Tickets for the Freedom Cup are \$50 for an all-session package or \$15-\$25 per day and are available at the Xcel Box Office and Ticketmaster locations, or may be charged at 1-800-745-3000

or www.ticketmaster.com. Tickets for the Junior Olympic National Championships will be available on site. Visit www.usa-gymnastics.org.

A free outdoor practice session of T'ai Chi Chih will be led by accredited teachers at 9:00 a.m. every Tuesday in June, July and August at Hidden Falls Regional Park. Call Carol Mockovak at 612-729-9040 or Vanjie Bratt at 612-724-1871.

The Highland Park Aquatic Center and Phalen Park beach will be open from noon to 7:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, June 6-7, and will be open daily beginning June 10. The indoor pool at the Great River Water Park, 270 N. Lexington Pkwy., is open year-round. The Como Pool is closed for the 2009 season. All of the city's pools offer free admission when the temperature climbs over 100 degrees. Visit www.stpaul.gov/parks.

The Mississippi River Challenge will be held on Saturday and Sunday, July 25-26. The challenge is a one- or two-day canoe or kayak event on the Twin Cities stretch of the Mississippi River. Participants will be able to paddle through three locks, camp at Fort Snelling, enjoy live music and good food, and learn about the history, ecology and culture of the river. All of the amenities, shuttles and support are covered in one registration fee. Visit www.mississippiriverchallenge.org.

23◀ WRIGHT CALL

Leslie, whose last pitching performance had been two years ago.

"He was very good for us for two seasons, but then hurt his arm," Denning said. "So we moved him to third base. You do long throws from there and his arm slowly got better. But we were just trying to patch things together at that point."

It was one heckuva patch job. Leslie, a senior, threw a walk-free, seven-hit shutout in a 5-0 decision that sent the team to the national tournament. "I knew he'd throw strikes, but the interesting thing was he got better and stronger as the game went on," Denning said. "Frankly, if he'd given us just three or four good innings, I would've been pleased."

A week later, the Tommies were back in Wisconsin, ready for more baseball. After a pair of wins, Leslie returned to the mound against Wooster. He pitched fine, giving up three runs on nine hits in seven innings, but his teammates were unhelpful at the plate, and the game ended in a 3-0 loss.

Thus, the Tommies were in a familiar place—having to win or see their season crash and burn. They won one game, then needed to defeat Wooster twice to come home happy.

In the first game, against Wooster, it was 4-4 when the Tommies came to bat in the top of the ninth inning. Eight batters came to the plate and only one of them got the ball out of the infield. There were two hits, a sacrifice bunt, a batter hit by a pitch and two errors, but it all added up to a pair of runs and a 6-4 win.

All that led to the final game that, had it occurred in a World Series with marquee players, would be discussed for years to come. It was 2-2 after six innings and it stayed that way until Olson led off the 12th with a single, was bunted to

second base and rolled home when Leslie singled to left. It was a simple, efficient way to win a game, but Denning has always been about playing the game as simply as possible.

"A lot of games are lost when you give things away," he said. "We did a lot of little things well at the end of the season. We led the country in defense last year and did so again this year. We only made two errors in the World Series games. Two of those came after a guy had made a great stop and then hurried a throw, so I couldn't be too upset. One of the things I liked the best about the season was that when something did go wrong, we didn't make excuses. We simply got up and went back at it again."

Whether any of the players will move on to the pros following graduation is a question for smarter minds. As is always the case at Division III championship affairs, there were a few scouts around looking for talent. But Denning, who played in the minor leagues in the 1960s, doesn't generally concern himself with such matters. He is more interested in making sure his players are ready for the games and the challenges immediately in front of them—on and off the field.

"The great thing about sports is that it teaches you there will be speed bumps along the way," he said. "It's how you handle them that counts."

The season that started so early had ended so well because of that ability and something else that isn't always easy to find. "Some teams get tired early in the season," Denning said. "We don't have kids who do that."

Now that the season is over, Denning is allowing himself a little down time. The demands of the media and well-wishers, however, were keeping him busy last week.

"We got back from Wisconsin about 2:30 a.m. the other

day. I got to bed at 3:30. I was here (at McCarthy Gym) at 9:00 a.m. to talk to media people and answer congratulatory e-mails," he said. "It's a nice problem to have."

No three-peat for Spartans

St. Paul Academy will not get a chance to make it three champions in a row in Class A boys' tennis. The Spartans fell to conference rival Blake 4-3 in the Section 4A final on May 27 at home. The news wasn't all bad, however. Sophomore John Hill qualified for the singles tournament and the doubles tandem of junior Harry Whitaker and senior Dillon Titcomb also made it through to the state tournament that will be held June 2-5.

Prep coaching opportunities

A high school athletic director's work never seems to get done. Visitation School is looking for a tennis coach for the fall season that starts in August. Contact athletic director Mike Brill at 651-683-1737 if interested. The Blazers were 18-8 last season and advanced to the Section 3AA finals before losing to Simley.

Highland Park is looking for an assistant girls' soccer coach. The application deadline is July 1. Call athletic director John Heller at 651-293-8868.

Arlington High School is searching for a new head boys' basketball coach. The deadline to apply is June 5. Athletic director Nancy Galligan is at 651-487-7304.

