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City ups services at Fire Station 20 on University Ave.

Changes are part of effort to improve EMS across St. Paul

By Jane McClure

Fire Station 20 serving the Merriam Park, West Midway and St. Anthony Park neighborhoods of St. Paul will get an ambulance and a fire engine as a result of a Fire Department redeployment plan announced on January 22 by Mayor Melvin Carter. The move triples the number of rigs at Station 20, 2179 University Ave. Only a ladder truck is there now.

City officials have discussed the need for more fire and medical service in the area served by Station 20 for more than a decade. That area has seen a rapid growth in housing and other developments spurred in part by the opening of the light-rail Green Line in 2014.

Last year a St. Paul Fire Department labor-management committee proposed moving Engine 7 from Station 7 on the East Side to Station 20. Stations 7 and 20 were not equipped with ambulances, so the committee also suggested moving a reserve ambulance to each station. The committee recommended retaining the three rescue squads in the city, too.

The changes at Station 20 will foster a faster response for emergency medical services. The next closest ambulances are at Station 23 on Como Avenue in St. Anthony Park and Station 14 on Snelling Avenue in Merriam Park. Though Station 7 at 1038 Ross Ave. will

FIRE DEPT. SHIFTS ▶2





An icy stare. Greg Schmotzer, the one-man Treasure Island Casino team, used a chainsaw to hone his frosty creation during the St. Paul Winter Carnival ice carving competition in Rice Park on January 27. At right, the carvings drew a throng of delighted onlookers, including one youngster who seemed mesmerized by the proceedings.

PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

Public school parents push for snow policy reform

Storm stranded kids, left parents in dark for hours

By Jane McClure

St. Paul's biggest snowstorm in seven years had St. Paul public school parents fuming and city and school district officials apologizing for not canceling classes on January 22 or at least closing the schools earlier. With a foot or more of snow falling in the city, hundreds of students were stranded well into the evening, waiting on school buses that were slowed or stuck in snow-clogged streets.

More than 300 grade school students did not make it home until 10 p.m., 11 p.m. or midnight, and some had to be ferried home in St. Paul Police Department vehicles. Another 50 to 75 special-needs students on smaller district-owned buses were also delayed. Some did not get home until 10 p.m. The wait was so long, some drivers stopped to get food and water for the students on their buses.

Parents were frantic and angry, unable to reach the schools and getting inaccurate information from the district's bus schedule app on their cell phones. Later, the parents praised the bus drivers, school faculty and staff for remaining at school with their children well into the night. They laid the blame on district administrators and the School Board, demanding that changes be made in snowstorm policies and in communication with families.

"We were left to sit at bus stops and listen to all the sirens, not knowing where our kids were," said Kristina LaBelle Beedle. The mother of four Highland Park Elementary students said she waited at her children's West Side bus stop for almost two hours.

Highland Park resident Blake Larson's child, a 6th-grader at Linwood-Monroe School in the West End, usually gets home at 4:35 p.m., but did not arrive until about 6:30 p.m. "We didn't know what was happening other than that there were some delays," Larson said. "Since the bus app said her bus was on time the entire evening, we were worried that something else had gone wrong. We eventually got in touch with her by cell phone. I can't imagine what it was like for people without that luxury."

First-year St. Paul Superintendent Joe Gothard and Mayor Melvin Carter held a press conference on January 23 to apologize to families. "It breaks my heart that this happened," Gothard said.

SCHOOLS' SNOW POLICY ▶2

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1◄ FIRE DEPT. SHIFTS

lose a fire engine, it will keep its ladder truck and get an ambulance.

The shift of equipment and personnel was praised for providing ambulances for two fire stations that did not have them. Demand for emergency medical services in the city far outpaces fire calls, and the changes are already being implemented. The changes do not require City Council approval since they do not increase the Fire Department's overall $62 million budget, but merely reallocate about $1.7 million within the budget.

However, the loss of a fire engine at Station 7 was a disappointment for East Siders, who contend they are losing needed fire protection. Carter announced the move not long after Ward 7 City Council member Jane Prince held a press conference protesting the loss of Engine 7. Though she agreed with the need for more medical resources citywide, Prince opposed moving Engine 7, saying it is needed in that East Side neighborhood, which has many older wood frame houses.

Both the firefighters' and fire supervisors' unions support the changes, as does interim Fire Chief Butch Inks.

"I appreciate the thoughtful approach that the St. Paul Fire Department, Local 21 and Local 3939 have engaged in with the development of this plan," Carter said in a statement. "I'm confident that this plan will help meet our residents' needs, both on the East Side and throughout St. Paul."

St. Paul Firefighters Local 21 issued a statement in support of the plan: "The consensus of this (labor and management) committee is to increase emergency medical services assets in the city of St. Paul. Without adding financial resources or personnel, this plan accomplishes that goal."

The shifts also mean the Fire Department will be able to keep all three of its rescue squads. Each of the rescue squads has a specialty, along with assisting at fire and accident scenes. One specializes in emergency response and a second is



A new fire engine and ambulance are being added to the ladder truck currently deployed at Fire Station 20 at 2179 University Ave.

for chemical assessments at the scene of a leak or spill. The third rescue squad is equipped for complicated rescues such as cave-ins.

Mayor Coleman wanted to eliminate a rescue squad and add two super medic units to meet the high demand for emergency medical services. Super medic units allocate staff so that a station can operate a fire truck and an ambulance at the same time. That means fire rigs are not tied up on medical runs and are available to respond to fire calls.

Coleman's recommendations were tied to a Fire Department study carried out by an outside consultant, TriData. The study, which was released last July, found that fires account for fewer than 5 percent of the department's emergency calls. The study called for changes in how medical services are delivered, noting the time and costs of sending out larger rigs on medical runs.

The decision to reallocate resources was a big move for Carter and for Inks. Inks was appointed in January to head up a department that is facing big changes in 2018. He replaced acting Fire Chief Matthew Simpson, who was appointed to succeed Fire Chief Tim Butler, who stepped down last October.

"I'm not going to lie to you," Inks said following his swearing in on January 10, "I'd feel a lot more comfortable in a burning building than I do right now."

Inks has worked for the city since 1985. He has 20 years of experience in the Fire Department, including stints as assistant chief, deputy chief, community relations chief, special operations chief, district chief, rescue squad captain and fire equipment operator.

One of his first tasks as fire chief will be to rebuild relationships within a department whose union members frequently butted heads with former chief Butler. A search is now underway for a permanent fire chief.

1◄ SCHOOLS' SNOW POLICY

At 5 a.m. on January 22, when the decision had to be made whether to close the schools for the day, the forecast called for only six to eight inches of snow, Gothard said. But the storm tracked north, and at 10 a.m. Gothard made the call to close the schools early. The school buses, which typically pick up children at 2, 3 and 4 p.m., were not able to get to the schools on time. Though the first buses arrived at 2 p.m., about 400 of the 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. buses ran late. Ten buses were in accidents and another 20 got stuck. In hindsight, Gothard said, he would have decided differently on closing the schools.

Thomas Berg, transportation director for the St. Paul Public Schools, said January 22 was the most challenging day of his career. "We were somewhat overwhelmed by the situation," he said.

As problems worsened during the evening, school district officials reached out to the city for help, and the city responded with snowplows and police. Carter himself visited Farnsworth and Wellstone elementary schools. At Farnsworth, the mayor helped shovel out a bus.

Como resident Michelle Peterson's two children were more than two hours late getting home from Capitol Hill Grade School. Their bus ride is normally 45 minutes long. While she usually forbids her son from having his cell phone at school, he did on that day and Peterson was glad he could call her and help other students contact their parents.

Peterson said she was proud of the way Capitol Hill students responded to the situation, with older students looking out for younger ones on the bus. "While it was a really unfortunate event for many, we sometimes forget that our kids are amazing, caring and resilient individuals," she said.

Some parents said if they had known buses would be an hour or more late, they would have picked up their children themselves. However, doing so may have caused more problems, people pointed out, if the parents' cars got stuck on the way to school, leaving nobody at home when the children arrived.

Jillian Alcenat, whose children were two hours late getting home from Highland Park Elementary, said that before getting angry, parents need to realize that their children were in good hands. "I bet no one appreciates the stress and amazing work the bus drivers did," she said.

"If they had communicated to families better, people would be far less angry," Beedle said.

As she waited at the bus stop, Beedle was frustrated by the inaccurate bus app and her inability to reach anyone at her children's school. When her children finally arrived at the stop, she and her neighbors had to dig out the bus, which had become stuck in the snow. Beedle then boarded the bus and rode along for its last four stops to help calm the children. The last ones got to their stops just after 8 p.m. She then walked home rather than have the bus driver double back.

"It was a nightmare," Beedle said. "The kids were screaming at every turn and every time the bus slid and got stuck."

The St. Paul school district contracts with nine different bus companies. Berg said that while the buses have GPS systems, they are not always accurate. Bus drivers are supposed to call their dispatchers from time to time, who then call district personnel to update the bus app, but that was not possible as drivers struggled through heavy snow.

If the snowstorm was a time of stress and struggle, it also demonstrated people's willingness to look out for one other, Mayor Carter pointed out at the press conference. Most schools only had snacks on hand for waiting children. However, Hamline-Midway neighbors delivered food via sled to the students and staff at Galtier Elementary School.

When a group of Randolph Heights Elementary parents heard that students were stuck at Linwood-Monroe's lower school in Summit Hill, they swung into action. "We asked if they had anything to eat, and they only had snacks," said Laura Straight-Wallace. She called the McDonald's restaurant at West Seventh Street and Jefferson Avenue and asked it to have 15 Happy Meals ready, then delivered them to the school before 8 p.m.

"It just broke my heart, thinking of those poor kids waiting to get home," Straight-Wallace said.

City lays out plan to double size of Highland disc golf course

By Jane McClure

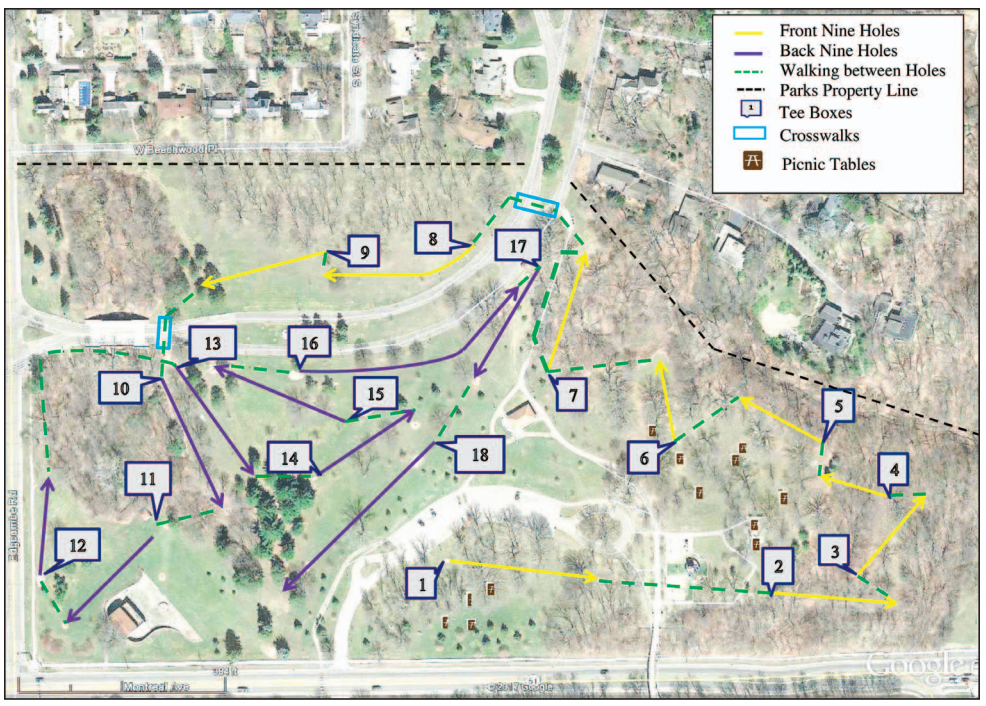
A proposal to redevelop and expand the Highland Park disc golf course has been tossed back to the St. Paul Department of Parks and Recreation. Almost three dozen neighbors attended a meeting of the Community Development Committee of the Highland District Council (HDC) on January 16. Most of those in attendance voiced objections to doubling the size of the nine-hole course.

The HDC has no veto power over the $4,000-$5,000 project, said committee chair Joe Kolar. The project requires no zoning changes or variances, but committee members and Paul Prior, a project manager for Parks and Recreation, agreed to having another presentation in the future.

The committee wants more information on such issues as course use and local crime statistics. Several neighbors claimed that the parking lot by the course has become a prime locale for drug sales.

The nine-hole course, which has been there since the late 1980s, is the only disc golf course in St. Paul, and under the city's proposal, the course would be expanded to 18 holes. Signage would be improved and the metal baskets, or "holes," would be replaced. The lone bench of the course would be supplemented with several others. Trash cans and new concrete pads for teeing off would be added.

Airborn Disc Golf owner and professional disc golfer Cale Leiviska of Highland Park assisted city staff with ideas for redesigning the course. Their plan adds nine holes to undeveloped areas of the park. The existing course would in effect become the back nine. Prior said that the new holes would remain clear of public areas such as picnic grounds, sidewalks and the existing tot lot.



The Highland Park disc golf course would expand to 18 holes under the proposal. The new front nine is shown in yellow. Places to cross Edgcumbe Road are in blue.

The new course layout would start south of the parking area and extend east, then northwest, north and west to connect with the existing course. The layout would require crossing Edgcumbe Road twice and adding crosswalks. No trees would be removed.

One issue raised was the expanded course's distance from homes. The closest basket, on a new seventh hole, would be 103 feet from the nearest home. Neighbors said that is too close.

Prior said the project has no timeline and the plans have been discussed with the St. Paul Police Department. According to him, an updated and expanded disc golf course could draw more people to the area and deter crime. Along with drug sales in the parking lot, another issue has been homeless encampments in the park.

The proposed changes are based on an online survey conducted last year. Most of those who responded to the survey were ages 25-34, but there were also high response rates for people in their mid-30s through mid-50s.

Neighbors said that they too should have been surveyed, saying that an expanded course could generate more crime, trash and noise. Edgcumbe Road resident Chris Walsh said the course already creates problems with loitering and vandalism to the point that her teenage son is not allowed to go there.

Neighbors were split in opinions on how much the proposed disc golf expansion area is being used. Some said it is heavily used already and others said it is isolated. Beechwood Avenue resident Steve Shacter said the expansion would affect a highly used section of the park and could cause a "horrible car accident."

Highland resident Mike Lindsay called the proposal a "beautiful" plan. He described himself as an avid disc golfer who pays to play at Fort Snelling due to the illegal activity in the Highland parking lot. He said more disc golfers could deter crime there.

Beechwood resident Tom Corcoran also said more activity could deter crime. "It's such a great, great resource for our neighborhood," he said. He also disputed the safety concerns. "I've never felt unsafe there," he said.

Many of the 162 survey respondents asked that the course be expanded to 18 holes. They also asked for updated equipment and for a refreshment stand, which could be forthcoming if it is part of the reuse of the former Highland bathhouse near the corner of Montreal avenue and Edgcumbe Road. City officials are currently reviewing two proposals to reuse the building.

Developer looks to create arts venue at historic St. Paul's Church

By Jane McClure

A proposal to turn St. Paul's on the Hill Episcopal Church into an arts and event center is slowly taking shape. Veteran St. Paul developer John Rupp, who is purchasing the building at 1524 Summit Ave., reviewed his preliminary plans on January 23 with the Macalester-Groveland Community Council's Housing and Land Use Committee.

The city has asked Rupp to seek a historic use variance for the project. So far, the only such variance issued in St. Paul was for the Waldmann Brewery & Wurstery on Smith Avenue. That project also required approvals from the St. Paul Planning Commission, Heritage Preservation Commission and City Council.

"Here we have this magnificent church that needs to be saved and reused," said Rupp, who added that getting the building up and running again as an arts and event center will be a long process.

The 104-year-old Gothic Revival church was designed by Emmanuel Masqueray, who also designed the Basilica of St. Mary and the Cathedral of St. Paul. It is located in the Summit Avenue West Historic District and was once the place of worship for many prominent Minnesotans. An aging and dwindling congregation forced the church to close in 2015. Ever since then, the Episcopal Church in Minnesota has been working with a real estate agent to sell the property.


The 104-year-old St. Paul's on the Hill Epsicopal Church.

Rupp already has a purchase agreement and hopes to close on the sale soon. The purchase price has not been revealed, but the property was originally listed for $1.79 million.

An arts center makes sense for the church, Rupp said, since the building has long been known for its outstanding acoustics. Rupp recently sold the Exchange Building in downtown, which created the need to relocate the St. Paul Conservatory of Music. The school could use the church's education wing and fellowship hall for offices and lessons, and could use the sanctuary and nave for performances.

"The space could be a perfect match for them," Rupp said.

The interior space south of the church is 11,000 square feet. The 9,000-square foot sanctuary and nave seat 350 and feature a prominent round rose window. Rupp said it is likely that the pews would be removed.

Several other performing arts groups have also expressed interest in sharing the space, as has a 400-member Baptist church that was renting space at Minnehaha Academy in Minneapolis before last summer's gas explosion there.

One challenge is that the property is zoned for residential use. The church use predated the modern zoning code, so it was legally nonconforming.

Committee members expressed interest in the proposal, but noted that the church has almost no off-street parking. Rupp and the committee members talked about the need to share nearby parking lots and to promote the use of local bus lines.

The Episcopal diocese has removed many items from the building. However, the 33 stained-glass windows, many of which honor former prominent congregation members, would stay.

So would the remains of John Wright, the rector of the church when it was built. After Wright died in 1919, he was buried in a crypt beneath the sanctuary. That makes the crawl space under the altar a "historic nonoperating cemetery," Rupp said. Other past members' ashes, which are held in a columbarium behind the altar, will be relocated.

St. Paul's Church dates from 1857 and had its first home in Lowertown, where CHS Field stands today. The church's relocation to Summit Avenue involved dismantling the old building and reusing its limestone, steeple, pews, altar and stained-glass windows. According to a church history, ox-carts were used to move the items to the new church. The first service at St. Paul's on the Hill was held on Christmas Day 1913.

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Party members elevate their favorites at precinct caucuses

February 6 gatherings kick off unusually big political year in Minnesota

Voters will choose governor, two U.S. Senators and the entire U.S. and state House delegations among others

By Kevin Driscoll

Precinct caucuses will herald the start of the 2018 political season at 7 p.m. Tuesday, February 6. Though this is not a presidential election year, many observers believe the campaign will be almost as contentious with control of the U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives and state House of Representatives on the line.