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

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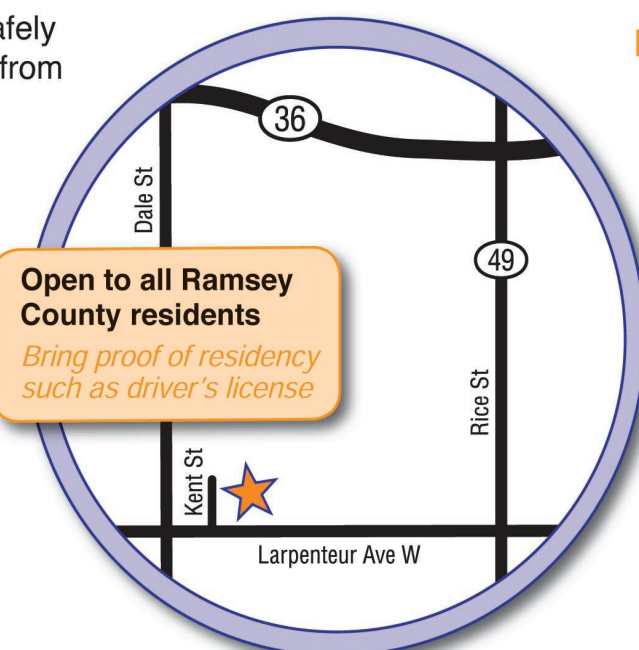
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Minnehaha Academy catcher Al Johnson couldn't get his hand on a foul ball as the Redhawks struggled against St. Anthony on May 28. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Top-ranked Minnehaha faces uphill battle in section playoffs

BY BILL WAGNER

If seedings were dropped for the section baseball playoffs, that would probably be just fine with Minnehaha Academy. Last year, the Redhawks were seeded No. 1 in Section 4AA, only to succumb to St. Anthony twice in the championship and fail to gain a berth at state.

That ended the Redhawks' season, along with the team's hopes for a storybook sendoff for now retired coach David Glenn.

This year, Minnehaha was again the top seed heading into sections, but lost to St. Anthony 5-1 on May 28. The Redhawks will have to climb back through the losers' bracket if they want a rematch with the Huskies for a chance to make the school's first trip to state.

Everything was going as planned when the playoffs begin on May 21. The Redhawks, who boast good pitching depth and a talented but young lineup, defeated Minneapolis Edison 10-4, St. Paul Academy 11-1 and Johnson 7-0. Blanking the Governors was particularly impressive, with Redhawk junior catcher Al Johnson collecting three hits and sophomore hurler Tim Krahn posting the victory to improve his season record to 8-2.

That set the stage for the battle against St. Anthony. The Hawks had little trouble with the Huskies during the regular season, besting them 11-2 in late April. But this time it was No. 2-seed St. Anthony's turn, led by Husky pitcher Nicho Roessler's 12-strikeout performance. Minnehaha senior ace Alex Bruneau was not really hit that hard. But St. Anthony opportunistically bunched its hits together, and that proved to be the difference.

Bruneau, who pitched six good innings before giving way to sophomore Matt Pryor in the seventh, had to leave the game when he was hit in the pitching hand while taking a turn at bat.

The Redhawks approached the St. Anthony game with optimism following a great regular season. For much of the year, the club's team batting average was just a shade under .340. Meanwhile, the team's pitching, with Bruneau

and Krahn leading the starters, looked to be invincible. But Minnehaha could manage only four hits against Roessler, who is only a sophomore, and never seriously threatened the defending state champions.

"You have to give the kid (Roessler) credit," said Minnehaha co-coach Josh Thurow. "He really threw hard. We beat him earlier in the year, but he got it done today."

This was a little different St. Anthony team from the one that started off the year a tepid 6-7 and lost to the Redhawks so badly in mid-season. The Huskies are now riding an 11-game winning streak, and it will require a good team playing its very best to oust them from state.

Even though the Redhawks made it hard on themselves with the defeat, Thurow wanted his charges to keep their chins up. "We have as good a shot (at state) as we've ever had," he said. "We just need three great games. That (defeat) was a bummer, and the kids are very disappointed. They got those two quick runs on us, and we were in a chase mode the rest of the way. But we have to put it behind us and get ready to play again."

Minnehaha (18-6) was scheduled to play DeLaSalle at 4:30 p.m. Monday, June 1, as this issue went to press. The winner will face St. Anthony for the section title at 5:00 p.m. Thursday, June 4, at Midway Stadium. Only this time, if the Redhawks pull through, they will be the ones having to defeat the Huskies twice in order to make it to state.

Thurow noted that Bruneau's hand was still a little swollen, and said he was planning to go with Krahn as his starter in the Monday game. He was hoping for Bruneau to be ready again if the team survives to play St. Anthony. Initial reports were that the pitcher was expected to mend on time.

Last year, Minnehaha knew there was plenty of talent on the team, but there were concerns about the team's youth. This season, the hopes were a mite higher. Last year's players had gained playoff experience. Even so, the Redhawks start six juniors, two sophomores and just one senior.

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Grand Old Day



Grand Avenue will be awash in a river of people during the 36th annual kickoff to summer on Sunday, June 7, that is simply known as Grand Old Day.

Grand goes green

More environmentally friendly festival makes its debut June 7

BY LARRY ENGLUND

A free Metro Transit pass, bicycle parking and increased efforts to reduce waste are all part of the 36th annual Grand Old Day on Sunday, June 7. The sponsoring Grand Avenue Business Association (GABA) has also added environmentally friendly activities to the Twin Cities' first rite of summer, including a "It's Grand Being Green" theme to this year's parade.

"A moving company is going to pull its truck instead of driving it," said GABA program director Jaimee Lucke Hendrikson in describing some of the parade entries. "We have a lot of participants using the color green. Some are using green-themed music. Some are giving away plant seeds."

GABA executive director David Regan noted that the green theme may be interpreted in many ways. St. Paul City Ballet, which won

the Best of Show trophy last year, is recycling costumes and props from its past shows and is creating tutus and other items for its parade unit out of corrugated cardboard and reclaimed products.

The green theme also applies to those arriving at Grand Old Day. "It can be walking or biking instead of driving your car," Regan said. "This year we're giving people lots of opportunity to leave their cars at home."

That includes partnering with Metro Transit. Hendrikson said people may visit www.GrandAve.com and download a free bus and light-rail pass to ride to and from Grand Old Day. A bicycle parking lot will be set up on the Grand Avenue bridge over Ayd Mill Road, and members of the Summit Hill and Macalester-Groveland district councils will be providing information about the environmental

GRAND OLD DAY ► 35



Dr. Brenda Kress of Aspire Chiropractic led a unique entry in last year's Grand Old Day parade composed of people wearing a giant spinal column. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER



Local artist and Adams Spanish Immersion Magnet teacher Felice Amato smiled from behind some of her mixed-media creations for sale at last year's festival.



Todd Hughes added a condiment or two before chomping down on a festival staple during last year's Grand Old Day.

Unwrapped at Grand Old Day

Award-winning duo Eyedea & Abilities put a new spin on hip-hop

BY BILL STIEGER

After a five-year hiatus, the award-winning hip-hop duo Eyedea & Abilities (aka Micheal Larsen and Gregory Keltgen) are back together again. They have a new recording, "By the Throat," and will soon be embarking on a year-long concert tour of the U.S. and Europe. But before they go, the St. Paul boys-made-good will perform at Grand Old Day on Sunday, June 7, as the headliners on the stage at Dixie's, 695 Grand Ave.

Larsen grew up in the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood and graduated from Highland Park High School. Keltgen grew up in the Hamline-Midway neighborhood and graduated from Central High School. They first met when they were 13 years old, and developed a friendship around their shared love of music.

As a child, "I was obsessed with words and rhyming," Larsen said. "I was improvising raps for like five

hours a day when I was 12. I'd create improvisational exercises for myself and go all day. Nothing up until that time made me feel that good."

Keltgen also eventually caught the hip-hop bug. He learned electronics and became a master at scratching the turntable. In the late 1990s, the friends formed Eyedea & Abilities and entered local rap competitions to prove their talent. The duo eventually qualified for slots in the top rap competitions in the U.S., and emerged as winners of Scribble Jam '99, Rocksteady 2000, Blaze-Battle Chicago 2000, HBO's Blaze-Battle World Championship New York 2000 and the 2001 DMC Regional, among others.

"Our success at the competitions created a kind of duality about our music," Larsen said. "We became famous for competitive raps, but we never were really into that kind of thing. We were just good at it. People who came to see us wanted to hear the competitive-type raps, which made it a bit of a drag, cre-



Revamped rappers Eyedea & Abilities return to their hometown for a Grand Old Day gig on Dixie's stage.

atively speaking."

Despite their success—Eyedea & Abilities have around 250 videos on YouTube—Larsen and Keltgen found themselves on divergent paths artistically. Larsen wanted to play more guitar and try composing music. Keltgen wanted to expand on his technical knowledge. They disbanded Eyedea & Abilities in 2004 to pursue their personal goals.

"We learned a lot individually in the five years since," Larsen said. "I gigged with Carbon Carousel and a

trio called Face Candy with bassist Casey O'Brien and drummer J.T. Bates. I got to play more music with those groups and learn a lot about other styles, like jazz. Gregory kept busy. He really mastered the turntable and programming. You can hear the changes in our approach when you listen to 'By the Throat.'"

To shake off any rustiness musically, Eyedea & Abilities "spent a lot of time recording 'By the Throat,'" Larsen said. "If anything, we're much better than in the old days.

Our performances are physically demanding, and the best way to get in shape for it is to tour. Taking the show on the road is what gets you and keeps you in shape. And we can't wait to get started."

At Grand Old Day, Larsen said, "our fans will see a show with a wider range of music. I'll be playing more guitar. Gregory has some slick turntable grooves. And I'll be doing some singing as well. Hey, we're playing in our hometown. We plan on doing a serious show."

Grand Old Day's live music stages

The Grand Old Day Entertainment District will feature live music in eight festival gardens beginning at noon and ending at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 7. Guests must be 21 or older to enter the festival gardens and must purchase a wristband at one of seven booths within the district. The wristbands cost \$6.00 each and an ID is required. Wristband sales will begin at 10:00 a.m., with beverage sales beginning at noon. The musical lineup (from west to east) includes the following:

LAVENDER/U.S. BANK STAGE

Grand and Oxford
DJ Red Richard
The Roxxy Hall Band
Far From Falling
High & Mighty

D'AMICO & SONS STAGE

Grand and Chatsworth
Gospel Gossip
Cadillac Kolstad and the Flats
First Communion After Party
Dust and Bones

SALUT BAR AMERICAIN STAGE

Grand and Milton
Heiruspecs
M.anifest
Golden
Dr. Mambo's Combo

BILLY'S ON GRAND STAGE

Grand and Victoria
The Affordables
Arc Flash Hazard
Orange Whip

WILD ONION STAGE

Grand and Avon
Dazy Head Mazy
GB Leighton



Tim Mahoney will perform in the Pier 1 Imports lot at Grand Old Day.

PIER 1 IMPORTS LOT

Grand and Grotto
Brian David Band
Alison Scott
Tim Mahoney

THE ONION/WALGREENS STAGE

Grand and Grotto
McNally Smith Band
E.L.nO
The Honeydogs

DIXIE'S STAGE

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initiatives they are promoting in those neighborhoods.