Minnesota will also be choosing a new governor and lieutenant governor this year, and both of the state's seats in the U.S. Senate will be on the ballot along with the state offices of attorney general, auditor and secretary of state and the county offices of attorney, sheriff and commissioners, among other local offices.

"This may be the most unusual election year in Minnesota since perhaps 1978," said David Schultz, a professor of law and politics at Hamline University. "That year we had all of the statewide offices up for election plus two U.S. senators, the entire U.S. House delegation and the entire state Legislature. However, the toxicity of politics this year will make 1978 look tame. The DFL and GOP are ideologically farther apart."

Jim Carson, former chair of the 4th District Republican Party, is upbeat about the GOP's prospects. The political party that holds the presidency typically loses seats in Congress in the mid-term election, but Carson predicted the GOP "will gain one, maybe two seats in the U.S. House from Minnesota. And in the U.S. Senate, we have a good chance of winning (former Senator Al) Franken's seat."

DFL activist Roy Magnuson sees things differently. "This year Democrats may get to have their cake and eat it, too," he said. "They'll be able to run candidates who are progressive enough to promote voter turnout in their metro base and who have enough of a sense of the reality in Greater Minnesota to make House districts outside the metro area winnable again."

Seventeen candidates were in the running for governor as of January 25, including DFLers Chris Coleman, Tina Liebling, Erin Murphy, Rebecca Otto, Paul Thissen and Tim Walz; Republicans Keith Downey, Jeff Johnson, Lance Johnson, Phillip Parrish, Mary Giuliani Stephens, Jeffrey Wharton, Christopher Chamberlin, Bob Carney and Ole Savior; and Independence Party members Jenny Rhoades and James Everett.

Challenging DFL incumbent Amy Klobuchar for a six-year term in the U.S. Senate are Republicans Robert Bamheiser, Jim Newberger, Jack Shepard and Nikolay Bey and Green Party member Paula Overby.

Seeking the endorsement for the two years remaining in Franken's term in the U.S. Senate are Republicans Karin Housley and Bob Anderson and DFLer Tina Smith, who was appointed by Governor Dayton to fill Franken's seat until the November special election.

All three incumbents in the U.S. House from the *Villager* area are running for reelection. DFL Representative Betty McCollum in the 4th District is being challenged by fellow DFLer Fasil Moghul and Republican Greg Ryan. DFL Representative Keith Ellison will be facing Republican Joe Kovacs in the 5th District. Republican Representative Jason Lewis in the 2nd District is being challenged by Brad Svenson of the Independence Party and DFLers Angie Craig and Jeff Erdman.

The precinct caucuses are the first step in the parties' candidate endorsement process. Both the DFL and Republican parties will be holding a straw poll for governor at the caucuses. Attendees may leave after that or stick around to elect delegates to the state senate district conventions that will be held in March and April. For the location of the DFL or GOP caucus in your precinct, visit caucusfinder.sos.state.mn.us.

The Independence Party will be holding its precinct caucuses online and in person at Maplewood Middle School, 2419 E. Holloway Ave. in Maplewood, and at Chelsea Heights Middle School, 1557 Huron St. in St. Paul. For more information, visit mnip.org.

The Green Party will hold a statewide endorsing convention on March 24 at the Rondo Library, 461 N. Dale St. For more information, visit greensaintpaul.org.

The DFL and Republican state conventions will be held on June 1-3. Formal candidate filing for the August 14 primary election will be held from May 22 through June 5. The general election will be held on November 6.

Following are the reports of party leaders in state senate districts in the *Villager* area:

District 63

Four candidates are challenging 15-term DFL incumbent Representative Jean Wagenius for the party's endorsement in District 63B, according to Senate District 63 DFL chair Eric Ferguson. The challengers include Emily Antin, Husniyah Dent Bradley, Leili Fatehi and Brenda Johnson. In District 63A, DFL incumbent Representative Jim Davnie is running for reelection. No GOP candidates have emerged for either House seat, according to District 63 Republican chair Joel Burns.

District 64

In Senate District 64, the races for governor and the two U.S. Senate seats are expected to generate a large turnout at precinct caucuses, according to DFL co-chair Elizabeth Wefel. DFL incumbent Representative Dave Pinto is seeking re-election in District 64B. In District 64A, DFL incumbent Representative Erin Murphy is campaigning for governor, but will run for reelection to the House if she does not receive the endorsement for governor at the DFL state convention on June 3.

As of yet, no Republican candidates have stepped forward for either House seat in District 64, according to GOP chair Ted Nelson.

District 65

According to Senate District 65 Republican chair Mitch Berg, "a growing number of people are beginning to realize the definition of insanity is voting DFL over and over again and hoping things will change." Despite that, no Republicans candidates have emerged as yet for the House seats in Districts 65A and 65B, he said.

DFL incumbent Representatives Rena Moran in 65A and Carlos Mariani in 65B are both running for reelection, according to outgoing District 65 DFL chair Megan Thomas. "The atmosphere among DFLers is enthusiastic about regaining control of the state House," she said.

District 52

Senate District 52 Republican chair Kevin Sethre said he has been "pleasantly surprised" at the enthusiasm of party members at recent GOP district forums. "People are chattering about state Senator Karin Housley's announcement to run in the special election for Franken's seat in the U.S. Senate," he said.

District 52 DFL chair Monica Weber did not return calls seeking comment.

Republican incumbent Representative Regina Barr is running for reelection in District 52B, and so is DFL incumbent Representative Rick Hansen in District 52A. No challengers have emerged as yet for either seat.

Local projects nearly shut out of Dayton's $1.5B bonding bill

By Jane McClure

St. Paul and Ramsey County lobbyists face an uphill battle to convince the Minnesota Legislature to fund their projects in this year's state bonding bill. The 2018 legislative session opens on February 20, and Governor Mark Dayton's proposed bonding bill devotes most of its $1.5 billion to higher education, state facility maintenance, affordable housing and the construction and maintenance of water and sewer systems.

The bonding requests of St. Paul, Minneapolis, Mendota Heights and Ramsey and Hennepin counties were shut out. In fact, only two projects in the *Villager* area made Dayton's proposed bill—the Historic Fort Snelling Revitalization Project and the planning and design of renovations at St. Paul College.

Dayton recommended $30 million for the Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) to demolish Historic Fort Snelling's deteriorating visitors' center and renovate the former cavalry barracks as the new visitors' center. The work, which is supported by about $12 million in private donations, is to be completed in time for Fort Snelling's bicentennial in 2020.

The 2017 Legislature approved $4 million for the design of the Fort Snelling project. According to the MHS, the new visitor center, outdoor learning areas, programming and other improvements will allow it to relate the history of 10,000 years of human activity at the confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers.

St. Paul College was recommended for $995,000 to design the renovation of classroom and lab space for courses in science, technology, engineering, math, liberal arts and the trades; the provision of new areas for food service and culinary coursework; and the consolidation of student services near the main entrance. The planning and design is part of the $243 million in bonding recommended for Minnesota's state colleges and universities. Dayton also recommended $299 million in capital improvements on University of Minnesota campuses.

Republican legislators contend that Dayton's bonding proposal must be scaled back. His 2018 bonding bill is similar in size to his 2017 proposal, and that was cut to about $998 million by the Legislature. No bonding bill was passed in 2016.

State Representative Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul), the DFL lead on the House Capital Investment Committee, said that while she appreciates Dayton's focus on facility maintenance, she is concerned that the governor's bill does not allocate any resources to metropolitan area parks and transit projects. According to Hausman, $1 billion is a reasonable amount to spend on bonding this year, but shutting out almost all local projects is a concern.



Replacement of the aging RiverCentre parking ramp is the city of St. Paul's top priority for bonding in the upcoming legislative session, though it is not included in Governor Dayton's proposed bonding bill.

St. Paul officials submitted four bonding requests totaling over $108 million. The city's top priority is the replacement of the RiverCentre parking ramp with $58 million from the state. Second on its list is $46 million for a new Kellogg Boulevard/Third Street bridge. Other requests are $1.2 million for the East Side Freedom Library and $2.7 million for the nonprofit Minnesota Humanities Center on the East Side.

The city wants to demolish the 47-year-old RiverCentre parking ramp and replace it with a $48 million, 2,204-space parking ramp. The remaining $10 million from the state would be used to reconstruct Kellogg Boulevard between the new ramp and RiverCentre. The state funds would be matched with $51 million from the city, according to Todd Hurley, St. Paul's chief financial officer.

"The current ramp has reached the end of its useful life," Hurley said.

The city maintains that the state should help pay for the parking ramp's replacement because of its extensive public use, but Hausman thinks that could be a difficult sell. The RiverCentre parking ramp and Kellogg Boulevard bridge "are two huge asks," she said, and parking ramps are typically funded by the revenue they generate.

Hausman also questioned the Kellogg bridge's placement as the city's second priority. It was the city's top priority in previous years and has been in a deteriorated condition for several years. The $63.9 million project would draw on close to $18 million in city and federal funds.

Ramsey County's top two requests are $2.216 million for the construction of a winter recreation area in Battle Creek Park and $350,000 to update the public restrooms in Landmark Center.

The Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority is requesting $2 million for planning a new streetcar line in the Riverview Corridor between downtown St. Paul and the Mall of America, $2 million for planning the Rush Line transit service, $1 million for grade separation between Union Pacific and BNSF railroad tracks near downtown St. Paul, and $1 million to study new passenger rail service between the Twin Cities and Milwaukee.

Mendota Heights submitted one bonding request—$1.481 million to remove and replace former state highway frontage roads that now serve as city streets. The city would share the cost of the $3.256 million project, which involves sections of Center Pointe Curve, Carmen Lane, Dakota Drive, Waters Drive and Victoria Curve.



Carrying on a Crashed Ice tradition. He had done it before, but this year was the first year that Melvin Carter (above) traversed the Red Bull Crashed Ice course as mayor of St. Paul. Carter took his run on January 18, carrying on a tradition begun by his predecessor, Chris Coleman. PHOTO BY CHRISTINE WISCH

News Briefs

Neighbors challenge approval of Marshall-Moore apartments

The plans for a new five-story apartment building on the northeast corner of Marshall Avenue and Moore Street are being challenged by local residents calling themselves the Historic Merriam Park Neighborhoods. The group is seeking to overturn a January 12 decision by the St. Paul Planning Commission to approve the site plan for the Marshall and Moore Apartments at 1973-1977 Marshall Ave. Their appeal will be heard by the St. Paul City Council at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 7.

The project involves tearing down two century-old homes and replacing them with a building that would house 61 tenants in 16 four- and three-bedroom apartments. Underground parking is planned for about 30 cars.

Developer Jon Schwartzman believes the building would appeal to students and young professionals. Neighbors contend it is too large and too dense for the neighborhood of mostly single-family homes and smaller apartment buildings and that it would greatly increase traffic and parking congestion and pose a hazard for children attending nearby St. Mark's Grade School and Four Seasons Elementary School.

Details of the appeal were not available late last week, but at a hearing before the Planning Commission's Zoning Committee in early January it appeared that the grade of the site may be an issue. Neighbors contend that the underground parking extends beyond the building's footprint and that the parking may not all be below-grade.

Catholic Charities facility for homeless gets sign variance

Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis will be allowed to erect a large pylon sign near the new Dorothy Day Place with the St. Paul Board of Zoning Appeals' (BZA) approval of a variance on January 17.

Catholic Charities is in the second phase of a large-scale expansion of its facilities in downtown St. Paul for people who are homeless. In phase one, the former Dorothy Day Center overnight shelter at 183 Old Sixth St. was replaced with Higher Ground, a new five-story building that offers overnight shelter, permanent housing and various social services. Phase two involves the building of a six-story, 50,000-square-foot Opportunity Center that will connect people struggling with homelessness to services to improve their health, housing and income.

Under the city's zoning code, a freestanding sign may not project higher than 37.5 feet above grade. Catholic Charities' sign will rise 51 feet above grade. It will be placed near the parking lot entrance.

City staff recommended approval of the variance. The CapitolRiver Council took no position on the matter.

Open house set on Smith Ave. and Dodd Road landscaping

The Minnesota Department of Transportation will hold a public open house on February 15 to review plans for new landscaping along Highway 149/Dodd Road between St. Paul and Mendota Heights. The event will be held from 6-8 p.m. at Somerset Elementary School, 1355 Dodd Road in Mendota Heights. A formal presentation by project staff will begin at 6:30 p.m.

The landscaping project involves replacing 115 boulevard trees along Smith Avenue, Annapolis Street and Highway 149/Dodd Road. People at the open house may comment on the tree-planting plan, learn more about why some trees are being replaced and ask questions of project staff.

The replanting is part of a larger effort on Highway 149 that includes reconstructing the deck of the Smith Avenue High Bridge; resurfacing Smith Avenue and Dodd Road between West Seventh Street in St. Paul and I-494 in Mendota Heights; improving drainage, sidewalks and pedestrian accessibility; replacing signals at five intersections on Highway 149; and adding a left-turn lane from westbound I-494 to southbound Dodd Road.

For further information, visit the project website at mndot.gov/metro/projects/hwy149highbridge.

News Briefs were compiled by Jane McClure and Dale Mischke.

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Neighbors raise concerns over St. Kate's parking lot proposal

By Jane McClure

More than two dozen neighbors attended the Highland District Council (HDC) Community Development Committee meeting on January 16 to hear more about St. Catherine University's plans to build a 257-space parking lot south of the campus' Dew Drop Pond.

Neighbors asked for further discussion before the project moves ahead. The parking lot has already received the approval of the Capitol Region Watershed District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers due to drainage issues. Final city approval is still pending.

Mark Johnson, the university's vice president for facilities and security, said the lot would be located near the southwest corner of campus. About half of the trees south of the pond would have to come down to make way for the lot, which upset many neighbors. The new lot would be accessed through an existing parking lot on campus. What surprised some people at the meeting is that the plans also showed a future lot expansion to the south, closer to Bayard Avenue homes, and an access driveway to and from Cleveland Avenue.

Johnson said St. Catherine has 1,251 on-campus parking spaces and about 1,800 students, faculty and staff have parking permits. While not everyone needs to park on campus at the same time, usually fewer than 3 percent of the spaces are open during classes, according to Johnson. The permit demand is strong, he said, even though the permits now range in price from $125-$225 a year.

The university is continuing to look at ways to reduce the parking demand, including the promotion of public transit, ride sharing, biking and walking, Johnson said. However, for many people, driving is the best option to get to and from campus, he said. St. Catherine still retains some shuttle service, but the loss of the bus service formerly offered by the five-school Associated Colleges of the Twin Cities has increased parking demand.

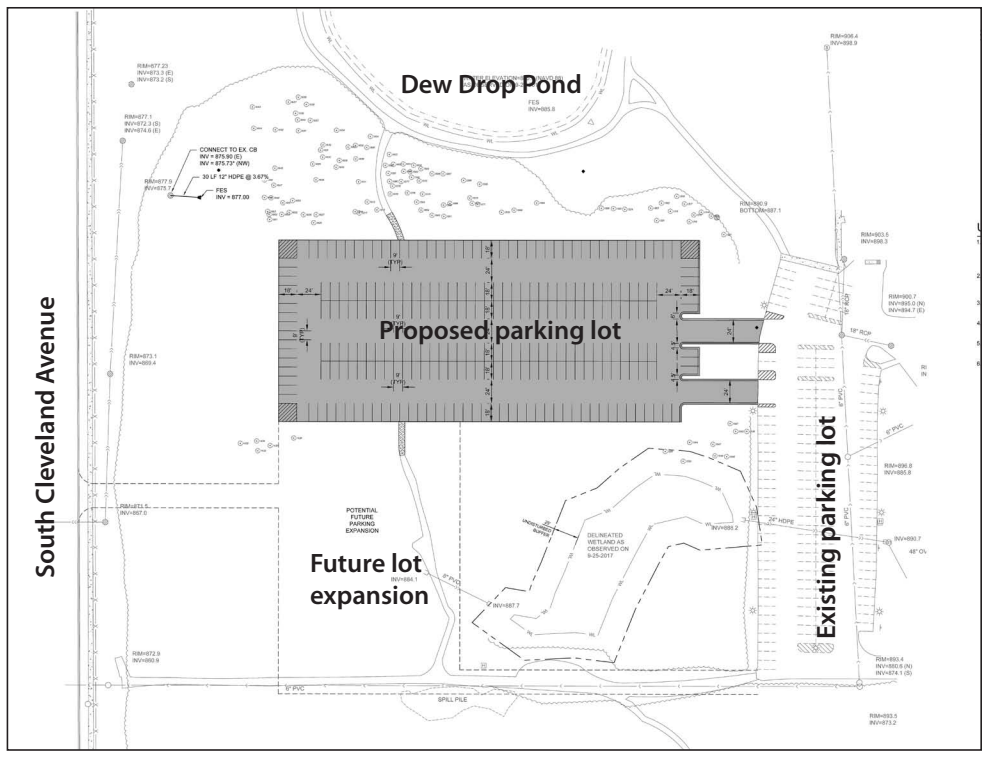
"Once we pave over the forest, it's not something we're going to get back," said Highland resident Tom Basjen. He called the parking lot "a solution in search of a problem."

Johnson said many of the trees in the area being eyed for the parking lot are diseased or dying. Emerald ash borers, pine rust and oak wilt have all taken a toll. The area also has buckthorn, which is a noxious species. An earlier study by an arborist found that almost 80 percent of the trees in the area are in decline.

The parking lot would be landscaped and designed in a way to reduce the impact of headlights shining south toward homes on Bayard. It would also be designed to mitigate drainage issues, with a catch basin to filter water before it flows into Dew Drop Pond.

Committee members and residents said they were concerned about the prospect of losing more open space on campus. Many were unhappy at the idea of losing trees.

Highland resident Greg Nayman, who represents Ward 3 on the city's Tree Advisory Panel, said some of the trees slated for removal are cottonwoods, which grow in wet areas and absorb water. He asked if those trees could be spared.



St. Catherine University wants to build a 257-space parking lot in a wooded area south of the Dew Drop Pond. It also is looking at ways to reduce campus parking demand.

"Once we pave over the forest, it's not something we're going to get back," said Highland resident Tom Basjen. He called the parking lot "a solution in search of a problem."

"The woods are a great asset to the campus," said Martha Vest, who works at the university.