"We'll have information available about our fundraising campaign to bring an HourCar hub to Grand Avenue," said Kate Pearce, chair of the SHA's Environment Committee. She added that her district council also is piggy-backing on the MacGrove Moves program, which encourages residents to walk, bike or jog to destinations in their neighborhoods rather than take a car.

Festival-goers are also invited to challenge their friends to take the bus, share a ride, bike or walk to Grand Old Day. The Commuter Challenge will be videotaping people's stories about the creative ways they got to the festival (visit dontlosethechallenge.com).

Regan said GABA is also working with Green Gatherings, a group that was started to recycle waste from last year's Republican National Convention. "We typically have 22.5 tons of trash during Grand Old Day," Regan said. "Our goal this year is to reduce that. So in the three GABA-controlled festival gardens, we've got some solid recycling programs and we'll have recycling containers all along the avenue."

This summer's Grand Old Day will once again step out with the "On the Go" in-line skating, walking and running races at 7:45 a.m. beginning at Grand and St. Albans Street. The children's parade will take place at 9:45 a.m. beginning at A. Johnson & Sons, followed by the Grand Old Day parade at 10:00 a.m. For the second straight year, the main parade will begin at Fairview Avenue and make its way down Grand to Dale Street.

The avenue will once again be divided into five different activity districts. The district concept was introduced last year and Regan reported that it was well-received.

"It allowed us to draw a larger, more diverse audience," he said. "The International District went especially well and provided entertainment as well as an educational tool for the community."

This year, the International District will include stages at Kowalski's on Grand and Syndicate Street and at Willwerscheid's parking lot at Grand and Dunlap Street. The entertainment at Kowalski's will include didgeridoo playing and Tibetan throat singing, German and Irish dancing, salsa lessons and the music of the Tropical Zone Latin Band. "That was a huge hit last year," Regan said.

The Willwerscheid stage will feature a new event sponsored by Ten Thousand Villages. "It's called Drumming for Change Now," Hendrikson said. "From noon to 5:00 p.m. it'll feature a variety of world dancing and drumming."

The lineup will include local musicians Marc Anderson, Cathy Hawk, the Bottom 40, and others performing dancing and drumming styles that will range from African to Latin to American.

Regan said the Sporting District is returning this year on the west end of the avenue with even more partners. The district will feature professional sport teams that are both known and somewhat obscure, from the St. Paul Saints, Minnesota Timberwolves and Thunder to the St. Paul Rugby Club, Eagan Tae Kwon Do and Northern Elite All Stars cheer team.

Though the strong man and woman competition isn't returning, the Minnesota Roller-Girls will have scrimmages at 1:00, 2:00 and 3:00 p.m. Also new to the Sporting District will be Mike Schumann of Traditions talking about the sport of gliding.

Hendrikson grew especially animated as she talked about the Art District, which will stretch from Hamline to Snelling avenues. "It'll be so awesome," she said. "There's going to be an Art Car display and Art Bikes this year. They'll have a paint-by-numbers Art Car, so folks can take part in creating it. That's where you'll find me."

ArtStart will also give event-goers a chance to express their creativity by making flower



Grand Old Day by the numbers

Average attendance: **200,000**
Percent who have attended before: **73**
Percent female: **55**
Average age: **37**
Average times attended: **8**
Average hours spent at festival: **4.5**

Volunteers: **300**
Festival vendors: over **200**
Police and safety personnel: over **100**
Parade entries: **70**
Bands performing: over **30**

City blocks: **22**
Shuttle buses: **5**
Information booths: **4**

Trash and recycling bins: **1,000**
Portable rest rooms: over **250**
Hours to clean up afterward: **12**

(Information provided by the Grand Avenue Business Association.)

pots and buttons out of recycled materials. There will also be live music, street performers and, as was done last year, an art fair with more than 20 artists featuring "everything from woodworking to jewelry to painting," Regan said.

Last year the Family Fun District saw a lot of activity, due in part to the change in direction of the Grand Old Day parade from west to east. The goal, Regan said, was to "really drive traffic on the west end of Grand and we did just that." It also made it easy for the kids participating in the children's parade to watch the big parade and go right to the Family Fun Zone at Ramsey Junior High. "Logistically, it made it easier on families," said Regan.

This year, families can enjoy free pony rides, a petting zoo, miniature golf, face painting, airbrush tattoos, inflatable rides and games from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Fun Zone. The Teen Battle of the Bands will be waged starting at noon in the Patagonia parking lot at Grand and Macalester Street.

And, of course, there will be plenty of live music from noon to 5:00 p.m. coming from eight stages in enclosed festival gardens in the Entertainment District on the east end of the avenue. "The bands that we're especially excited about are the Honeydogs, Tim Mahoney and High & Mighty," Regan said.

The Entertainment District will also include a display of new Saturn vehicles in the Restoration Hardware lot and the Red Cross Bloodmobile set up in the Punch Pizza lot.

Festival-goers who do drive to Grand Old Day will be able to park in the University of St. Thomas ramp on Cretin Avenue for free and ride biodiesel shuttles from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. along Summit Avenue between Cretin and Dale.

In reflecting on the changes of the last few years, Regan mused, "Last year we added a lot, and this year we're maintaining what we have. Next year, we'll probably stretch ourselves. Right now we're at capacity with what we can do given our staffing."

"Grand Old Day was really started as a community gathering," he said. "By having all these elements, we believe we're bringing that back."

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Macalester-Groveland homeboy Adam Levy (fore-ground) will lead his Honeydogs back to Grand Old Day on June 7.

A lighter side of Levy

Honeydogs unveil a more upbeat sound June 7

BY BILL STIEGER

Grand Old Day will be celebrated as a homecoming of sorts for Adam Levy. The singer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist grew up in the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood, and he and his band the Honeydogs will be performing from 3:15 to 5:00 p.m. Sunday, June 7, on the Onion Stage at Grand Avenue and Grotto Street.

"I grew up on Saratoga Street," Levy said. "Anytime I'm in Mac-Groveland or on Grand Avenue, I feel like I'm home."

And what better way to promote the Honeydogs' new CD, "Sunshine Committee," than at Grand Old Day, under sunny skies and before a quarter-million people?

The six songs on "Sunshine Committee" are a departure from the 'Dogs previous recordings, which addressed such themes as poverty, war and social decay. The CD "is decidedly more upbeat," Levy said. "I think there's been a shift in the political climate, which in part contributes to the mood of the songs. Across the body of my work, I've always tried to find at least a kernel of hope. While writing the songs for 'Sunshine Committee,' I asked myself, 'What if I tried harder to be more positive about things?' It was a challenge, but one that worked out pretty well."

Levy was drawn to music at an early age through hours spent listening to his parents' record collection. He start-

ed playing the guitar while attending Ramsey Junior High School, accompanying his younger brother Noah, an up and coming drummer. Following his graduation from Highland Park High School in 1983, Adam studied cultural anthropology at the University of Minnesota and after college he became a social worker. However, his interest in music never waned. He and Noah formed a band called the Picadors in the late 1980s, and they founded the Honeydogs in 1994.

The Honeydogs currently include Adam Levy on vocals, guitar and keyboards; Brian Halverson on guitar and vocals; Peter Anderson on percussion; Peter J. Sands on keyboards; and Trent Norton on bass guitar and vocals. They recently added Matt Darling on trombone and Steven Kung on trumpet to inject a shot of rhythm and blues to the group's sound.

The Honeydogs' style is based in Levy's lyrics and his singing voice, which is reminiscent of Bob Dylan and John Lennon at their punkiest. The group's vocal harmonies are exquisite—think of Dylan backed by the Beach Boys. The combination can charm an audience.

Levy and Halverson feed off each other with dueling guitars. Sands is an electronic wunderkind, playing organ, clavinet, harpsichord and a host of other electronic instruments. Norton's bass puts the jump in the band's wig, while Anderson's drumming slams along with the steadiness of Charlie Watts.

Making a living as a musician has always been a struggle, but rarely more so than at present. In 15 years, the Honeydogs have certainly earned their stripes. They have a following and perform regularly in concerts, festivals and corporate events, but they have yet to make their mark financially.

"Friends ask me, 'Why do you go out, keep touring, when there's no money in it?'" Levy said. "It's a good question. I just chalk it up to the mental illness of being a musician. I love performing despite the troubles. I love making music, both the writing and performing. I love the travel, the camaraderie of the other musicians, the people I meet at concerts."

Adam and Noah Levy play together in the Honeydogs' cover band, Hookers and Blow, one of the best bar bands around and the winner of multiple "Best Cover Band" awards from the Minnesota Music Academy. Adam Levy also teaches at the Institute of Production and Recording in downtown Minneapolis, and he fronts a band called Bunny Clogs that specializes in children's music.

The Honeydogs have done their share of long-distance touring over the years, but growing families and a variety of other musical projects have its members staying closer to their Twin Cities homes these days.

"We've been busy recording, and we all have other commitments," Levy said. "But we're really looking forward to playing Grand Old Day."

Festival districts make Grand return

Grand Avenue from Dale Street to Fairview Avenue will be filled with five different activity districts when Grand Old Day marks its 36th year on Sunday, June 7. The district concept was introduced last year to draw more people to the festival and give them more opportunities to participate. The districts from east to west are as follows:

Entertainment District *Dale to Lexington*

There will be eight stages with live entertainment in enclosed festival gardens from noon to 5:00 p.m. Headliners will include High & Mighty, Dr. Mambo's Combo, GB Leighton, Tim Mahoney, the Honeydogs and Eyedea & Abilities. The finalists in the Grand Idol competition will also perform on the Dixie's Stage. Festival garden guests must be age 21 or older to enter and must first buy a \$6.00 wristband. Wristband sales begin at 10:00 a.m. Beverage sales start at noon.

International District *Lexington to Syndicate*

The International District will feature cultural arts, performances and family activities. Entertainment on the stage in the parking lot at Kowalski's Market on Grand and Syndicate Street will include didgeridoo playing and Tibetan throat singing at noon, German dancing at 12:30 p.m., Irish dancing at 1:00 p.m., Native American dancing at 1:30 p.m., salsa lessons at 2:00 p.m. and the Tropical Zone Latin Band at 3:00 p.m.

Drumming for Change Now will take place from noon to 5:00 p.m. in the Willwerscheid parking lot at Grand and Dunlap Street. Presented by Ten Thousand Villages, the afternoon will focus on dancing and drumming performances from around the world.

Art District *Hamline to Snelling*

The Grand Old Day Art Fair, featuring regional and local artists displaying fine art and jewelry, will run from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. from Saratoga Street to Snelling Avenue. The art fair stage at Grand and Snelling will feature live music by the Generation Gap from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. There will also be Art Car displays and a chance to join in creating a new Art Car. ArtStart will coordinate a free, interactive art project at Grand and Hamline, where participants will be invited to make their own take-home flower pot and button.