HDC member and neighbor Sally Bauer was among those who suggested that St. Catherine students, faculty and staff park on neighborhood streets, saying that the woods should be preserved as a "beautiful community asset." Though there is a resident-only permit parking district north of the campus, the streets to the east, west and south of the campus are open to all. "I'm really surprised that you have such a dire need for parking," she said.

"I'd love to find a way to find alternatives," said HDC president Kevin Gallatin. Though he said the university has every right to add parking, he suggested that building more parking lots would simply create more demand for those spaces.

Bayard neighbors were worried about additional drainage problems if a lot is built. After a soccer field was built near the southeast corner of the campus in 2001, neighbors experienced more drainage problems, said Bayard resident Ned Stevens. At one point, neighbors called the city because catch basins had been covered. Trees near the soccer field also were not replanted as promised.

"We've had many problems and St. Kate's hasn't been very responsive," Stevens said.

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Backlash scuttles idea for mixed-use building at Dixie's

By Jane McClure

Preliminary plans to replace the building that houses Dixie's, Saji-Ya and Emmett's restaurants at 695 Grand Ave. with a new mixed-used building have been shelved after meeting mixed reactions from Summit Hill neighbors. More than 90 people crowded into Dixie's on January 23 to hear about and discuss the concept.

The Kenefick family's property ownership group, St. Albans Partners, was considering replacing the existing 1930s-era building with a significantly larger structure that would have extended to St. Albans Street with commercial uses fronting Grand Avenue—including the three restaurants—and housing above. Ideas on the table included a structure up to five stories tall with enclosed parking. The developers and Summit Hill Association (SHA) board member Andrea Karls emphasized that no decisions had been made.

The developers had met with city staff, but after the neighborhood meeting contacted the SHA and said the idea was being dropped.

In a social media post, SHA president Andrew Rorvig wrote, "the property owners have determined that their expansion plans do not coincide with the desires of many of their nearby residents. Accordingly, they have decided not to proceed with redevelopment."

Sisters Kelly Kenefick and Beth Schmidt outlined ideas for the project at the meeting, which they said were drawn in part from the Summit Hill District 16 Plan and the East Grand Avenue Overlay District. "We see mixed use as being most appropriate for the property," Schmidt said.

Any new development would have fallen under the dictates of the overlay district, which was adopted by the city in 2006. The district limits new buildings on the eastern end of Grand to a footprint of no more than 25,000 square feet. Total building size above ground is limited to 75,000 square feet, including parking. Building heights are limited to 30 feet for commercial uses, 36 feet for mixed commercial and residential uses, and 40 feet for residential or institutional uses. Larger or taller buildings require variances.

Any new building would have also been shaped by the Summit Hill Plan, which calls for traditional neighborhoods design guidelines. The Grand Avenue property was also likely to be rezoned from its current commercial to traditional neighborhoods mixed use.

The Kenefick family has owned the Grand Avenue property for 35 years. In that time the building has evolved from a former grocery store into a complex with three restaurants owned by Monkey Boys Inc. "Our connection to this neighborhood is deep and long," said Monkey Boys CEO and majority shareholder Peter Kenefick.

Kenefick, who declined to comment on the decision to drop the development idea, said that while the three restaurants are doing well, he and his family needed to look at the future and how to best serve long-term family interests. Several issues were driving the desire to change the property's use, he said. One was the likelihood of an increase to a $15 minimum wage with no tip credit in St. Paul. Another was the continuing increase in property taxes.

Yet another issue was a shift in the St. Paul hospitality industry. With the explosive growth of restaurants and bars in downtown and on West Seventh, "people are stealing business from us," Kenefick said.

He also spoke of changes to Grand itself —"We've watched small businesses drift away," Kenefick said—and how the new development could help turn things around.

The family wanted to bring in small-scale, local retailers to operate alongside the restaurants, Kenefick said, and whatever the development eventually entailed would be of high quality.

"I've delivered every single time on beauty and on what fits into the neighborhood," he said, citing a long history of working with neighbors and the SHA on previous changes at 695 Grand.

Some of those attending the meeting said they liked what they saw and urged that project planning continue. Others said the ideas were out of scale for the area. Many objections were heard from St. Albans Street neighbors who were worried about traffic, spillover parking and the prospect of a larger, taller building towering over their condos. Summit Avenue neighbors worried about additional alley traffic.

Several people said the overlay district and neighborhood plan need to be followed. "It feels like you've just cherry-picked bullet points from the plan to support your argument," said St. Albans resident Alan Scott.

Others questioned whether Grand needs more retail space. "Every day when I walk down Grand I see for rent signs," said St. Albans resident Hillary Parsons.

Kelly Kenefick, Peter's daughter-in-law, said one goal for the development was to support locally owned retail and to price retail rents accordingly. She suggested that some rents on Grand today may be out of reach for many small businesses.

Several questions focused on rental residences versus condominiums, with some neighbors saying owner-occupied units are preferred. However, Kelly Kenefick noted that there is a strong demand for market-rate rental housing, with a current vacancy rate of less than 2.5 percent in St. Paul. One idea that was being explored is marketing to empty-nesters looking to downsize yet stay in the neighborhood.

St. Albans neighbors pushed back against the notion of apartments. "I can't get excited about rentals," said Kathryn Oakley, whose block has seen many of its apartment buildings converted from rentals to condos. Neighbors also questioned whether renters would pay extra for enclosed parking.

Opposition to soccer stadium noise exemption is rather muted

By Jane McClure

A blanket exemption from the city's noise ordinance for Allianz Field, the new Major League Soccer stadium in the Midway, will be considered by the St. Paul City Council at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 7.

Despite concerns raised about the exemption on social media and in phone calls to the Ward 1 and Ward 4 City Council offices, only one person attended the council's January 17 public hearing to speak in opposition to the exemption. Representatives of the Union Park District Council (UPDC) had planned to testify, but were held up in another hearing at City Hall that ran long.

The UPDC's January 22 meeting on the exemption was canceled when close to a foot of snow fell in St. Paul. Instead, the council's executive committee will make a recommendation prior to the City Council's February 7 vote, according to UPDC president Dan Taylor.

If the noise exemption is adopted, Minnesota United FC's home soccer games, exhibition games, other Major League Soccer events and city-sponsored events at the new stadium will not be subject to the city's noise limits. The proposed exemption was included in the use agreement approved last year by the city and Minnesota United, according to Joe Spencer of the St. Paul Department of Planning and Economic Development.

Spencer called the exemption "simple and straightforward" and said it would "streamline" the event process for Allianz Field.

Environmental studies conducted during the planning of the stadium indicated that soccer games and other events would not be in violation of the city's daytime noise limits. Soccer games typically start at 7 p.m. and are generally not expected to go past 10 p.m., when the lower nighttime noise limits kick in. If a concert or fireworks show is scheduled at the stadium, a noise variance will still need to be approved by the City Council.

Minnesota United's Allianz Field, which is now under construction northeast of Snelling Avenue and I-94, is expected to be completed in time for the 2019 soccer season, which runs from March to October. The team will have about 17 home games during the regular season.

Stadium noise has been an issue near Concordia University's Sea Foam Stadium at Hamline Avenue and I-94, where the noise during football games can be heard as far north as Minnehaha Avenue and as far south as Summit Avenue. Those games usually end before 10 p.m. as well.

Allianz Field was designed to block much of the noise, and instead of having large speakers at one end of the field as is the case at TCF Stadium at the University of Minnesota, it will have smaller speakers spread throughout the stadium.

However, that did not impress Stephanie Digby, who lives in the Hamline-Midway neighborhood north of the stadium. Testifying on January 17, Digby said the noise exemption is discriminatory and will change what has been a quiet neighborhood. "I'm going to be suffering from noise pollution," she said. "I feel there are many of us who have been completely ignored."

Student rental registration revoked for Marshall Ave. house

By Jane McClure

The St. Paul Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) voted 6-0 on January 17 to uphold a city staff decision and revoke landlord Kyle Coglitore's student rental registration for 2083 Marshall Ave. It is the first time the city has revoked a student rental registration since the student housing overlay district was created in 2012 in the neighborhoods around the University of St. Thomas.

Pending a possible appeal to the City Council, Coglitore may no longer rent the single-family house exclusively to undergraduate students, though he may rent it to a family or a group of up to four unrelated adults as long as the group includes no more than two undergraduate students.

The Marshall Avenue house was registered as a student rental in 2012, and Coglitore bought it in 2013. It is his first and only rental property and his main source of income.

In March 2016, St. Paul fire inspection staff responded to a complaint about overoccupancy at the property and found six to eight students living there. Only four unrelated people may legally live in a single residential unit. According to city records, the property owner admitted to the fire inspector that though there were only four students on the lease, additional students stored their belongings in the garage to evade city enforcement.

On September 13, 2017, city fire inspector A.J. Neis responded to another complaint about overoccupancy at the house and found nine students living there. Coglitore was contacted and met Neis at the house two days later. Four students were living at the house on that day, and the additional bedrooms had been vacated. Coglitore was given a verbal warning that any more overoccupancy complaints would result in revocation of his student rental registration.

After Neis left, Coglitore's student renters allegedly told him that the additional tenants had placed their belongings in a rental truck that was parked down the street and planned to move back in. Coglitore, worried that he would lose his student rental registration, had his fiancée make an anonymous complaint about overoccupancy. He said he was trying to be a good landlord, hoping the city would check on the house and convince his tenants to follow the rules. However, the complaint resulted in the revocation of his certificate.

BZA staff recommended that the revocation be upheld. The Union Park District Council also voted last fall to oppose reinstatement of Coglitore's student housing certificate. Several neighbors sent letters in opposition to Coglitore's certificate, and more than a dozen neighbors attended the BZA hearing to argue against its reinstatement.

Loren Solfest, an attorney representing Coglitore, said his client wants to be a good landlord and was not aware there were nine students living at his rental house. He said Coglitore was never notified about the March 2016 overoccupancy complaint.

"Mr. Coglitore is doing everything he can," Solfest said. "He has made good-faith efforts to comply. He doesn't want to have student tenants who are causing problems in the house or in the neighborhood."

Coglitore laid the blame for the violations on his tenants.

Macalester-Groveland resident Marc Manderscheid said the revocation should stand. He pointed out that Coglitore received a letter from city building officials last September citing 13 property code violations, including not providing and maintaining adequate smoke detectors, not using extension cords properly, not repairing damaged floors and ceilings, and not properly disposing of garbage.

"In my view, you ought not to be renting out property in St. Paul," Manderscheid said. "The neighborhood I live in is under siege some of the time by student rentals."

Four neighbors described problems with Coglitore's property, including disturbing behavior, poor upkeep, strewn trash and an abundance of vehicles parked in back.

According to Marshall Avenue resident Linda Simmons, Coglitore created a dangerous situation for his student tenants by allowing them to overoccupy the house. She said upholding the revocation would send a strong message to other landlords.

"Overoccupancy is the open secret in our neighborhood," Marshall Avenue resident David Sill told the BZA. "The students fill all of the bedrooms to get the rents down. Here you have an opportunity to send a message to landlords and to students that overoccupancy will not be tolerated."

"The University of St. Thomas does not condone our students living illegally in the neighborhood," said UST neighborhood relations director Amy Gage. According to her, the university does not want students living in unsafe conditions.

Viewpoint

Men and supermen

By Kasey McKee

Over the past decade, the cinematic landscape has come to be dominated by a handful of media corporations. It seems that nearly every film playing in mainstream multiplex theaters is some variation of a superhero story. Due to a relatively shallow pool of source material and a rabidly fundamentalist fan base, audiences are being subjected to an endless stream of sequels, reboots, origin stories and crossovers. Meanwhile, studio executives sleep soundly, knowing that they are able to sell the same product again and again.

"Isn't this all just harmless escapism?" I have been asked. "Are you really so out of touch with your inner child?"

I understand the need for escapism and the desire to recapture a sense of childlike wonder. The problem is, any alternative to escapist entertainment at the cinema seems to be evaporating. It is getting more difficult to visit a movie theater and have a mature experience.

This trend has created a terrible cultural vacuum, a situation made worse by the vast media conglomerates who try their best to outdo one another with inescapable advertising campaigns and product tie-ins that make for so much land fill.

Like most American boys born in the second half of the 20th century, I grew up with characters like Spider-Man and Batman and have fond memories of the superheroes, generally speaking. But as an adult, I have recognized how the corporations that own these properties exploit my nostalgia by overstating the cultural significance of these characters and implying that somehow my childhood would have been less without them.

Recent films like *Deadpool* and Christopher Nolan's *Dark Knight* trilogy have been rewarded for trying to tackle more adult material, but the fans who hail these films as game-changers seem to be missing a crucial point: The genre is still hopelessly bound by its conventions. Simply making a superhero movie more violent or inserting awkward pseudo-philosophical dialogue is a poor substitute for genuine artistic achievement. Hollywood writers may attempt to add Nietzsche to Batman's utility belt, but the fictional universe that caped crusader inhabits resists intellectual seriousness.

Another strategy, one that has become Joss Whedon's calling card, is to develop the everyday foibles of superheroes. We see them hanging out, exchanging witty banter, shooting the breeze: Just because you possess godlike powers does not mean you cannot have a sense of humor. If the aim is to make these superheroes appear more like regular people, then why not dispense with the superpowers altogether?

At present, there is no end in sight to the saturation of superhero movies because these films are extremely profitable. Since the 1970s, Hollywood has increasingly followed an all-eggs-in-one-basket approach to moviemaking. When the stakes are higher, there is less willingness to take risks, and more engaging small- and medium-budget films get passed over in favor of projects that cost a quarter-billion dollars in hopes that they will earn 10 times that much.

"We make these movies because it's what people want to see," goes the circular reasoning of the major studios.

I have seen all three of Sam Raimi's Spider-Man films. They are lively, well-acted and pretty good as far as superhero movies go, but basically everything I remember about them is what I already knew from the comic book mythology. I rarely think about them aesthetically, and I do not feel they have given me any real insight into the human condition.

The art of cinema is capable of so much more. Last fall I saw a 2004 Argentine film, *Los Muertos*, about a man who rows a boat down a river for 90 minutes, and I have thought about it frequently since then. It engaged me spiritually and psychologically. Also, two viewers can watch this poetic movie and come away with completely different opinions about its meaning and its ending.

This is the power of cinema: The ability to provoke thought and emotion. The movie theater allows us to share an experience with complete strangers, which is sublime. As a lover of film, I think it is valid to expect something more than mere spectacle from movies, something more than fantasy. Maybe even something for grown-ups.

Kasey McKee is a writer living in downtown St. Paul.



County Board defends sheriff's selection

By Jim McDonough

In response to Roy Magnuson's guest editorial, "County Board process is lacking in transparency" (*Villager* Viewpoint, January 17): When Ramsey County Sheriff Matt Bostrom announced his retirement on December 6, 2016, the Ramsey County Board reviewed several potential courses of action to fill the remaining two years of his term. We consulted with the County Attorney's Office and Minnesota Sheriff's Association and reviewed the County Charter. We studied what other Minnesota counties have done when faced with replacing a sheriff. We held open meetings on December 13 and 20, 2016, during which county residents could learn the law and recent history relevant to this situation and witness the board's deliberations. We consulted with the suburban communities that contract with the Sheriff's Office for law enforcement services as well as other community stakeholders.

Residents and stakeholders were invited to share their thoughts with county commissioners throughout the process, which included an interview of then-Chief Deputy Jack Serier in a public session on January 3, 2017, and concluded with his appointment as sheriff and swearing in on January 10.

The entire process led us to the conclusion that it was paramount to sustain the strong work, reputation and relationships that our communities, county organizations and board came to value and trust during the six years that the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office was under the leadership of Sheriff Bostrom and his command staff.

Without the option to call a special election in 2017, but secure in the knowledge that the voters of Ramsey County would have the responsibility of determining who is sheriff through the general election on November 6, 2018, the County Board voted unanimously to appoint the sheriff's second in command for the remainder of the term. The decision was the same reached by 11 of the 12 other Minnesota counties that were recently faced with a sheriff leaving office early.

We disagree with the suggestion that Jack Serier or any person who received this two-year appointment would have an "upper hand" on election day. We acknowledge and respect that Mr. Magnuson, members of St. Paul STRONG and members of our communities may disagree with the process or the result reached by the Ramsey County Board. However, we contest the criticism that our process of appointing a sheriff under these circumstances was not sufficiently transparent.

I reached out to, heard from and had good substantive conversations with several residents and stakeholders (including members of St. Paul STRONG), as did other commissioners. We communicated invitations to our public meetings and encouraged people to contact us. The process was covered well by local news media at each step. Although some may disagree with the outcome, the board sought these opportunities for feedback and received significant and valuable input.

Prior to the public interview, Jack Serier confirmed to the County Board in writing that he met the legal requirements to be appointed sheriff, which include residing in Ramsey County. What statutorily constitutes residency is not a determination for a County Board to make. The question was asked and answered to the board's satisfaction at the time and remains so.

As to the insinuation that there is "a pattern of behavior by the County Board that lacks transparency and public participation," I reject this in the strongest possible terms. In my tenure, county commissioners have always encouraged input into decision-making on all topics before the board and extend a perpetual invitation for residents to connect with us. Commissioners are regularly at work in the community and have always sought and welcomed engagement, whether at a public meeting, in person one-on-one, via phone, email, whatever is most convenient for constituents. All County Board meetings are live-streamed and video-archived at ramseycounty.us. Agendas of our meetings and workshops for the upcoming week are also posted online on Thursdays, and one can subscribe to receive these notices via email.

On that note, *Villager* readers should be aware that an important appointment that will impact our communities is now getting underway. Ramsey County manager Julie Kleinschmidt has announced that she will retire at the end of June. The County Board is responsible for hiring the county manager, who oversees the budget and operations of all our departments. We have committed to making this process transparent and will rely on community input throughout. Residents will have opportunities to attend meetings and weigh in each step of the way, including the selection of an executive search firm to recruit candidates, the attributes most desirable in candidates, and the finalists' qualifications and public interviews. I encourage residents to participate and to visit ramseycounty.us/chiefclerk to learn more about this process.

Jim McDonough is the chair of the Ramsey County Board.

Inbox

Village walkability is threatened

My family and I moved to Highland Village a little over a year ago for many reasons, one of the major ones being its walkability. My husband, preschool child, baby and I routinely walk to the library, gift stores and grocery stores, dinners and movies. In the last few months, we've almost been hit by distracted drivers four times. Each time we were crossing at an intersection with the right of way in broad daylight. In other instances, adult cyclists have ridden recklessly fast past our family on the sidewalk.