Family Fun District *Snelling to Cambridge*

The Family Fun District will offer a free petting zoo, pony rides, miniature golf, face painting and inflatable rides from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the grounds of Ramsey Junior High at Grand and Cambridge. Kids may also check out a snowplow, street sweeper and sewer truck from the St. Paul Department of Public Works. The annual Children's Parade begins at 9:45 a.m. (registration starts at 9:15 a.m. in front of A. Johnson & Sons on Grand and Wheeler Street.) The Teen Battle of the Bands will be presented by



Midway resident Marc Anderson will help provide the beat in the International District. PHOTO BY ANNE BRANDRUD

the Macalester-Groveland Community Council from noon to 4:00 p.m. in the Patagonia parking lot on Grand and Macalester Street.

Sporting District *Cambridge to Fairview*

The Sporting District will feature the Minnesota Roller-Girls presenting 20-minute all-star scrambles at 1:00, 2:00 and 3:00 p.m. The district will also include a St. Paul Saints speed pitch, Timberwolves basketball shoot, the Minnesota Thunder, the Northern Elite All Stars cheer team, Eagan Tae Kwan Do demonstrations and the St. Paul Rugby Club.

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GRAND OLD DAY

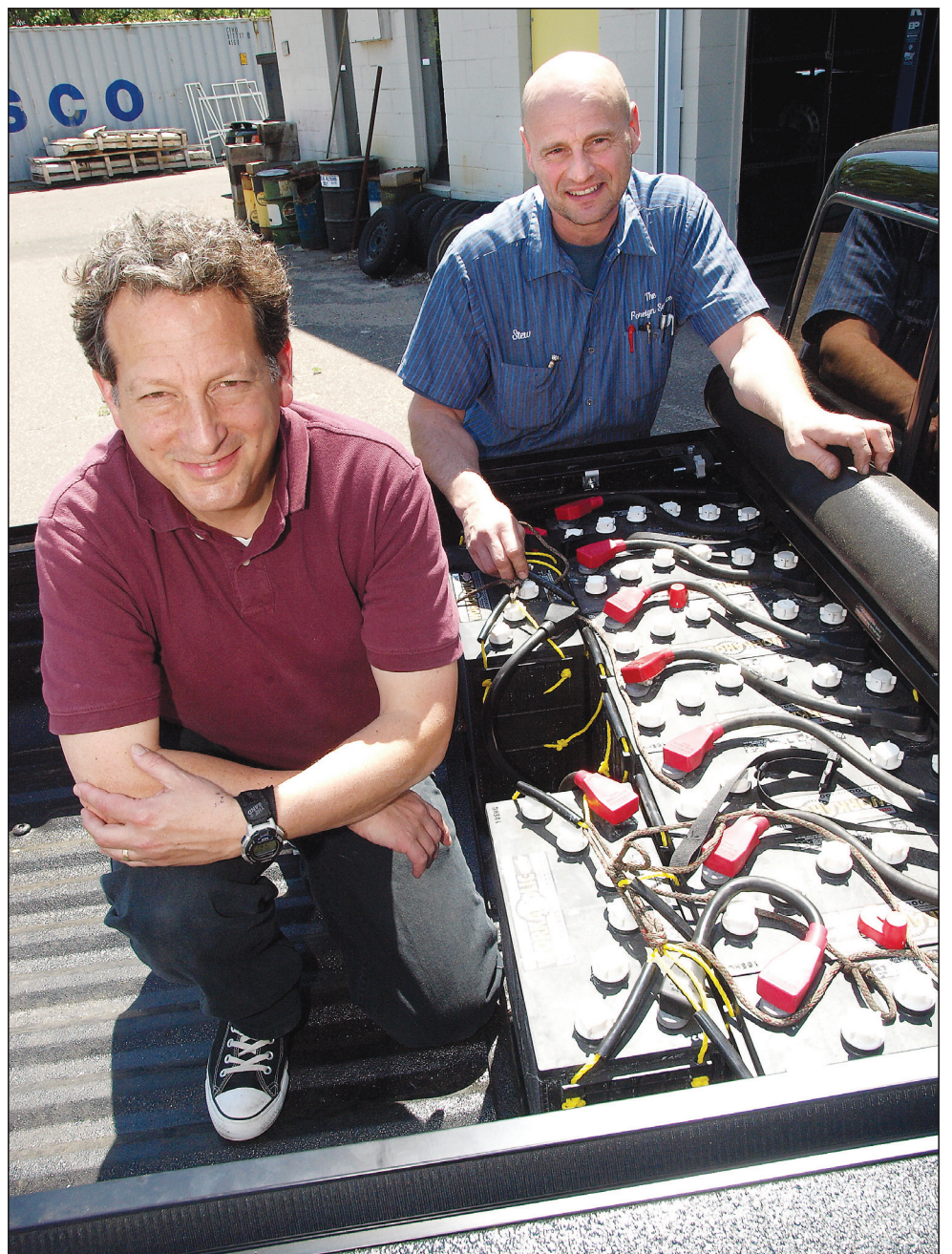
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Todd Seabury-Kolod crouches beside the nine 12-volt batteries he keeps in the bed of his Ranger, which he retrofitted with the help of mechanic Stew Roberts (background).

Pioneer pickup

Seabury-Kolod plans Grand Old debut for his newly Electric Ranger

BY FRANK JOSSI

The theme of this year's Grand Old Day is "It's Grand Being Green," a fitting backdrop for several entries in this year's Grand Old Day parade, including Todd Seabury-Kolod and his black 2003 Ford Ranger XLT—powered entirely by electricity.