Please, drivers and bicyclists, slow down. Let's keep our neighborhood safe for all regardless of your mode of transit. Sidewalks and marked crosswalks alone do not make a neighborhood walkable (although more would be welcome). Everyone, including walkers, has a role to play, and greater caution and awareness is an obvious need.

Jill Bathke
Highland Park

Missed opportunity for St. Thomas

Every problem is an opportunity. The heavy snowfall on January 22 represented an opportunity for University of St. Thomas students to demonstrate that they are good neighbors. The university could have had students on campus going out with shovels to assist neighbors.

Walking from Marshall to Selby Avenue on January 23, I saw a limping older gentleman working a snowblower, his walker up near his garage. On the next block a woman was shoveling the city sidewalk. She lent her shovel to two students to get their car unstuck. They assured her they would return and shovel for her. They did not return. Walking across the St. Thomas campus, I mentioned the woman shoveling and a student quickly agreed to walk up there and shovel for her.

When I got home I called St. Thomas' athletic director, suggesting St. Thomas athletes demonstrate their willingness to be good neighbors by going out and shoveling. He said he had no way of contacting them and was at a loss to do anything. I called the scheduler for St. Thomas president Julie Sullivan, suggesting the university get students shoveling. She said she would "pass it along." Obviously, she was not empowered to act. There was still snow to shovel, clearing the berms created by plows.

It seemed like the only way to contact students on January 23 was to talk to them face to face or to put up a sign in the quad. St Thomas' lack of creativity continues to make me embarrassed to be an alumnus.

Jerry Kettunen
Macalester-Groveland

Casting Trump in a bad light

I am well over 70 years old, and all my life I have known there are crappy countries in the world. It is unfortunate but true. My parents told me as a child that I should be grateful I was born in America, that I could just as well have been born in a crappy country. In many crappy countries, nearly 100 percent of the people would jump at the chance to move to America, legally or not.

Thanks to that renowned name-dropper from Illinois, Senator Dick Durbin, we now know that our president, Donald Trump, is aware that there are crappy countries in the world. And as a true believer of the left, Senator Durbin gave us the information so as to cast our president in the worst light possible, at least in the eyes of his fellow true believers.

Durbin is sure there are a number of effective solutions to the huge flow of illegal immigrants across our southern border and that a wall is a terrible idea. I am hopeful he will see clear to tell us what his solutions are. So far, he has declined to do so, maybe out of modesty.

T.J. Sexton
Macalester-Groveland

Freedom and the cell phone

I'd like to add an acronym to the lexicon: VAT, for Very Addictive Toy, also known as the cell phone.

When did I recognize my addiction to this Very Addictive Toy? Perhaps an early sign was when I'd pass by something beautiful and think, "I should use my VAT to take a picture of that!" Or was it my Pavlovian urge to answer my VAT immediately, even though the musical cue might just be signaling a generic email?

Another sign of my encroaching addiction was my self-righteous disdain of others around me whose eyes would be glued to their VATs. My condescending attitude was swiftly followed by feeling isolated by their absence and believing it might be impolite to greet someone absorbed in their VAT. My solution was to take out my own VAT.

I finally realized my deeply rooted dependence on my VAT when I'd reminisce about how wonderfully free it felt leaving home without something that "needed" my constant attention. Being near the top of the age pyramid, I often worry about the younger generation who cannot even fathom life without their VAT.

For now, I'm just trying to go without my VAT one day at a time. I still automatically reach for my VAT when it isn't there. Then, when I remember I've chosen to leave it at home, a delicious feeling of freedom comes over me.

Ann Redding
Fuller, Minneapolis

The needs of bus riders are ignored

It's past time to be revamping the design of all the modern glass bus shelters that are supposed to look so jazzy. To call them shelters is a misnomer. Three of us who sought shelter recently at the eastbound bus stop on Ford Parkway and Kenneth Street had a conversation about its non-protection from wind, rain, sleet and passing-auto slop.

These bus shelters are open on the street side or facing the prevailing winds. Some have no seating inside, and in those that do, people have stood on the benches with their slop-laden boots, so there's neither a decent place to sit nor to set down shopping bags.

Why don't bus shelters provide hooks for people to hang their shopping totes? Why aren't more shelters built along the lines of the eastbound one on Grand Avenue at Snelling, which has a partial fourth wall and seating?

INBOX ▶10

VILLAGER

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Maurice F. Mischke, 1920-1991

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Visit myvillager.com for deadlines.

/theVillagerMN

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After the snowstorm on January 22, the plows dumped snow into the shelters and over the sidewalks accessing the bus stops. At United Hospital, there was such a pile of snow at the bus stop that people formed a chain to help others get onto and off the bus. This is no small matter for older people and those with infirmities who ride the bus. At some A Line bus stops, there was so much snow piled around the payment machines that it wasn't possible to get to them.

Come on! Let's have a transit system that takes the needs of riders into account.

Kathleen Deming
Macalester-Groveland

Nominate a Landmark Tree

Our St. Paul neighborhoods are filled with majestic, unique and spectacular trees within the parks and private yards and on the boulevards. If you are aware of one of these beauties or happen upon one in the next several months, nominate it as a Landmark Tree. All public and private trees are eligible if they are viewable from a public space. To nominate one of these treasures of arboricultural perfection, visit stpaul.gov/departments/parks-recreation/natural-resources/forestry/landmark-tree-program.

Having a collection of these landmark trees is inspiring and verifies the importance of tree placement and planting to the longevity of the tree.

Greg Nayman
Highland Park

Editor's note: The writer represents Ward 3 on the city of St. Paul's Tree Advisory Panel.

A space needle for St. Paul

A version of Seattle's Space Needle atop the parking ramp across from Xcel Energy Center would give St. Paul a world class structure. The proposal was brought up a couple of years ago. I second it, with the possibility of a rotating restaurant to view the beautiful and historic skyline of St. Paul.

Steven Hubbell
Downtown St. Paul

A collectivist mind set

Scott Raskiewicz claims that the free market is "mostly a myth foisted on the people" (*Villager* Inbox, January 17). We have heard this song before. He states, "We need politicians who understand that America, like every modern nation, has a managed economy, and who will manage the economy to insure all Americans have the basic goods and services needed to live meaningful, fulfilling and useful lives."
This is collectivist thinking where the mind set is that the government is here to provide all of our needs from cradle to grave. No Scott, it isn't.

The government is here to protect our rights and freedoms and allow us to achieve our own ends. Certainly, corporations wield a lot of influence, but corporations didn't magically appear. Very few people came to this country as millionaires. James J. Hill dropped out of school at age 14 to support his family after his father died. John D. Rockefeller was born the son of an immigrant peddler. Certainly, there are those who actually need our help, but that's a far cry from saying I have the right to have something handed to me.

Mike Casey
Macalester-Groveland

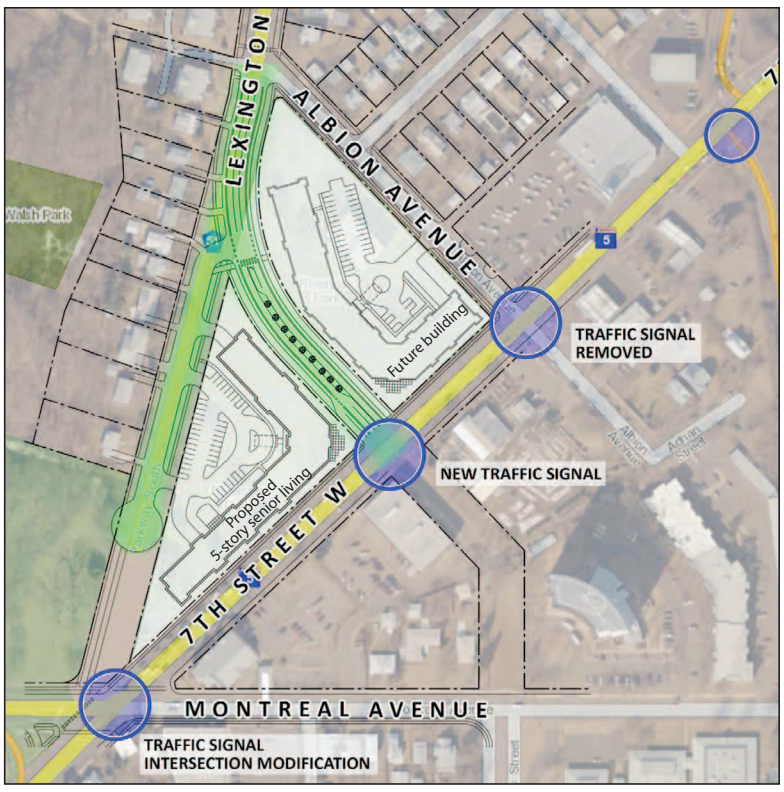
Bicyclists *are* held to same rules

A letter writer made statements that are contradicted by law, specifically regarding bicyclists texting and wearing earphones (*Villager* Inbox, January 17). State law says that every person operating a bicycle shall have all of the rights and duties of drivers of any other vehicle. In other words, texting and wearing earphones are just as illegal for bike riders as they are for motorists.

John Kaplan
Highland Park

Do write, won't you?

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



The first phase of developing the former Riverside site would include 150-170 units of senior housing in a five-story building on the southern part of the property. Lexington Parkway would end in a cul-de-sac north of Montreal Avenue and would be extended through the site to West Seventh Street.

Rezoning sought for senior campus on old Riverside site

By Jane McClure

A request is in the works to rezone the former Riverside School property at 900 Albion Ave. from single-family residential to traditional neighborhoods three (TN3) in order to allow a senior housing campus to be constructed on the site. The nearly century-old Riverside School building, which was torn down last August, had been vacant since 2014.

The Highland District Council (HDC) Community Development Committee heard an update on the project on January 16. The committee will discuss and vote on the rezoning request at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, February 15, at the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy.

Neighbors are currently being asked to sign a petition in favor of the zoning request, which could go to the city's Planning Commission as soon as this spring. The commission and City Council will hold hearings on the request before it is voted on.

The property needs a zoning change as well as a conditional use permit to accommodate its design and the property's replatting. Two-thirds of the property owners with 100 feet of the site need to sign a notarized petition before a rezoning request can move forward.



The realignment of Lexington Parkway would eventually continue south of the development to connect with Montreal Avenue and Shepard Road.

Property owner J.A. Wedum Foundation is working with project manager Essential Decisions Inc. (EDI) on plans for two senior buildings on the 5.4-acre site, with housing options ranging from independent living to memory care. If the rezoning is approved this summer, construction of the first building could start in the fall.

The first phase would entail 150-170 housing units in a five-story building on the southerern part of the property. Scott Black of EDI said the goal is to open the building in early 2020. The second phase would be built at some point after that time, but has not been planned yet.

Nearby neighbors are also discussing rezoning their properties from lower-density residential use to TN3. "We just want to get that out there," said David Kozlowski, who owns properties at 895 and 865 S. Lexington Pkwy. He said the views from his buildings will be blocked by the new development.

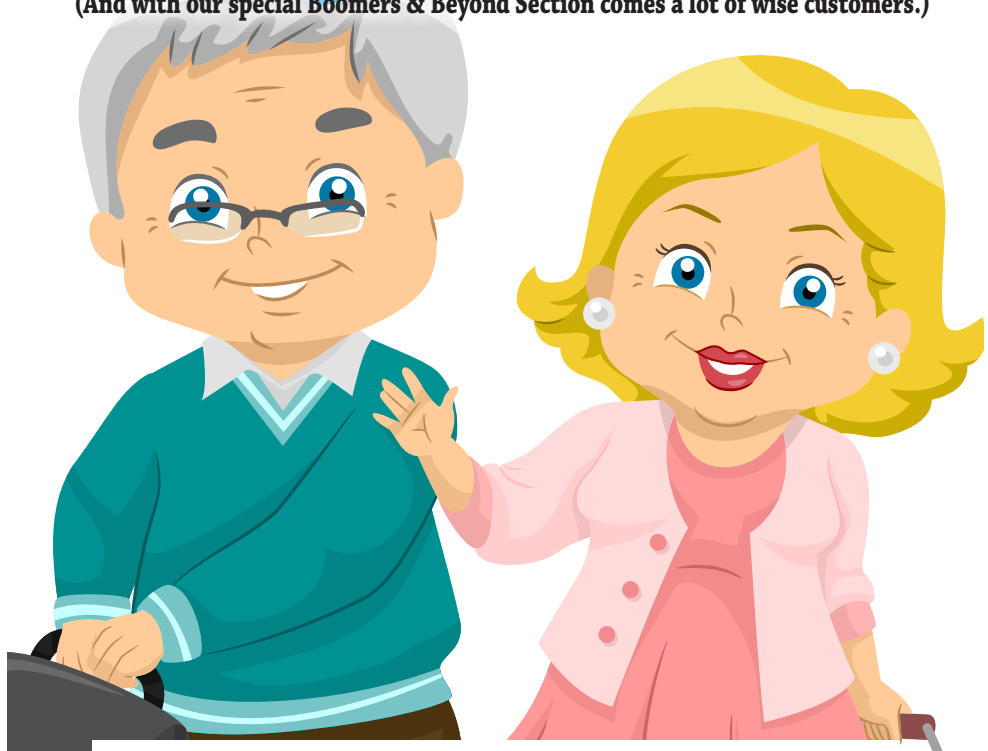
Rezoning nearby properties could mean eventually selling those homes for redevelopment. Those requests, if they also get enough signatures on petitions, would go through a separate review and approval process.

The February 15 meeting will focus on zoning and not on a proposal that has been discussed in recent months to alter local streets. The HDC has pushed for creating a cul-de-sac on Lexington Parkway north of Montreal Avenue. Lexington could then be extended through the former school property and across West Seventh to a short stub of Elway Street, which would be extended south to Montreal.

Joe Lux of Ramsey County Public Works said county officials plan to use county-state aid funds to make changes to Lexington north of West Seventh Street in 2019. The segment south of West Seventh has no funding source yet, but would likely be a combination of city and county dollars.

St. Paul Department of Public Works director Kathy Lantry said that the city has no timeline for the southern segment and that the project would require a broader discussion.

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District Council News

Highland Park

highlanddistrictcouncil.org • 651-695-4005

Board opening—The Highland District Council is seeking to fill an open at-large alternate position on its board of directors at its meeting on March 1. Those who are interested in the seat are being asked to contact Kathy Carruth by calling the HDC office or emailing info@highlanddistrictcouncil.org.

Rec nights—Free recreation nights are scheduled from 6-8:30 p.m. on Fridays at the following community centers: February 9 at Highland Park, 1974 Ford Pkwy.; February 16 at Edgcumbe, 320 S. Griggs St.; and February 23 at Groveland, 2021 St Clair Ave. Activities include gym, art, snacks, music and board games. Register in person or by visiting stpaul.gov.

Safe Routes to School—A meeting on the Safe Routes to School project to fill in missing sidewalks for students attending Expo, Holy Spirit, Randolph Heights and Cretin-Derham Hall is scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday, February 13, at the Highland Park Community Center.

Community Development—The HDC's Community Development Committee meeting for next month has been rescheduled to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, February 15, at the Highland Park Community Center. The agenda will include an application for a wine, beer and Class A entertainment license for the former Tropicana Cafe at 2585 W. Seventh St. The cafe has new owners who are renaming it the Agelgil Ethiopian Restaurant.

Upcoming meetings—HDC board of directors, 7 p.m. Thursday, February 1; Transportation Committee, 7 p.m. Tuesday, February 13; Community Development Committee, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, February 15. All meetings will be held at the Highland Park Community Center.

Macalester-Groveland

macgrove.org • 651-695-4000

Home Improvement Fair—This is the last chance for businesses and organizations to register for the 2018 Macalester-Groveland & Highland Park Home Improvement Fair that will be held on Saturday, March 10, at Cretin-Derham Hall. For information, visit macgrove.org/hif.

Get involved—The Macalester-Groveland Community Council currently has several openings on its board of directors, including for Grid 5 and for at-large faith and at-large landlord representatives. The council also has four standing committees that meet monthly. Visit macgrove.org/node/341.

Upcoming meetings—Community Building Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, February 12; Environment Committee, 7 p.m. Thursday, February 15. Both meetings will be held at the Edgcumbe Recreation Center.

Summit Hill

summithillassociation.org • 651-222-1222

Neighborhood Honor Roll—On January 26, the Summit Hill Association celebrated the addition of three new members to the citywide Neighborhood Honor Roll. They include Laurie Crowell, who has operated the Golden Fig on Grand Avenue since 2007; Phillip McGraw, who is the on-site director of the Linwood Recreation Center; and Michael E. Murphy, whose collection of poems, *Songs of Crocus Hill*, pays tribute to many Summit Hill memories.

History in the making—The public is invited to join the SHA for an evening with local author Larry Millett and Historic St. Paul's Carol Carey at 7 p.m. Thursday, February 15, at the University Club, 420 Summit Ave. They will talk about historic houses in the neighborhood and Millett will be selling signed copies of his books. The tax-deductible donation is $25. Tickets are available on the SHA website.

Keep in touch—Check out the SHA's new website and watch for details about upcoming events. People also can sign up for the association's electronic newsletter and learn how they can volunteer.

Union Park

unionparkdc.org • 651-645-6887

Open forums—The Union Park District Council holds public forums almost every month and is seeking suggestions for future topics. Email julie@unionparkdc.org or take the poll on the website.

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

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

Upcoming meetings—Transportation Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, February 12, in Otto Hall at Episcopal Homes, 1860 University Ave.; Land Use and Economic Development Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, February 19; Environment and Parks Committee, 7 p.m. Wednesday, February 21. Unless noted, the meetings will be held at 161 N. Snelling Ave.

Stay in touch—The public is invited to "like" the UPDC on Facebook and subscribe to its e-newsletter, "Neighborhood Matters," by emailing michael@unionparkdc.org.

West 7th

fortroadfederation.org • 651-298-5599

Board notes—At its January 8 meeting, the board of directors of the West Seventh/Fort Road Federation heard a presentation from Brent Frederick, who is working to open the Parlour bar and restaurant at 271 W. Seventh St. Neighbors along Butternut Avenue also spoke to the board about their frustration with noise along nearby Shepard Road and expressed their concerns about safety on that street.

Upcoming meeting—The board of directors will hold its next monthly meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, February 12, at the Ramsey County Historical Society office at Landmark Center, 75 W. Fifth St. The meeting will include a tour of the historical society's facilities. The board is considering donating materials to create an archive of Fort Road Federation documents and history at the society. For information, email federation executive director Emily Northey at emily@fortroadfederation.org.



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*2017 Villager Audit conducted by the Circulation Verification Council

Crime Report

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

Highland Park

Burglary—Tools were stolen from a construction site at St. Paul Academy, 1712 Randolph Ave., on January 20-21.

—Tiffany's Sports Lounge, 2051 Ford Pkwy., was broken into during the evening of January 22-23.

Theft—A vehicle was stolen from an open garage on the 2100 block of Pinehurst Avenue around 8:30 a.m. Saturday, January 6.

—A briefcase and laptop computer were stolen from a vehicle outside of CorePower Yoga, 680 S. Cleveland Ave., between 4-5 p.m. Monday, January 8.

—A suspect grabbed money from the cash drawer and fled from Panera Bread, 2056 Ford Pkwy., at 7:20 p.m. Friday, January 12.

—A vehicle was reported stolen on the 1200 block of Bayard Avenue on January 15.

—A Lenovo Think Pad and bag were reported stolen from a vehicle on the 1900 block of Ford Parkway at 5:30 p.m. Monday, January 15.

—A man reported that a woman he had met three weeks earlier stole numerous items from his apartment on the 900 block of St. Paul Avenue between 5:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesday, January 16. Her whereabouts are unknown.

—A catalytic converter was stolen from a vehicle at Deaf Life Church, 532 S. Snelling Ave., during the evening of January 19-20.

Assault—An assault was reported at Highland Chateau Health Care, 2319 W. Seventh St., at 6 p.m. Tuesday, January 16.

Weapons—Gunshots were reported on Cleveland and Pinehurst avenues at 8:07 p.m. Sunday, January 21.

Miscellaneous—Felony damage to the parking lot's overhead barrier and concrete end pillars was reported at Trader Joe's, 484 S. Lexington Pkwy., during the evening of January 13-14.

—A 33-year-old man was arrested for DWI following a hit-and-run accident at Cleveland and Randolph avenues at 12:10 a.m. Wednesday, January 24.

Lexington-Hamline

Burglary—Security personnel arrested a known trespasser and shoplifter for burglary after seeing him inside the Midway Target store carrying a basket of goods and drinking an unpurchased bottle of pop at 4:45 p.m. Friday, January 19.

Theft—An Apple laptop and iPad were stolen from a vehicle outside of LA Fitness, 1370 University Ave., between 4:27-8:18 p.m. Friday, January 19.

—A vehicle was stolen on the 1200 block of Concordia Avenue between 10 a.m.-1:09 p.m. Monday, January 22.

Assault—A student made felony terroristic threats against another student at Central High School at 1:29 p.m. Wednesday, January 10.

—A student was taken to the hospital after being assaulted by another student at the High School for Recording Arts, 1166 University Ave., at 1 p.m. Friday, January 12.

Macalester-Groveland

Robbery—A man was the victim of an attempted robbery at gunpoint at 3:45 p.m. Saturday, January 20, on St. Clair and Woodlawn avenues.

Burglary—Coffee Bené, 53 S. Cleveland Ave., was broken into during the evening of January 14-15.

Theft—A vehicle was reported stolen on the 1100 block of Randolph Avenue on January 11.

—A purse was stolen from a vehicle at Macalester College between 6-9:15 p.m. Friday, January 19.

—More than $500 worth of merchandise was stolen from Patagonia, 1648 Grand Ave., between 10:07-10:55 a.m. Sunday, January 21.

Assault—A woman was assaulted on the 1800 block of Grand Avenue at 2 p.m. Monday, January 22.

Mendota Heights

Theft—An outdoor trailer was forced open and several tools were taken on the 2000 block of Dodd Road between 9:30-10 p.m. Tuesday, January 9.

—The front license plate was reported stolen from a vehicle on January 11-12 on the 800 block of Bluebill Drive.

—A black bag, laptop computer and work papers were stolen from a vehicle on the 1000 block of Highway 13 between 1:40-8:30 p.m. Sunday, January 14.

—A purse was found lying in the road on the 900 block of Diego Lane, it was reported at 9:26 p.m. Thursday, January 18. The owner was contacted and it was discovered that the purse had been stolen earlier from a neighboring city.

Miscellaneous—Police received a report at 1:47 p.m. Monday, January 8, that someone had egged a headstone at Resurrection Cemetery.

—A fight involving 15 people was reported at 1:22 a.m. Saturday, January 13, in a bar on the 800 block of Highway 13. The fight continued in the parking lot, but the suspects had fled before the police arrived. Witnesses were able to identify three of the suspects. The case was forwarded to the city attorney for review.

—Officers were dispatched to the 1000 block of Third Street at 9:54 p.m. Thursday, January 18, for a domestic case involving two people arguing over cigarettes. The parties agreed to spend the night apart.

Merriam Park

Robbery—A woman was the victim of an armed robbery at 6:51 p.m. Monday, January 15, near Selby Avenue and Pierce Street.

Burglary—A 28-year-old man was arrested for burglary at Denny's Restaurant, 1664 University Ave., at 9:32 p.m. Tuesday, January 9.

Theft—A vehicle was stolen on Fairview and University avenues during the evening of January 8-9.

—A man grabbed four packs of cigarettes from the counter and fled from the Holiday Station, 281 N. Snelling Ave., at 2:12 p.m. Tuesday, January 23.

Assault—A felony assault that included terroristic threats was reported at Snelling and University avenues at 5:38 p.m. Saturday, January 20.

Weapons—Gunshots were reported on Snelling and St. Anthony avenues at 1:29 a.m. Tuesday, January 9, and again at Fry Street and University Avenue at 11:58 p.m. Saturday, January 20.

—Police were called to the Holiday Station, 281 N. Snelling Ave., on a report of a domestic assault involving a gun at 11:08 p.m. Tuesday, January 9.

Snelling-Hamline

Theft—A purse and cellphone were stolen at the Midway Cub Foods between 11-11:30 a.m. Sunday, January 14.

—A backpack, HP laptop computer, books and gloves were reported stolen from a vehicle at Concordia College's Ganglehoff Center, 235 N. Hamline Ave., at 8:29 p.m. Tuesday, January 23.

Assault—A 30-year-old woman was arrested for making felony terroristic threats with a gun against staff at the Family Dollar Store, 1536 University Ave., at 8:41 p.m. Friday, January 12.

Miscellaneous—A male suspect got out of his car and punched out the driver's window of another man's vehicle at 2:54 p.m. Saturday, January 13, on Pascal Street and University Avenue.

Summit Hill

Burglary—Linwood School, 1023 Osceola Ave., was broken into between January 6-8.

—A residence was broken into on the 300 block of Ramsey Street between 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Thursday, January 11.

Theft—A theft was reported at Anytime Fitness, 1069 Grand Ave., on January 15. Two employees apparently had been depositing membership fees into their personal bank accounts rather than the company's bank account.

—A vehicle was stolen on the 900 block of Grand Avenue between 6:50-7:11 a.m. Monday, January 22.

Assault—Two unruly female customers entered CVS Pharmacy, 1040 Grand Ave., at 9 a.m. Monday, January 22. They left before police arrived.

Weapons—Gunshots were reported on the 1100 block of St. Clair Avenue at 10:18 p.m. Friday, January 19.

Summit-University

Theft—A Lenovo laptop computer was stolen from a vehicle at the Oxford Community Center, 270 N. Lexington Pkwy., between 6:30-8:05 p.m. Monday, January 8.

—A black 2005 Ford pickup truck that had been left running with the doors unlocked was reported stolen on the 400 block of Marshall Avenue at 7:10 a.m. Friday, January 12.

—Other stolen vehicles were reported on Hague Avenue and Milton Street on January 10, on the 800 block of Ashland Avenue on January 12-13, and on the 900 block of Marshall Avenue on January 21.

—A backpack, HP laptop computer and personal papers were reported stolen from a vehicle on the 400 block of Selby Avenue at 6:42 p.m. Tuesday, January 23.

Weapons—An aggravated assault with a gun was reported on the 200 block of North Oxford Street at 8:42 p.m. Thursday, January 11.

—An assault involving a gun was reported on Concordia Avenue and Dale Street at 10:56 p.m. Sunday, January 21. A male victim was taken to the hospital.

West End

Theft—A Rigid 300 pipe threader was stolen on the 900 block of West Seventh Street between January 4-8.

—A 30-year-old man was arrested for having a stolen pickup truck at 3:05 p.m. Saturday, January 6, on the 700 block of Bayard Avenue.

—A suspect stole $100-$150 worth of meat and cheese from Mississippi Market, 1500 W. Seventh St., at 12:23 p.m. Sunday, January 7.

—Police were called to Wings Financial, 1804 W. Seventh St., on a report of a theft at 2:32 p.m. Friday, January 19. Upon investigation, it was determined that an overnight custodian had been stealing change from a coin machine for the past month.

—Stolen vehicles were reported on West Seventh Street and Albion Avenue on January 14-15, and on the 300 block of Sherman Street on January 22.

—An Apple Macbook Pro was stolen from a vehicle at Little Sisters of the Poor, 330 S. Exchange St., between 10:45 a.m.-12:03 p.m. Monday, January 22.

—The catalytic converter was stolen off a vehicle on the 1000 block of Juno Avenue during the evening of January 22-23.

Assault—Staff members suffered minor injuries after being assaulted by a juvenile patient at Children's Hospital at 6:08 p.m. Saturday, January 20.

—Police arrested a 45-year-old man for assault and disorderly conduct after receiving multiple reports of an intoxicated man yelling outside of an apartment building on the 100 block of South Western Avenue at 5:21 p.m. Tuesday, January 23.

Weapons—Gunshots were reported in the vicinity of Erie Street and Jefferson Avenue at 7:03 p.m. Monday, January 8.

Woman charged with arson at St. Kate's



Hassan

Tnuza Jamal Hassan, 19, of Minneapolis was charged in Ramsey County District Court with one count of arson in the first degree in connection with a series of fires that were set on January 17 in several buildings on the campus of St. Catherine University.

According to the criminal complaint, Hassan admitted setting fires in six buildings on campus. That included setting a chair on fire in the student lounge of St. Mary Hall dormitory. That fire caused minor damage to the building and prompted the sprinkler system to activate.

The dormitory also houses a daycare center. There were 33 children present at the time the fire was set, as well as eight adults.

Another fire of note was set in the women's bathroom of the Butler Fitness Center, according to the complaint.

Surveillance video showed a female entering St. Mary Hall with a plastic shopping bag just before the fire began and leaving the lounge just before the sprinklers were activated. The bag, which contained a box of matches, was later found discarded in a bucket. The suspect was identified as Hassan, who was located on campus and arrested.

Hassan had been a student at St. Catherine, but quit last fall because she and her family were planning a vacation in Ethiopia. Hassan said she started the fires because she had read about the U.S. military destroying schools in Iraq and Afghanistan and felt she should do the same thing here.

She said her arson attack was not as successful as she had wanted, claiming she wanted to burn the school to the ground and hurt people. She reportedly told investigators, "You guys are lucky that I don't know how to build a bomb, because I would have done that."

Hassan also admitted writing a letter to her former roommates that expressed radical ideas about supporting Muslims and bringing back the caliphate. Her roommates turned the letter over to campus security.

Hassan faces 20 years in jail and a $20,000 fine. Bail was set at $100,000.

Fire Calls

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

Merriam Park—A woman was struck by a hit-and-run vehicle while crossing the street at Snelling and University avenues at 8:20 a.m. Wednesday, January 3.

Summit-University—A pedestrian was injured by a vehicle on Concordia Avenue and Dale Street at 10:11 a.m. Saturday, January 13.

—A man was taken to the hospital after being struck by a vehicle while in the crosswalk at John Ireland and Kellogg boulevards at 8:40 a.m. Friday, January 12.



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Names in the News

Olivia Crutchfield, 17, of Mendota Heights recently donated $1,000 to Camp Discovery, a camp for children with skin diseases sponsored by the American Academy of Dermatology. The money came from the sale of photographs she took during a 2016 visit to Cuba. Crutchfield volunteered as a counselor at Camp Discovery last summer and was so impressed with its work that she decided to devote to it all of the proceeds from the sale of her photographs. She said the camp's mission is especially close to her heart, since her brother has suffered with alopecia areata for 12 years. Her photos can be viewed at OliviaCrutchfieldCuba.com.

Gail Gislason of Highland Park has been named Special Events Volunteer of the Year by the National Alliance on Mental Illness-Minnesota. The award recognizes the countless hours of service Gislason has given to NAMI Minnesota's spring gala.

Laura J. Arteaga, airman first class in the U.S. Air Force Reserve, has graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland in Texas. She is a 2015 graduate of Henry Sibley High School.

Dr. Artika R. Tyner, a Highland Park High School graduate and a public policy professor at the University of St. Thomas, recently released the children's book *Justice Makes a Difference: The Story of Miss Freedom Fighter, Esquire*. Written by Tyner with Jacklyn Milton, the book references powerful leaders throughout history to highlight the importance of education, social change and diversity. Tyner plans to deliver 1,000 copies of the book to schools around the globe, beginning in St. Paul and ending in Ghana.



Andrew Paul Johnson (far right), a member of Boy Scout Troop 82 sponsored by Holy Spirit Catholic Church, received his Eagle Scout Award in December. The son of Jeff and Lucy Johnson of Summit Hill, Andrew is a senior at St. Thomas Academy and the seventh member of his family to receive the highest award in their area of Scouting. Pictured with him at the Eagle Scout Court of Honor at Holy Spirit are (from left) his brothers and fellow Eagle Scouts Glenn and Will Johnson, and sisters and Gold Award recipients in Girl Scouts Chrissy Klocker, Emma Williamson, Josie Johnson and Monica Johnson. For his Eagle service project, Andrew and his crew landscaped around the Church of St. Stanislaus in the West End.

Amy (Voytilla) Freeman, a 2000 Central High School graduate and Macalester-Groveland native, and her husband, Dave Freeman, recently released *A Year in the Wilderness: Bearing Witness in the Boundary Waters* (Milkweed Editions). The book tells the story of the couple's year-long adventure in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness intended to draw attention to the threat that sulfide-ore copper mining poses to that pristine area. The Freemans have paddled, dogsledded and hiked across North America, circumnavigated Lake Superior by kayak, and bicycled and paddled across South America. *National Geographic* named them its Adventurers of the Year in 2014.

Business Briefs

The St. Paul City Council is accepting nominations for the second annual St. Paul Business Awards, recognizing locally owned and independent businesses that contribute the most to the economic vitality of the city. To nominate a business, visit stpaul.gov/bizawards by February 24. Awards will be presented at the City Council meeting on March 22.

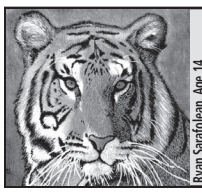
The American Dental Association's Give Kids A Smile program, providing free dental care to underserved children, will take place on Friday, February 2, throughout the Twin Cities. Several dentists and their staff will be conducting exams, filling cavities, applying sealants, performing extractions and other procedures between 7 a.m. and 2 p.m. at Park Dental, 917 Grand Ave. Call 651-221-1902 or visit mndental.org.

The St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce, with St. Paul-Ramsey County Public Health and the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership, is giving micro-grants to Ramsey County businesses that provide workplace wellness programs promoting healthy eating, tobacco-free living, breastfeeding and physical activity. Applications are due by March 1. An informational session will be held from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Thursday, February 1, at the chamber office, 401 N. Robert St., Suite 150, and includes a free lunch. Call 651-223-5000 or visit saintpaulchamber.com.

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Summer Camps

Getting into the act

Kids can let their creativity flow at Bucket Brigade's theater camps

By Frank Jossi



Kids work on their acting during summer theater camps offered by the local troupe Bucket Brigade. This year's offerings include a camp for grades 5-12 on July 16-20, followed by one for grades 1-4 on July 23-25. Both will be offered at Art House North, 793 Armstrong Ave.
PHOTOS COURTESY OF BUCKET BRIGADE



Children and teenagers who are looking for a chance to express their creativity, work on their acting chops and perform in a live show will have two opportunities to "Let Go" this summer with the help of the local theatrical troupe Bucket Brigade.

Run by the husband and wife team of Jeremiah and Vanessa Gamble, Bucket Brigade will offer two camps this summer at Art House North, 793 Armstrong Ave. A five-day summer theater camp for grades 5-12 will be offered on July 16-20. A three-day camp for children in grades 1-4 will follow on July 23-25. Both camps will run from 9 a.m.-noon.

Bucket Brigade charges $150 for the five-day camp, but offers a $15 discount for students who enroll before June 1. The cost for the three-day camp is $90, with a $10 discount before the June deadline. The camps have openings for 22 students each and will be overseen by two instructors. Jeremiah Gamble, Bucket Brigade's artistic director, is one of them.

The age range is wide on the first camp, but most students are in grades 6-10. Some have attended the camps annually since they started in 2014 and are now in high school. The older students have an opportunity to develop leadership skills because of their prior experience, Gamble said.

Students attending the camps can expect "a lot of theater exercises and games and activities," he said. "The great thing is you don't have to have any experience in theater to participate. It's about getting kids comfortable with expressing themselves in unique ways."

The camps teach how humans communicate through their voices, bodies and facial expressions. Actors do the same thing, employing their five senses to create and relate stories, Gamble said.

But the instruction is more than just about acting. Students learn how to exercise their imaginations and develop their ability to tell a tale. "They learn the essence of good storytelling and that it's cool what you can accomplish by telling great stories," Gamble said.

That is what Minneapolis parent Tish Basford and her two daughters like about the program. "We've tried other theater camps before, but what I love about this camp is the ownership it gives kids in terms of creating scripts," Basford said. "It's really participatory. And he (Gamble) spins that in an effective, social justice way."

Basford's daughter Zada, 9, said she "really likes Bucket Brigade because Jeremiah is super-funny and he's a really good theater director. He makes theater fun and I learn a lot from it." Daughter Azaya, 12, has attended the camps for several years. She said she likes getting and memorizing a script and playing the games.

This summer's camps will focus on the

BUCKET BRIGADE ▶19

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ArtStart executive director Carol Sirrine, center, is joined by ArtScraps store manager Becky Olson and events coordinator Cindy Saucedo Smith. They are looking ahead to this year's summer camps, which carry the theme "Passport to India." PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

Another stamp in its passport

ArtStart continues summer tradition of bringing world view to area youths

By Roger Barr

Young artists can sign up to take a "Passage to India" during a series of summer camps being offered by ArtStart, a nonprofit organization dedicated to art education. The summer offerings also include a separate art camp that studies the ecology of the Minnesota River basin.

ArtStart selects a different culture each year as a focus for its arts camp programs. "We're going into our 30th year," said executive director Carol Sirrine. "Our camp is a cultural arts immersion that considers environmental issues. We put artists from that culture together with other artists to offer a world view for youths."