A Macalester-Groveland resident, Seabury-Kolod, 53, is confident his Ranger will have enough juice to complete the 2.5-mile parade route without recharging. His Ranger's engine is powered by 1,400 pounds of batteries, three under the hood and nine in the cargo area hidden from view by a black paneled cover.

Seabury-Kolod's six-year-old Ranger was powered by its original internal combustion engine when he purchased it for \$3,500 recently. A friend, Stew Roberts, suggested he convert the pickup to electric power. A mechanic by trade, Roberts did the same thing to one of his trucks in 2001.

Seabury-Kolod had bought his previous truck five years earlier for the princely sum of \$1.00. "I figured I was entitled to spend more than \$1.00 on my next truck," he said with a smile. "When Stew told me it would probably be in the \$16,000 to \$17,000 range to retrofit the 2003 Ranger, I was OK with the expense."

A committed environmentalist, Seabury-Kolod first appeared in the pages of the *Villager* several years ago when he convinced the majority of the residents on his block to contract with the same trash hauler as a way to reduce costs and truck traffic in their alley. The practice became so popular that the city of St. Paul now offers information on its web-



The recharging port for Todd Seabury-Kolod's electric Ranger is hidden behind the Ford decal on the vehicle's grille.

site for neighbors who are interested in doing the same.

Seabury-Kolod's first foray into alternative automobiles came in 2003 when he flew to California to buy a used Toyota Prius hybrid for \$13,500. "I wanted to get a plug-in Prius, but they weren't available at the time," he said.

Spurred on by the Prius purchase, Seabury-

38◀ ELECTRIC RANGER

Kolod started making calls to the Minnesota Electric Automobile Association and to Bob Albertson of Alma, Wisconsin, who had developed a method for modifying Ford Rangers as electric vehicles.

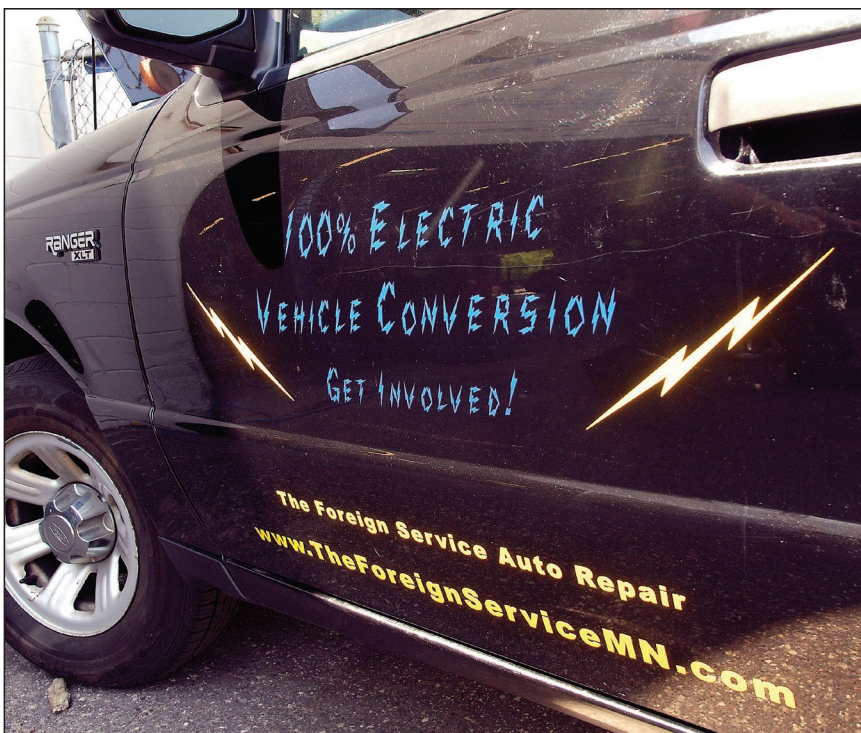
Seabury-Kolod hired Roberts to retrofit his Ranger. According to the mechanic, it will cost Seabury-Kolod about 15 cents an hour to recharge its batteries. The batteries require about an hour of charging for every three miles driven, Seabury-Kolod said. The operating cost is roughly equivalent to paying \$1.50 per gallon of gasoline, he said. The truck's range is about 40 miles between charges.

The electric-car technology installed in the Ranger was first developed in the 1980s. It uses oversized lead acid batteries that are about twice the size of a typical car battery. Lithium ion batteries would have been a better option, Roberts said, but they cost significantly more.

Seabury-Kolod's Ranger has a standard, five-speed transmission. Partially hidden behind the Ford decal on its grill is a standard three-prong electrical plug that he connects via an extension cord to an electrical outlet at home.

Roberts and Seabury-Kolod conceded that the U.S. is still a long way from having the infrastructure to make it convenient for motorists to recharge their electric vehicles away from home. However, Better Place, a California start-up company, is working on creating a recharging network in Northern California and Israel with stations where drivers can swap uncharged batteries for recharged ones.

"Electric vehicles have a range of 30 to 40 miles if you're lucky," said Dave Peichel, president of the Minnesota



Todd Seabury-Kolod displays his passion on the driver's side door of his newly electric Ford Ranger pickup truck. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER.

Electric Automobile Association. However, the technology that can move electric cars into the 75- to 100-mile range is slowly becoming available.

Electric cars have several advantages over internal combustion engines, according to Seabury-Kolod. They offer drivers a way to wean themselves off foreign oil and reduce carbon emissions, and the batteries can be recycled. If federal tax credits were available for conversions to electric cars, more people would consider it, he said.

Seabury-Kolod figures he spent between \$17,000 and \$18,000 on his electric Ranger, including the initial \$3,500 to purchase the truck. Considering the new Chevy Volt that is due out next year will cost around \$40,000, he figures he

did all right.