This year's theme will take children from age 4 to their mid-teens on an artistic adventure from the Himalayas to the Bay of Bengal. Though ArtStart operates a retail store at 1459 St. Clair Ave., the arts camp will use classrooms at Mount Zion Temple, 1300 Summit Ave.

Southern India will be explored during the week of July 9-13. That region is known for tropical beaches and wildlife sanctuaries inhabited by elephants, Bengal tigers, Indian leopards, sloth bears and gaurs (wild ox). Inspired by cultural traditions and the landscape itself, students will create different kinds of art, sing, compose, dance and tell stories.

Northern India will be covered in a separate camp from July 16-20. Students will learn how traditional art forms and dances have been transformed by modern-day influences. They will explore natural wonders, such as the Himalayas, and build structures, such as the Taj Mahal. Students will create art inspired by traditional art forms, skills and techniques, such as making a musical instrument or a marionette.

During both weeks, the programs are divided into three age groups. Four- and 5-year-olds may attend "A Start with the Arts," offered mornings only from 8:30-11:40 a.m. The tuition each week is $150. Separate programs are offered for students ages 6-8 and 9-12. Students can attend either the morning or afternoon sessions during the week for $150, or the full day for $295. Students have a selection of classes from which to choose.

The age-appropriate programs allow all students to experience art at their own level. "It's hard for young ones to even know where India is," Sirrine said.

She said the camp for older students "puts them side by side, working with artists of that culture. (The camp) positions them to approach their teen years with a little more openness."

The intent of the camps is to foster inspiration and creativity, Sirrine said. Students create their art as an expression of what they see rather than simply imitate the art of the region.

Cultural arts camps attract a diverse group of students, according to ArtStart events coordinator Cindy Saucedo Smith. "Quite a few kids who come to our camps already have

ARTSTART CAMPS ▶17

16◄ ARTSTART CAMPS

knowledge of the culture," Smith noted. "They could teach the course themselves."

The highlight of the camps is a Friday celebration for parents and families in which the young artists present their work. "The joy I see on their faces for their accomplishments brings tears to my eyes," Smith said. "How proud they are of what they've created. That's my high for the week."

For the artists, teaching at ArtStart is an opportunity to help children gain a well-rounded cultural education.

"Carol and Cindy make every effort to seek out skilled, creative, forward-thinking artists," said Jeannette Dickinson, who will be teaching classes in mosaic and metal working. "It'd be harder for many people to have access to such artists. They never stop thinking about how to make the classes better, more challenging and interesting to students. They're never stagnant."

India is also the focus of Camp Create, a separate art camp offered for ages 13-16. Taught by some of the artists teaching "Passage to India," Camp Create provides an opportunity for students who have aged out of the younger camp. This camp adds service learning to its cultural content. Students focus as much on learning the methods of art instruction from the teaching artists as they do on studying the culture of India.

Camp Create will be held from June 25-28 at Mount Zion. Tuition is $130 for half days and $240 for full days. Sixteen paid internships will be offered. Interns will be able to assist the professional artists in the youth camps during July. The application deadline is April 13.

In an unrelated camp experience, teens ages 14-17 can receive a stipend to study art on location. "River EcoJourneys: Between Water and Sky" will take place at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge in Bloomington. Made possible by a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, the camp will be offered on weekdays from June 11-July 6 (no camp July 4). For four weeks, students will work with a naturalist, composer, poet and three visual artists.

The highlight of the camps is a Friday celebration for parents and families in which the young artists present their work. "The joy I see on their faces for their accomplishments brings tears to my eyes," Smith said. "How proud they are of what they've created. That's my high for the week."

The curriculum will focus on climate change and how it affects various kinds of wildlife as well as the Minnesota River basin. Students will produce art that will be displayed at the refuge at the end of the camp. Applications for the 15 available slots open on February 15 and close on April 13.

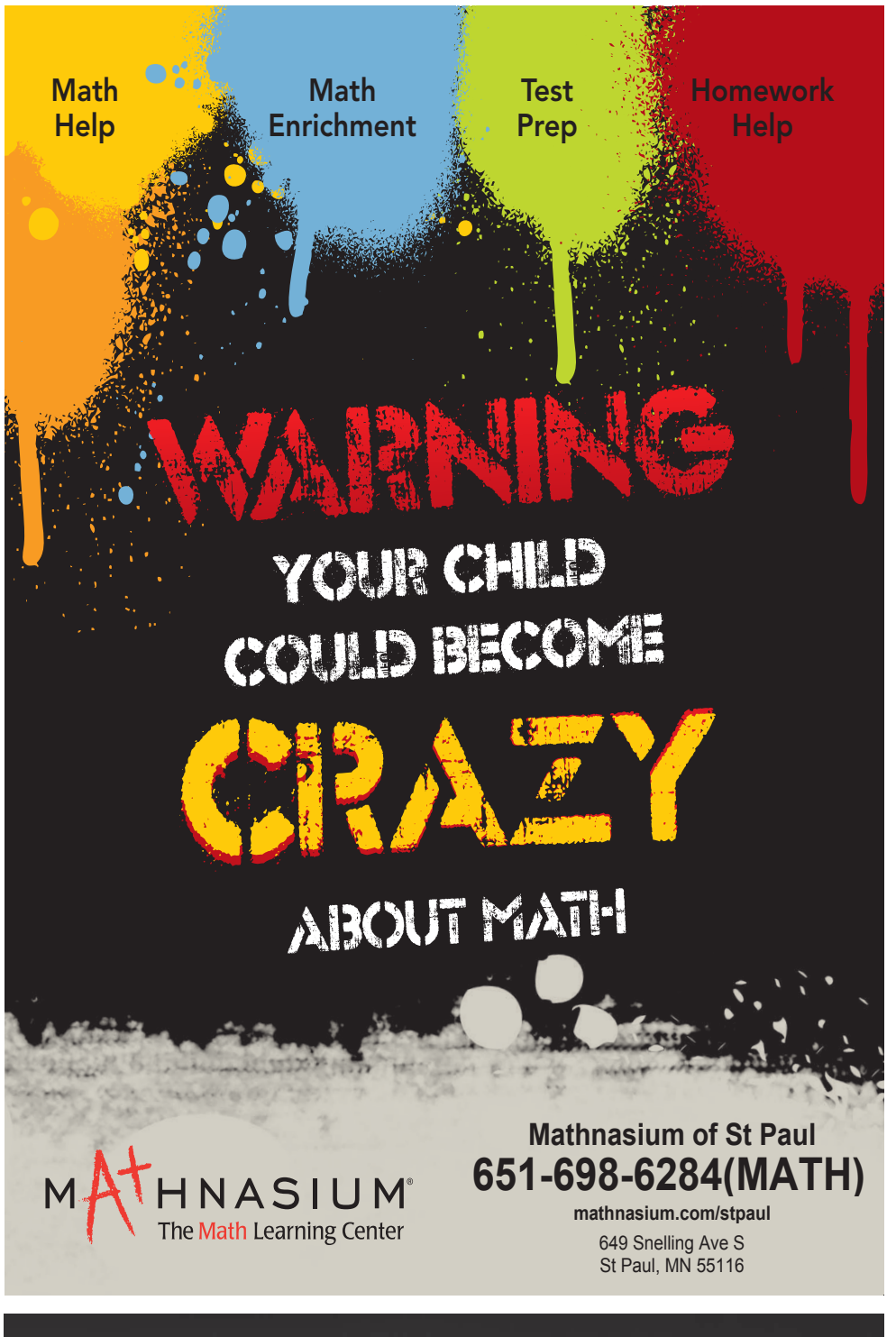
Students who cannot wait for summer can visit the ArtScraps store, which was established 25 years ago by a group of artists trying to keep ArtStart going. Store manager Becky Olson described the store's eclectic inventory of traditional and nontraditional art supplies as "a visual representation of the nonprofit's mission."

Yarn is a big seller these days, according to store volunteer Jean Curtis-Neitz, as artists engage in "yarn bombing," a poplar trend in arts and crafts. A yarn bomb is on display outside the store's entrance.

For more information about upcoming ArtStart camps and the ArtScraps store, visit artstart.org or call 651-698-2787.



Carol Sirrine shows off an elephant created from scraps of material by Cecilia Schiller.





Problem solved

Highland center helps kids avoid the summer slide by teaching them math in a way that makes sense

By Scott Beedy



Director Stephanie Goette works at her desk as a tutor and student focus on homework behind her at Mathnasium of St. Paul, 649 S. Snelling Ave. The local franchise offers a summer program that begins after the last day of school. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

Stephanie Goette has always had a knack for numbers. However, as a graduate of St. Catherine University's math education program and a tutor at Mathnasium of St. Paul, there was one skill she needed to learn on the job.

"Yes," Goette said with a laugh. "(Writing upside down), you learn that very fast working at Mathnasium."

Goette was still in college when Mathnasium opened in Macalester-Groveland in 2007 and she began tutoring there. She stayed on after graduation, with an agreement that she would eventually take over the business from original owner Jim Nelson. He retired in 2015 and Goette now owns and operates the center, which moved a few years ago to 649 S. Snelling Ave. in Highland Park.

"I'm really lucky and grateful that I get this opportunity," Goette said. "I kind of fell into something that I can be super-passionate about and that I can do for the rest of my life."

Today, there are 800 Mathnasiums in North America. The St. Paul location was the third to open in the state. In its simplest description, the Mathnasium Method teaches math to kids in grades 2-12 in a way that makes sense to them. It is not designed to replace what kids learn in school, but rather to supplement it.

"Teachers have a very hard job. They have so many kids they have to see every day. We're able to fill in the gaps that have occurred over the years," Goette said.

While writing upside down does not make one a good tutor, it help reach goals that epitomize what Mathnasium is all about.

> *"I'm really lucky and grateful that I get this opportunity," Goette said. "I kind of fell into something that I can be super-passionate about and that I can do for the rest of my life."*

"We always make sure we're working face-to-face with the kids rather than the stand-and-hover or the peak-over-the-shoulder," she said. "We never want the kids to feel like they're going from school to more school. We want them to feel like this is a place where they're really connecting with us."

Goette said Mathnasium is able to bring a one-to-one approach to learning, which allows time to make sure each child understands the meaning behind the problems they are trying to solve.

"I tell parents that half of my job is teaching math and the other half is teaching the kids to be confident in themselves," Goette said. "A lot of kids thrive here even though math has always been a challenge for them."

Similar to a gym, memberships at Mathnasium are based on visits—pay a monthly rate depending on age and get a certain number of visits and time with a tutor. That time during the school year can be the difference between students falling further behind or catching up to where they need to be. However, getting kids to do math successfully at their current grade level is not the only Mathnasium can do.

For 3rd-grader Aidan Frommeyer, math is not just something he loves, he is really good at it. Over the last three years, Mathnasium has challenged him, helping him test at a 7th-grade math level.

"They always put that goal a little bit farther ahead, close to being out of the reach of the child," said his dad, Rick Frommeyer. "And that's what we really like. We believe that approach has really helped Aidan soar."

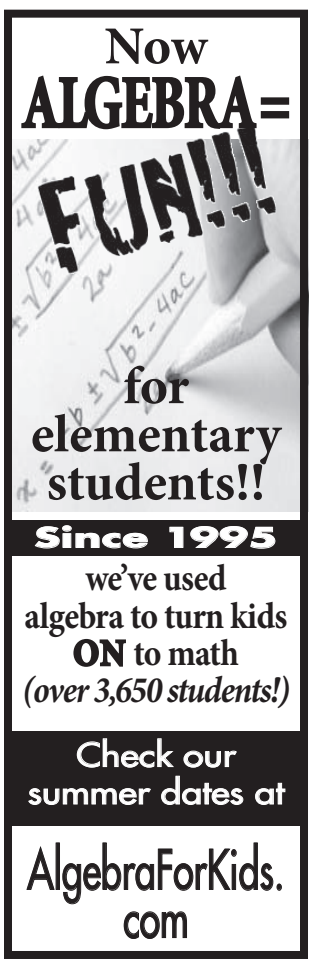
Aidan, who lives in the Summit-University neighborhood, is among those who have taken part in the school's annual summer program, which can include unlimited visits or smaller packages.

"Mathnasium is good," Aidan said. "It can really challenge your brain."

MATHNASIUM ▶19









Instructor Joe Trosza helps Gabriel Duenes, 12, with his homework at Mathnasium.

18◄ MATHNASIUM

"In the summertime, it's a way to keep the academic edge," added his father. "We'd do Mathnasium four days a week for about an hour."

Goette agreed that Mathnasium's summer program helps kids avoid the summer slide. During summer break, 2.6 months of math learning is lost, according to her. Like anything else, she said, practice leads to success, and that is what motivates her every day.

"I get to see the kids really grow up," she said. "I go to their graduation parties and see other students and families I work with. So it's nice."

The cost for Mathnasium's summer program ranges from $600-$1,100, with starting dates beginning after the last day of school. For more information or to sign up, email stpaul@mathnasium.com or visit mathnasium.com/stpaul.

15◄ BUCKET BRIGADE



A youngster uses a prop to set the mood during a previous summer camp offered by Bucket Brigade. Registration opens February 1 for this year's camps.

theme of "Let Go," an invitation for campers to explore what is holding them back, what is brewing inside themselves and what they need to let go of. Students begin work on that theme even before they show up by answering questions Gamble sends them prior to camp.

"We get responses about things going on in their lives," he said. "I take their responses and synthesize them into a framework."

As a theater, Bucket Brigade champions new work and the camp follows that tradition, Gamble said, with students helping develop the dialogue.

"It's a collaboration," he said. "I give them a format and they plug in what the dialogue is. They develop and build the material themselves. I help pull it together and give it that final shape."

The camp for older students focuses on the development of three sketches that will be performed at the end of the session along with poetry and music. Their show lasts between 20-25 minutes and will be presented at 7 p.m. Friday, July 20, at Art House North. It is free and open to the public.

The younger students will perform a five-minute play on the same theme at the end of their camp. That show will be presented at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, July 25.

"For that age group you must have a shorter amount of time," Gamble said. "With the younger kids you need more structure with a finished script so they can hit the ground running."

The camps are not all that different in their focus. Bucket Brigade works on getting the kids involved in activities and exercises, with little time for sitting.

"There are no lectures at all; we're all about movement," Gable said.

Registration opens February 1 for both summer theater camps. For more information, call 612-547-9839 or visit bucketbrigadetheater.com/classes.

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School Notes

Hispanic Advocacy and Community Empowerment Through Research, 2314 University Ave., is searching for motivated Latino college students attending Macalester, St. Thomas, St. Catherine, Augsburg, Hamline, Bethel or Concordia to participate in a multistage Minnesota Young Adult Latino Leadership Academy. The first session will be held on February 9-10 at Macalester and will include training to prepare students to begin a community project of their choosing. Students will be assigned a mentor, who will act as a guide in their project over several months. A second session and more training will continue in the spring. For information, call 651-288-1140.

John Bina, the band director at St. Thomas Academy, was presented with the Bandworld Legion of Honor Award from the John Philip Sousa Foundation at its annual awards ceremony on December 23. The award recognizes directors of school concert band programs of excellent musical quality who have held leadership positions in professional organizations. Bina has directed bands at STA since 2011 and currently chairs the school's fine arts department.

Jie Ming Mandarin Immersion School, 1599 Englewood Ave., will hold an open house from 9 am.-1 p.m. Friday, February 2. The school also will hold its Chinese New Year Celebration from 6-9:30 p.m. Friday, February 9. Jie Ming, which offers classes in grades K-5, plans to move into the Homecroft School building at 1845 Sheridan Ave. in Highland Park this fall. For more information, call 651-293-8715.

A VISTA Full Circle Show "You Are Here…A Journey of Discovery" will be presented by Visitation and St. Thomas Academy students at 7:20 p.m. Friday and Saturday, February 2-3, and at 2 p.m. Sunday, February 4, in Visitation's DeSales Auditorium, 2455 Visitation Drive, Mendota Heights. Admission is $5-$10. Call 651-454-4570 for details.

Minnesota Waldorf School, 70 E. County Road B, will hold early childhood/kindergarten open houses from 10-11:30 a.m. and 1st-grade open houses from noon-1:30 p.m. on Saturdays, February 10 and March 10. School tours for both will be held from 11:30 a.m.-noon. Call 651-487-6700.



Kyle and Stacy Curry, with daughter Kenna, 4, discuss their hunt for a kindergarten with Highland Park Elementary principal Nancy Flynn at the 2018 School Choice Fair at Washington Technology Magnet on January 20. At right, Travis Beckerle checks in on sons Ira, 3, and Graham, 18-months, at the fair.
PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

The Dodge Nature Preschool, 1715 Charlton St., West St. Paul, will hold informational sessions from 9:30-11 a.m. and 5-6 p.m. Thursday, February 22. Families can tour the preschool, ask questions and meet the staff. Call 651-455-4555 for information or to register.

St. Thomas Academy's Experimental Vehicle Team members Jack Kotok, Alex Moeller, Sam Westlake, Joe Zirnhelt, Nicholas Kern, Charlie Quinlan, Luke Kolar and Joe McMahon participated in one of the most high-profile accomplishment in the team's 20-year history: an all-expenses-paid trip on December 2-8 to Maranello, Italy, the home of Scuderia Ferrari. Team members spent the week learning about building efficient race cars and received behind-the-scenes tours of several manufacturing facilities. The trip was a prize for winning the 2017 Shell Drivers' World Championship (DWC). On their second day, the STA students won the Fiorano Challenge, a race against the



DWC second- and third-place teams on the official Ferrari test track.

Michael Rush, the son of Judie and Joe Rush of Macalester-Groveland, has received a Fulbright U.S. Student Program award from the U.S. Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board to carry out a study in environmental engineering in Chile. Rush will apply hydrologic and biogeochemical models to mountain watersheds to predict how climate change will affect water yield and stream quality. A graduate student at the University of Colorado in Boulder, Rush is a 2010 graduate of St. Thomas Academy. He holds a B.S. in Physics from the University of Minnesota and an M.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Colorado.

Religious Notes

John Calvin's highly charged teachings on total depravity and predestination during the Protestant Reformation will be addressed in free program from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 31, at St. Paul's United Church of Christ, 900 Summit Ave. Call 651-224-5809 or visit SPUCConSummit.org.

A worship service for Candlemas with incense and music for the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple will be offered at 7 p.m. Thursday, February 1, at St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church, 60 N. Kent St. All are welcome.

The Loyola Spirituality Center, 389 N. Oxford St., will offer the following programs: How to Design a Day of Prayer or Reflection with Joanne Dehmer and Kay Vander Vort from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Saturday, February 10 ($90); Nurturing Spirituality in Children and Teens with Carolyn Kolovitz from 1-4 p.m. Saturday, February 17 ($50); and Spirituality in the Second Half of Life with Barbara Leonard and the Reverend Karen Treat from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, March 10 ($65). For more information, call 651-641-0008 or email info@loyolaspiritualitycenter.org.

A contemplative service of lessons and hymns for Lent will be offered at 4 p.m. Sunday, February 18, at Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 3045 Chicago Ave. S., Minneapolis. The program is free and open to all. For information, call 612-827-5919 or visit mountolivechurch.org.

Jehovah Lutheran Church, 1566 Thomas Ave., is collecting donations of winter coats, boots, blankets, cooking items, plates and Cub Foods gift cards for refugees from the war-torn African country of the Congo. Jehovah is working in partnership with the Center for Employment and Education Development Services. Items may be left inside the church before or after worship services at 10:15 a.m. Sundays. Monetary donations may be made by check written out to CEEDS. Jehovah is also accepting toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, deodorant, combs, shampoo, lotion, first aid kits, children's vitamins and other toiletries for the homeless during February. For more information or to arrange a time for dropoff, call 651-644-1421.

The Cup of Our Life, Joyce Rupp's guide for spiritual growth, will serve as the centerpiece for six Lenten Mornings for Prayer and Reflection from 9:30-11:30 a.m. on Tuesdays, February 20 through March 27, at the Loyola Spirituality Center, 389 N. Oxford St. The cost is $75, which includes a copy of Rupp's book. To register, visit loyolaspiritualitycenter.org.

The Kiosk

Wednesday/January 31

THE FRIENDS OF COLDWATER will hold a Full Moon Walk at 7 p.m. at Coldwater Springs in South Minneapolis. Gather in the parking lot east of Hiawatha Avenue and about a half-mile south of 54th Street. Visit friendsofcoldwater.org.

Friday/February 2

LA LECHE LEAGUE'S St. Paul Metro group will gather from 9:30-11 a.m. at the Minnesota Birth Center, 624 S. Smith Ave. Pregnant women, mothers and their children and support people are invited to attend. Call 952-210-5998 or email LLLStPaulMetro@gmail.com.

FARE FOR ALL'S monthly distribution of fresh produce and frozen meat will take place from 10 a.m.-noon at the West Seventh Community Center, 265 Oneida St. A variety of food will be available in packages priced from $10-$25. Cash, credit or debit cards accepted. Volunteers are needed to help load boxes in customers' cars. Call 651-298-5493.

Saturday/February 3

HOPE FOR RECOVERY, a free workshop for individuals and families learning to cope with mental illnesses, will be offered by the National Alliance on Mental Illness from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Loyola Spirituality Center, 389 N. Oxford St. To register, visit namihelps.org or call 651-645-2948.

REPRESENTATIVE DAVE PINTO invites his constituents in District 64B (Highland Park, Macalester-Groveland, Merriam Park and the West End) to discuss the upcoming legislative session with him from 1-2:30 p.m. in the Community Meeting Room at the Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy. Constituents may also contact Pinto at 651-296-4199 or rep.dave.pinto@house.mn.

Sunday/February 4

U.S. IMMIGRATION LAW and its impact on immigrants today will be discussed at a meeting of the Or Emet congregation for humanistic Judaism from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the St. Paul Talmud Torah, 768 S. Hamline Ave. The discussion will be led by Susan Weinberg, author of a book on Jewish immigrants of the 20th century. Admission is free and open to the public. For information, visit oremet.org.

Monday/February 5

A RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE sponsored by the Circle of Faith will be held from 2-7 p.m. at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 S. Snelling Ave. To make an appointment to donate blood, call Jane Stendahl at 651-699-2257 or visit redcrossblood.org and enter the code "SP Circle of Faith."

Tuesday/February 6

THE ST. PAUL HIKING CLUB will gather for a three-mile hike in the neighborhood beginning at 11:30 a.m. at the Highland Cafe, 2012 Ford Pkwy. New members are welcome. Call 651-455-0052.

A MENTAL HEALTH support group for young adults ages 18-30 meets from 6-7:30 p.m. today and the first and third Tuesday of every month on the lower level of Macalester Plymouth United Church, 1658 Lincoln Ave. The group is facilitated by young adults with a mental illness and doing well in recovery. It is sponsored by the National Alliance on Mental Illness. For information, call Tess at 507-226-3369.

THE ST. PAUL CAMERA CLUB will critique color prints and night photography during its monthly salon at 6:30 p.m. in Otto Hall in the Gardens Building at Episcopal Homes, 1860 University Ave. Visitors are welcome. Call 651-578-1874.



Puckster with pluck. A steady Teddy Retelle, 4, and his dad Elliott sharpened their hockey skills on one of the rinks at Groveland Park during the Macalester-Groveland Community Council's Frost Fest on January 20. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Wednesday/February 7

HAVE COFFEE with an officer from the Mendota Heights Police Department beginning at 6 p.m. at Caribou Coffee, 720 Main St. The Coffee With a Cop program is offered on the first Wednesday of every month in Mendota Heights. In odd-numbered months, the conversation begins at 9 a.m. at TK's Coffee, 813 Sibley Memorial Hwy. Call 651-452-1366.

Thursday/February 8

"ENCOUNTERING HINDUISM" will be addressed by Satya Balroop in a free program at noon in Room 378S on the third floor of the Student Center at the University of St. Thomas. Balroop is co-founder of Minnesota Hindu Milan Mandir, a Hindu temple in Farmington. For more information, visit stthomas.edu/jpc.

"A JOURNEY FOR JUSTICE," a conversation with Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Ann McKeig, the state's first American Indian Supreme Court justice, will be held from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Carondelet Center, 1890 Randolph Ave. The program is sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph. For reservations, visit wisdomwayscenter.org.

"FIXING OUR BROKEN Health Care," a free video and discussion, will be presented by Health Care for All Minnesota and Physicians for National Health Policy from 6:30-8 p.m. at Hiawatha School Park Building, 4305 E. 42nd St., Minneapolis.

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

ESTATE PLANNING will be addressed at 7 p.m. in the Wesley Room of Fairmount Avenue United Methodist Church, 1523 Fairmount Ave. Elder-care attorney Karen Tarrant will discuss wills, trusts, planned giving and taxes among other considerations. Admission is free. Call 651-699-1335.

THE BERLIN AIRLIFT and Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin's failed attempt to starve a city will be revisited by author Roger G. Miller and veterans of the airlift from 7-9 p.m. at the Historic Fort Snelling Visitors Center. Admission is by donation with $5 recommended, free for students and veterans. Call 612-726-1171.

Friday/February 9

DO YOU FEEL AS OLD AS YOU ARE? author Anne Simpson will lead a discussion on adapting to changes brought about by aging at 10 a.m. at the Wilder Center for Aging, 650 Marshall Ave. Admission is free. For reservations, call 651-280-2273.

"THE LANGUAGE OF LOVE," courtship rituals of the Victorian era, will be revisited in a 75-minute program beginning at 7 and 8:30 p.m. at the Alexander Ramsey House, 265 S. Exchange St. Learn of the messages implied by love letters, floral bouquets and small gifts, play Victorian courtship games and enjoy freshly baked Valentine's Day treats. The cost is $11, $10 for seniors and college students. Call 651-296-8760.

Saturday/February 10

A CO-ED HAND DRUMMING workshop will be offered from 10 a.m.-noon at the Women's Drum Center, 2242 University Ave. Basic techniques that make a drum come alive will be taught. The cost is $30. Visit womensdrumcenter.org.

Sunday/February 11

THE HISTORY OF PEONIES in Minnesota will be addressed in two hour-long presentations sponsored by the Twin Cities Bungalow Club at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1895 Laurel Ave. Harvey and Brigitte Buchite of Hidden Springs Flower Farm in Spring Grove will discuss Minnesota's grand peony history at 1:30 p.m. and historic and heirloom peonies from 1910-28 at 3 p.m. Refreshments will be served from 2:30-3 p.m. Admission is $3 for nonmembers. Call 612-724-5816.

Tuesday/February 13

A PREVIEW OF THE 2018 SESSION of the Minnesota Legislature will be offered by Nicholas Harper of the League of Women Voters at a meeting of the league from 6-7:30 p.m. at Wilder Center, 451 N. Lexington Pkwy. The public is invited. Light refreshments will be served. To RSVP, email shack194849@gmail.com.

MEETING THE CHALLENGES of raising a child with mental illness is discussed in a facilitated support group meeting from 6-7:30 p.m. today and the second and fourth Tuesday of every month at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 S. Snelling Ave. The program is sponsored by the National Alliance on Mental Illness. Call Jonathan Wagner at 651-210-9549.

"A GOOD TIME FOR THE TRUTH," a panel discussion on race relations in the Twin Cities with David Lawrence Grant, Shannon Gibney and Taiyon Coleman, will be held from 6-9 p.m. at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. Admission is free.

LA LECHE LEAGUE'S Como-Midway group will meet from 7-8:45 p.m. to discuss issues related to breastfeeding. Pregnant women, mothers and their children are invited. For more information, call Heidi at 651-659-9527.

Thursday/February 15

THE TRANSFORMATIVE NATURE of grieving will be addressed by Paul V. Johnson at 7 p.m. in the Wesley Room of Fairmount Avenue United Methodist Church, 1523 Fairmount Ave. Admission is free. Call 651-699-1335.

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Tiberiu Weisz poses before a copy of a Chinese tablet he has translated. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Author helps uncover 1,000-year history of Jews in China

By Dave Page

When Cyrus the Great of Persia conquered Babylonia in 538 B.C., he gave the enslaved Israelites permission to return to their homeland. The prophet Ezra led many of the Jews back to Palestine, but others were reluctant to give up their Gentile wives and instead traveled eastward with their families.

These "priests, nobles and Levites" may have ended up in India, according to Tiberiu Weisz, author of the newly published *A History of the Kaifeng Israelites* and a resident of Minneapolis' Hiawatha neighborhood. Over the centuries, these Jews continued moving through central Asia, perhaps working as horse traders on the western end of what is now known as the Silk Road, Weisz said. They eventually settled in Kaifeng, a Chinese city south of Beijing, at the invitation of Emperor Taizong (976-998 A.D.).

Weisz has spent much of the past 15 years unraveling the back story of the Kaifeng Israelites, and he maintains that at least a handful of their descendants are still living in China and practicing a form of Judaism.

Weisz, who is Jewish, was born in 1950 in Romania and immigrated with his family to Israel in 1964. He graduated from high school in Israel and served in its military before moving to Ohio in 1974 to pursue a degree in Asian Studies at Oberlin College. After receiving his B.A., he earned a graduate degree at the University of Minnesota.

With an advanced degree in Asian Studies, Weisz found jobs translating contracts for American companies doing business in China. At one symposium for translators, a Japanese scholar noted how Westerners thought they could understand Chinese after studying it for 100 years. "'The Japanese have been studying Chinese for 1,000 years,' the scholar said, and still don't understand it,'" Weisz recalled.

The problem is that Chinese, like the English language, has changed over the centuries. The same symbol can mean different things in different regions of China. Their meaning may also change depending on the character's placement in a text. "So you have to know when, where and in what context something in Chinese was written to truly begin to decipher its meaning," Weisz said.

Weisz and some colleagues applied these lessons to their translation of the Kaifeng stelae, three ancient stone tablets that are each about the size of a desk and tell the story of what brought the Israelites to Kaifeng.

Modern scholars have relied on translations of the stelae by early 20th-century Christian scholars. These scholars did not have a firm understanding of both the Jewish and Chinese cultures, Weisz said, and there were bound to be errors in their interpretations. He thought he could do better.

The oldest of the stelae was carved in 1489, long after Venetian explorer Marco Polo reported meeting Jews in 13th-century Beijing and well before the reports of Chinese Jews by early 17th-century Jesuit missionaries.

Although the Kaifeng Israelites were Jewish by blood and religious practice, they were not recognized as such by Jewish authorities, according to Weisz. Jewish scribes around the 2nd century A.D. had affirmed that Judaism was matriarchal in descent, and the Kaifeng Israelites were descended from Jewish husbands and non-Jewish wives.

In the 12th century, these Israelites built a temple in Kaifeng that stood for close to 700 years, until its destruction around the time of the American Civil War. Those who remained eventually sold off the temple land and the Torah scrolls and all but disappeared, according to Weisz. However, an Anglican bishop by the name of Charles White recovered the stelae and incorporated the stone carvings into the cathedral he built in Kaifeng in the early 20th century. Today, the stelae are located in Kaifeng's Jewish Museum.

Weisz's latest book is the third that he has written on the Kaifeng Israelites. Although it is not focused on the translation of the stelae, *A History of the Kaifeng Israelites* includes illustrations of the tablets' varied interpretations by Weisz and White. The book also describes the ancient Chinese texts that appear to corroborate portions of the stelae or to shed light on incidents described in the stelae.

After 1,000 years of dispersal and assimilation into the Chinese culture, descendants of the Kaifeng Israelites "keep on resurfacing in unusual manners and places," Weisz said.

At the end of his book, he includes an interview from the late 1990s with a woman called "L" who claims to be descended from one of the original eight Jewish families in Kaifeng. The woman is quoted as saying her family "had a special Jewish sign that we touched when we entered or left our house." L's family also observed the Jewish Sabbath on Friday, according to Weisz, and they read a Chinese version of the traditional Jewish prayers.

The determination of the Kaifeng Israelites to maintain their religion after all those years is a lesson for everyone, according to Weisz. "Mass extermination, genocide, holocaust and other means of eradicating minorities only strengthens their determination to fight for their beliefs and faiths," he said.

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On the Town

A struggle to be seen

New dance work visualizes the power of women as they age

By Melenie Soucheray

When the lights go up on *Invisible* on February 15-17 at the Southern Theater, 11 dancers will take center stage to explore through movement, music and media what it means to be a woman and increasingly invisible as they age. Twin Cities choreographer Paula Mann has assembled the women ages 24-77 of various races and personal backgrounds to portray what it is like to inhabit a woman's body in American society today.

"We're asking about how we're seen, about how we feel inside our bodies, and about some of the societal structures that are woven into the fabric of our lives, especially as we age," said Mann, 59, co-artistic director of Time Track Productions and a dancer in *Invisible*. "I'm now a 'ma'am,' but I don't feel that—nothing inside me feels the way people are seeing me."

Dancer Thern Anderson, 69, a resident of Minneapolis' Longfellow neighborhood, understands invisibility. "I lived in New York when I was young and when I was 29 or 30," said Anderson, who has been performing professionally for 50 years. "I noticed that I wasn't getting whistled at on the street anymore. It was a relief in some ways, but it was like, 'what happened?' We all know that there's a way we have in our culture of being assessed by a man. A lot of women don't want that. As I get older, I definitely feel invisible."



Dancers Becky Heist (left) and Thern Anderson twist and turn through a rehearsal of *Invisible*.

The theme of *Invisible* is set in its 2½-minute opening segment where a viewer may mistake the bent-over postures, gasping breaths and other gestures as responses to some external oppression. In fact, the dancers said, Mann's choreography embodies a vocabulary that is fiery and powerful in its positivity.

"I interpret 'fiery' as being fearless," said Anne-Marie Wittenberg, 50, a dancer from Highland Park. Wittenberg has been dancing for 42 years. She grew up in Boston and has been dancing professionally in the Twin Cities for 12 years. "As I get older," she said,

"As I get older, I've been less careful about what people think of me. I'm willing to be more honest about who I am. It's healthy and powerful."

"I've been less careful about what people think of me. I'm willing to be more honest about who I am. It's healthy and powerful. We should all be able to be honest without being, or care about being, judged."

As the opening segment reaches its climax, the 11 dancers are gathered tightly around each other. They are curled and pulsating as one, poised to pounce, ready to growl.

"In nature, any animal that is about to strike curls in and gathers strength," said dancer Roxane Wallace, 50. "As (fellow dancer) Kaori (Kenmotsu, 48) said, it's about getting down to what you are and getting ready to bring it out. It's not that we're down and we're oppressed; it's reflecting strength and resiliency. Any animal ready to strike is going to go, 'grrr.'"

"What's been revealed to me as we've gone along is that all of Paula's different movements are things that are experienced in my life," said dancer Mary Moore Easter, 77. "Everything when Roxane is doing the teetering and her balance is unstable, I know what it is. It's fighting. It's confusion. It's sometimes futility. It's perseverance. It's power."

The production of *Invisible* "has come at a time in my life when I've been taking care of an elder," Wallace said. "It's been an honor, a



Dancers Sandy Agustin (left) and Kaori Kenmotsu run through some of the movements in *Invisible*. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

of all different ages who all have something powerful to say."

"As a dancer, I remember growing up and always looking at older women's bodies and thinking, 'I don't want to dance like the younger dancers; I want my body to have knowledge and experiences,'" said Leila Awadallah, 24. "Then you realize it's the process; your body experiences these things. I've been learning by watching and being around these women's bodies and their experiences. This kind of knowledge isn't definable. It's like the knowledge of energy, of seeing and being. It's indescribable, the things you can learn in the intergenerational space of women."

According to dancer Kealoha Ferreira, 25, each member of the troupe responds to Mann's choreography "through an understanding of what it's like to be in our individual bodies. In this piece, we see women of diverse races and ages, how we're moving together, occasionally causing friction but staying together. That for me is really huge. We're gathering and we're moving. There's a lot of breath and a lot of exertion throughout the piece. We're living and breathing through friction and struggle."

Invisible will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday and at 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, February 15-17, at the Southern Theater, 1420 Washington Ave. S., Minneapolis. A discussion with members of the cast will follow the show on Friday. Tickets are $20 in advance, $24 at the door, $12 for seniors and students. For reservations, call 612-326-1811 or visit southerntheater.org.

support and an encouragement to come into this safe rehearsal space and address this topic. Some days I'm celebratory with what's going on in real life, and some days I'm down and heavy. Just being with these powerful women of all ages has reminded me that, as women, we keep on going no matter what."

Dancer Becky Heist, 67, a former instructor in the Macalester College Theater and Dance Department, said that "when I was working, I had to fight all the time for every little thing in the dance program. I had to fire up a lot more in that way. This is different. In my world and in my life, I don't need to fight so much. In this piece, it's really fun to physically find the fire in an incredibly supportive, wonderful environment, working with women



Choreographer Paula Mann (right) directs Anne-Marie Wittenberg and the rest of her cast in a rehearsal for *Invisible*.