One problem Seabury-Kolod has had is finding insurance coverage for his pickup. His current insurance provider would not cover the newly electric Ranger. He found an insurance company that would, but at twice the rate of a conventional pickup truck.

Seabury-Kolod works about four miles from home as a teacher in the St. Paul Public Schools' Early Childhood Family Education program at the Rondo Education Center. He hopes his electric Ranger will spur conversations wherever he drives it.

"I want people to notice it and ask questions," he said. "I want to show them the vehicle and tell them, 'Hey, you could own one yourself.'"

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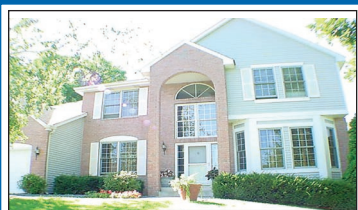
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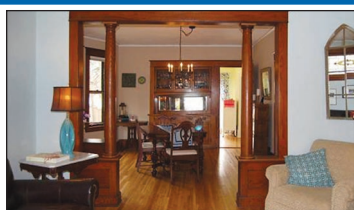
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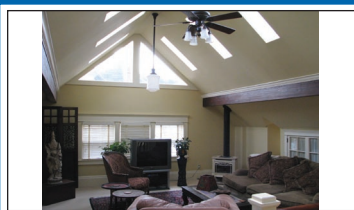
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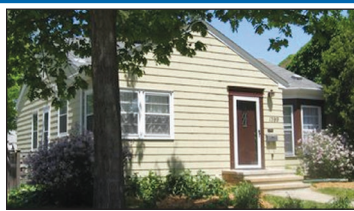
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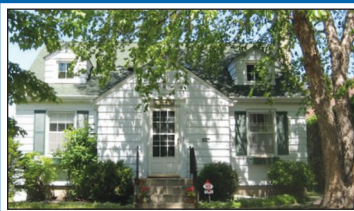
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Sunday, June 7
7:45am-5:00pm

Schedule

7:45am

ON THE GO SPORTING EVENTS

presented by THE SPORTING LIFE
starting line is at St. Albans & Grand

Entertainment District

7:45am In-Line Skate

7:50am 8K Run

9:05am 1/2 Mile Youth Run

9:15am 5K Walk/Jog

8:00am-5:00pm

GRAND OLD DAY ART FAIR

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KID'S PARADE

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10:00am

GRAND OLD DAY PARADE - IT'S GRAND BEING GREEN!

presented by TWIN CITIES SATURN RETAILERS From Fairview to Dale

FAMILY FUN ZONE

presented by GABA & COMO TOWN AMUSEMENTS
Ramsey Jr. High Family Fun District

Noon

MINNESOTA ROLLERGIRLS

presented by WHOLE FOODS MARKET
Sporting District

TEEN BATTLE OF THE BANDS

presented by MACALESTER GROVELAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL Family Fun District

INTERNATIONAL PERFORMANCE

presented by KOWALSKI'S, LANGUAGE SPROUT & TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES

International District

8 FESTIVAL GARDENS & MUSIC STAGES

Entertainment District

5:00pm

EVENT ENDS

* schedule and entertainment line-up subject to change

GRAND OLD DAY PARADE STARTS HERE
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CHILDREN'S PARADE CHECK-IN

SPORTING DISTRICT

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INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT

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KEY

- Festival Garden 21+ / wristband required
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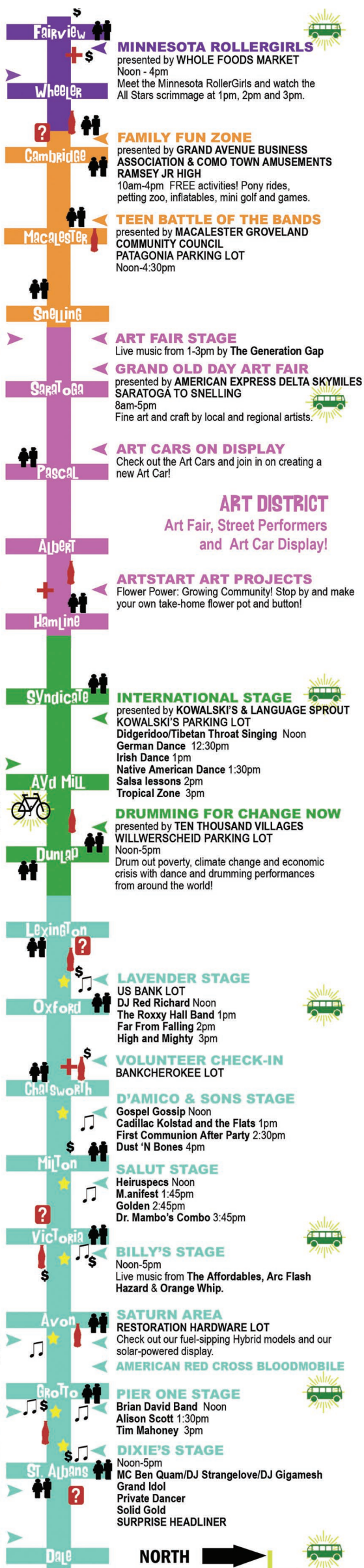
Festival garden guests must be 21+ and purchase a wristband.

WILD ONION STAGE
Dazy Head Mazy Noon
G.B. Leighton 2pm

THE ONION STAGE
WALGREENS LOT
McNally Smith College of Music Student Band Noon
E.L.N.O. 1:15pm
The Honeydogs 3:15pm

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