On the Town *Briefly*

Music

Like Brigadoon, the annual Scottish Island Concert will reappear at 7:30 p.m. Friday, February 2, in the Social Hall at Olivet Congregational Church, 1850 Iglehart Ave. The program, "From Cape Breton, With Love," will feature some of the best traditional music from the Scottish cultural outpost of Nova Scotia. Guest cellist Anna Lee Roberts will join the Dunquin Trio of flute or small pipes, fiddle and piano in slow airs and rollicking reels that will transport listeners to Eilean Dubh. Admission is $16, and that includes Scottish tea and treats at intermission.

University of St. Thomas music faculty Chris Kachian on guitar and David Jenkins on organ and harpsichord will be joined by cellist Laura Sewell on Saturday February 3, in a program featuring the music of C.P.E. Bach, Vivaldi and Telemann. The free concert will begin at 8 p.m. in St. Mary's Chapel at the St. Paul Seminary, 2260 Summit Ave. Art historian Michelle Nordtorp-Madson will speak. Call 651-962-5858 or visit stthomas.edu/music.

Artaria String Quartet will present on February 4 and 5 a program featuring Beethoven's String Quartet in F minor, "Serioso"; Kevin Volans' "White Man Sleeps"; and Shostakovich's Piano Quintet in G minor with special guest Mary Ellen Haupert. The music begins at 3 p.m. Sunday in Sundin Music Hall, 1531 Hewitt Ave., and at 7:30 p.m. Monday in Antonello Hall at the MacPhail Center for Music, 501 Second St. S., Minneapolis. Visit artariaquartet.com.

Thursday Musical will present performances by pianist Vern Maetzold, cellist David Holmes and pianist Amy Grinsteiner on February 8. The music begins at 10:30 a.m. in Antonello Hall at the MacPhail Center for Music, 501 Second St. S., Minneapolis. Admission is $15, $6 for students. A 10 a.m. reception with free coffee and doughnuts precedes the show.

The Blacksmith's Daughters will perform songs off their debut album and 2016 EP at 8 p.m. Saturday, February 10, at Ginkgo Coffeehouse, 721 N. Snelling Ave. The Twin Cities folk-rock and Americana band features sisters Annella Platta and Julida Alter on vocals; their husbands Sean Alter and Brent Platta on guitar and ukulele and percussion, respectively; and Highland Park couple Jeremy and Krista Swider on violin and viola. Tickets are $15. Call 651-645-2647.



Riffing on Broadway. The Broadway Boys, an ensemble of six male vocalists led by Jesse Nager, star of the Ordway's *Jesus Christ Superstar*, will perform classic show tunes with elements of pop, funk, jazz and gospel music at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, February 9 and 10, in the Ordway's Concert Hall. Tickets start at $36. For reservations, call 651-224-4222 or visit ordway.org. PHOTO BY SUZANNE FIORE

The Musical Offering will mix glorious music with food, wine and conversation in concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, February 11, in Sundin Music Hall, 1531 Hewitt Ave. The program will feature Chopin's Polonaise for Cello and Piano; Czech composer Erwin Schulhoff's Divertissement for Oboe, Clarinet and Bassoon, a trio true to its American influences; and German composer Louis Spohr's Nonet, a virtuosic piece on the cusp of German classical and romantic styles. Tickets are $60. Visit musicaloffering.org or call 651-523-2459.

Celebrate Mardi Gras with the music of the Longfellow Jazz All-Stars and raise money for Puerto Rico hurricane relief on Sunday, February 11, at Christ Church Lutheran, 3244 34th Ave. S. in Minneapolis. The benefit concert begins at 3 p.m. Playing will be Bill Simenson on trumpet; Scott Johnson, tenor sax; Dave Graf, trombone; Ted Godbout, piano; Bruce Heine, bass; Dave Schmalenberger, drums; and Robert Everest, vocals. Admission is free, though donations are welcome.

Warm up to some of the best bands in the Twin Towns. Free concerts are being presented from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Sundays at Como Conservatory. The schedule includes the lush roots, indie and folk music of Dusty Heart on February 11 and the blues, country, punk and folk of Flowtus on February 18. Beer, wine, pop and light snacks will be available.

Sisters Erin and Colleen Searson will tap the old-time sounds of their Canadian home for a concert of contemporary roots music at 7 p.m. Sunday, February 11, at Celtic Junction, 836 N. Prior Ave. On fiddle, piano and guitar, the Searsons blend spirited music with gorgeous harmonies and energetic step dancing. Tickets are $18 at the door, $14 in advance at celticjunction.org.

Tenth Wave, a new chamber collective based in the Twin Cities, will perform pieces by modern composers with themes of conflict or perseverance at 7 p.m. Sunday, February 11, at Studio Z, 275 E. Fourth St., Suite 200. Performers include Hannah Peterson, flute; Weily Shay, clarinet; Natsuki Kumagai, violin; Ben Osterhouse, cello; Joe Trucano, piano; Nicholas Wilson, guitar; Bjorn Grina, marimba and vibraphone; and Eri Isomura, marimba and drum set. Tickets are $10. Visit studiozstpaul.com.

Musical champions of the Scottish Highlands, the five-piece Gaelic supergroup Dáimh (pronounced "dive") will perform at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, February 15, at Celtic Junction, 836 N. Prior Ave. Tickets are $20 at the door, $16 in advance at celticjunction.org.

Film

Omnifest, a collection of five films on topics in natural science, is being screened in rotation through March 1 on the 90-foot domed screen in the Science Museum of Minnesota's Omnitheater, 120 W. Kellogg Blvd. The schedule includes *Jane Goodall's Wild Chimpanzees, Journey Into Amazing Caves, Wolves, The Magic of Flight* and *Rocky Mountain Express*. Tickets are $9.95, $8.95 for seniors and children ages 4-12, with a $2 discount for the second film on the same day. Visit smm.org or call 651-221-9444.

More than 30 films will be screened in the third annual St. Paul Frozen Film Festival running from February 7-10 at North Garden Theater, 929 W. Seventh St. The films were selected in four categories—long features and documentaries and short comedies and dramas. The festival will open at 7 p.m. Wednesday with a VIP kickoff party. It will close on Saturday with an 8:30 p.m. awards ceremony and VIP wrap-up party. In between are 13 film programs and several musical programs. Tickets are $12 per program or more for festival passes. Visit stpff.com.



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Streetlight Harmonies (2017), a documentary by Brent Wilson that traces the evolution of American pop music from doo wop, surf music and Motown to the British Invasion and Phil Spector's wall of sound, will be screened at 7 p.m. Wednesday, February 14, at the Trylon Cinema, 2820 E. 33rd St. in Minneapolis. Tickets are $12 at the door, $10 in advance. Visit soundunseen.com.

Exhibits

"1968" has opened at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. The exhibit is filled with the sights, sounds and stories of that turbulent year in U.S. history. It opens with an illustration of how the bloodshed of the Vietnam War was broadcast into America's living rooms and closes with Apollo 8's iconic image of an earthrise over the moon. In between are stories from the jungles of Southeast Asia, tales of protests on college campuses, the last speeches and assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., the hotly contested presidential race, the assassination of Robert F. Kennedy and the rise of feminism and Black Power. The federal Kerner Report on the race riots of the 1960s will be discussed from 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 6. The discussion is free, but registration is required. Call 651-259-3000. Admission to the exhibit is $12; $10 for seniors, college students and military personnel; $6 for children ages 5-17.

"Land Body Industry," works by nine artists that reflect on industry's ability to transform, destroy and reinvent individuals, communities and the environment, are on view through February 10 at the Katherine E. Nash Gallery in the University of Minnesota's Regis Center for Art, 405 21st Ave. S. in Minneapolis. The gallery is open from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays. A panel discussion with artists Grant, Horochowski and Keagy will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, February 1. Call 612-624-7530.

AZ Gallery, 308 Prince St., has opened its second annual Fire & Ice Winter Carnival Art Show. More than 100 works by Minnesota artists are on display from 5-8 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays and 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays through February 18. They depict the beauty of winter or the promise of spring in painting, photography, collage, jewelry or sculpture.

"Bound by Nature" art inspired by the symbiotic relationships found in woodlands, is being displayed through February 18 at the American Association of Woodturners Gallery in Landmark Center. Sculptural wool by guest artist Kimber Olson is shown alongside wood sculptures from the AAW's permanent collection. Admission is free. Call 651-484-9094.

Macalester College art professor Ruthann Godollei is displaying her latest work, "Hellmouth," through March 4 in the Law Warschaw Gallery of the Macalester's Fine Arts Center. Hellmouth is a medieval motif depicting the damned and the unrepentant being swallowed by a demonic beast. Drawing on the bluster and bombast of circus imagery, Godollei's work comments on the "big show" of the current administration in Washington, D.C. The gallery is open to the public from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. weekdays, until 8 p.m. Thursdays and from noon-4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Admission is free. Call 651-696-6416.

"Women and their Wardrobes: Storied Lives," a celebration of working women of the 20th century through the exquisite wardrobes of three prominent Twin Cities women, is being displayed through May 13 at the Goldstein Museum of Design, located in Gallery 241 on the second floor of McNeal Hall, 1985 Buford Ave. Drawn from the Goldstein's collection, the exhibit focuses on women's motivation for wearing certain items (to be playful, serious, important, innovative or functional) and the experiences that made those items special. It includes interviews with other Twin Cities women who gained prominence in the latter half of the 20th century. The gallery is open to the public free of charge from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from 1:30-4:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

The evolution of feminist imagery in contemporary art will be explored in two exhibits running from February 3 through March 16 in the Catherine G. Murphy Gallery at St. Catherine University. "Born Again" features selected works from Judy Chicago's Birth Project, a series of screen prints, needlework and other textiles that first toured the U.S. in the mid-1980s. "After: Birth" includes contemporary responses by a dozen artists to the concepts of motherhood and sexuality in fiber, clay and photography. An opening reception will be held from 6-8 p.m. Saturday, February 3. Admission is free and open to all. Visit gallery.stkate.edu.

A Capitol Art & Artists Tour will step out at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Saturday, February 10, at the Minnesota Capitol. View the murals, sculptures and decorative trim and learn about the exhaustive conservation work that brought the century-old art back to its original appearance. Visit the legislative chambers, governor's reception room, Rathskeller Cafe and new third-floor exhibit space. Hear stories about the artists, learn about the muralist movement in America, and see how the art and architecture harmonize to make the Capitol one of the premier public buildings in the U.S. The cost for the 90-minute tour is $10, $9 for seniors and college students, $8 for children ages 5-17. Visit cart.mnhs.org.

Award-winning watercolor painter David Smith will demonstrate his approach to simplifying a subject and linking shapes to help unify a painting on Thursday, February 15. Sponsored by the NorthStar Watermedia Society, the free program will begin at 7 p.m. in the Rose Room of the Roseville Skating Center, 2661 Civic Center Drive, Roseville. Call 651-690-5571.

Books

Common Good Books, 38 S. Snelling Ave., will play host to free readings and discussions with the following authors: Gordon Whitman and his book, *Stand Up!: How to Get Involved, Speak Out and Win in a World on Fire*, 7 p.m. January 31; Tess Galati and her collection of poems and meditations, *Holy Trinity: Maiden, Mother, Crone*, 4 p.m. February 11; Ty Sassaman and *Just One Question: A Road Trip Memoir*, 7 p.m. February 14. Call 651-225-8989 or visit commongoodbooks.com.

The Friends of the St. Paul Public Library has returned with its annual Fireside Reading Series at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays at Hamline-Midway Library, 1558 W. Minnehaha Ave. The schedule includes the following Minnesota authors and their books: Bao Phi and her poetry collection *Thousand Star Hotel* on January 31; Marcie R. Rendon and her mystery *Murder on the Red River*, February 7; and Carolyn Porter and *Marcel's Letters: A Font and the Search for One Man's Fate*, February 14. Admission is free, and so are the hot coffee, cider and cookies. Call 651-642-0293.

An open lab for writers to discuss their current projects with other writers or just work on their own is offered from 10:30 a.m.-noon every Thursday at the Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave. Call 651-642-0385.

Richard Rousseau and guest storytellers Loren Niemi and Paula Reed will entertain with an hour of tales from 6:45-7:45 Friday, February 2, at Coffee Bene, 53 S. Cleveland Ave. Admission is free, though tips are appreciated.

SubText Books, 6 W. Fifth St., will host the following authors: Joseph Rein and Stephanie Carpenter reading from their respective story collections, *Roads Without Houses* and *Missing Persons*, at 7 p.m. February 7; Gregory Blake Smith reading from his novel, *The Maze at Windermere*, 1 p.m. February 11; Rebecca Soffer and Gabrielle Birkner discussing *Modern Loss*, their book on grief in the age of social media, 7 p.m. February 15. Call 651-493-2791.

Tales of the Falls, a storytelling tour led by a master of the genre, Richard Rousseau, will be offered from 1-2:30 p.m. Sunday, February 11, at the Mill City Museum, 704 S. Second St., Minneapolis. Rousseau will spin three tales, weaving the history of St. Anthony Falls into expectations for the present day. Tickets at $18 include admission to the museum. Call 612-341-7555.

A Victorian Poetry Slam will be held from 7-8 p.m. Wednesday, February 14, in the drawing room of the James J. Hill House, 240 Summit Ave. Celebrate Valentine's Day by listening to 19th-century poems about love, romance, temperance, sports and war recited by actors Craig Johnson, Laura Salveson and Ann Daly in period evening wear. Audience members will be invited to recite a short Victorian poem of their own. Tickets are $12, and they include light refreshments and a tour of the Hill House. Call 651-297-2555 or visit cart.mnhs.org.

Family

Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave., will offer the following free programs: Paw Pals, a chance for children ages 6-12 to read with a dog and its master between 6 and 7 p.m. Thursday, February 1 (call to register); family story time from 10:30-11 a.m. every Friday; and You Can Build It, a drop-in program with kits for kids to build things, 3-4:30 p.m. on Fridays. Call 651-642-0385.

Ta-Da!, weekly puppet shows for children, continues at 10 a.m. and noon on Saturdays through March 10 at In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre, 1500 E. Lake St. The schedule includes *Martina the Cockroach* and *Perez the Mouse* by Gustavo and Julie Boada on February 3; *Loon's Song* by Julie and Gustavo Boada, February 10; and *Tiger Man* by Patty Gille, February 17. Some performances are in English,

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others are in Spanish. Tickets are $7. A Make-n-Take puppet-making workshop is offered between shows at 11 a.m. every Saturday. The cost of the workshop is $5 for children, $3 for adults. To register, call 612-721- 2535.

Frosty Fun Festival, four hours of sledding, snowshoeing, ice bowling, ice mini-golfing, a bonfire and hot drinks, will be held from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, February 3, at Dodge Nature Center, 1701 Charlton St. in West St. Paul. Admission is $5 per person or $20 per family. For information or reservations, call 651-455-4531.

Rutherford B. Hayes, 19th president of the U.S., visited the home of Alexander and Anna Ramsey in 1878. Learn why and discover what made that year so special in an hour-long program beginning at noon, 12:30 and 1 p.m. Saturday, February 3, at the historic Ramsey House, 265 S. Exchange St. Use a time-line map to explore the Ramsey House. Taste one of President Hayes' favorite foods and learn about fashions of the era. The cost is $10, $7 for children ages 5-17, $9 for seniors, college students and veterans. Call 651-296-8760.

Travel the world without leaving the Twin Cities. Landmark Center is offering weekend programs that highlight the cultures of people on three continents. The programs are free unless otherwise indicated. The schedule includes Japan from 1-3 p.m. February 11 and Carpathia from noon-4 p.m. February 18 (admission is $4-$6). Call 651-292-3225.

Erth's Dinosaur Zoo Live, a virtual tour through prehistoric Australia where children interact with life-like dinosaurs and other creatures, will be offered at 7 p.m. Tuesday, February 13, at the Ordway Music Theater. A team of performers and puppeteers bring the realistic creatures to life with the help of paleontologists. Tickets start at $33. Visit ordway.org or call 651-224-4222.

Theater

Jake Heggie's *Dead Man Walking* will be performed by the Minnesota Opera on January 30 and February 1 and 3 at the Ordway Music Theater. Based on the memoir by Sister Helen Prejean, the opera recounts her struggle to provide spiritual guidance to a murderer on death row. Seth Carico, Catherine Martin and Karen Slack star. The curtain rises at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday and 8 p.m. Saturday. Tickets start at $25. Call 612-333-6669 or visit mnopera.org.



Waking up to racism.

Inayah El-Amin, Eponine Diatta and Charles Logan star in *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*. The adaptation of Mildred D. Taylor's novel about a young Southern girl who discovers the world is not what she expected will be performed Tuesdays through Sundays, February 7 through March 3, at SteppingStone Theatre, 55 N. Victoria St. Directed by Kory LaQuess Pullam, the drama (recommended for ages 8 and up) tells the gripping story of Cassie Logan's coming of age in Mississippi in 1933. Visit steppingstonetheatre.org.

Playwright Hansol Jung's *Cardboard Piano* is being performed through February 18 on the thrust stage at Park Square Theatre, 20 W. Seventh Place. Set in Uganda, it tells of the daughter of an American missionary and a local teenage girl who secretly wed. When civil war encroaches on their fragile union, they cannot escape its reach. Adelin Phelps, Kiara Jackson, Michael Jemison and Ansa Akyea star. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and 1 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. For ticket information, call 651-291-7005 or visit parksquaretheatre.org.

A Steady Rain, a harrowing journey into moral uncertainty, is playing through February 3 on the thrust state at Gremlin Theatre, 550 N. Vandalia St. Written by Keith Huff and directed by Ellen Fenster, the drama stars Dustin Bronson and Peter Christian Hansen as lifelong pals who become Chicago policemen and see their friendship put on the line. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday. Tickets are $28, $25 for seniors, half their age for those under 30. Visit gremlintheatre.org.

William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* will be performed by the Highland Park Community Theater at 7 p.m. Friday and at 2, 4 and 7 p.m. Saturday, February 2 and 3, in the auditorium of the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. Tickets are $10. Call 651-695-3706.

'Til Death, a musical about marriage, will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, February 2-24, at Art House North, 793 Armstrong Ave. A Valentine's tradition for Bucket Brigade Theater, the drama tells of a couple in marital crisis who get stuck in a remote cabin with newlyweds who are "perfectly perfect" for each other. It stars real-life couples Damian and Anna Leverett and Jeremiah and Vanessa Gamble. Additional shows are scheduled on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, February 12, 14 and 15. Tickets are $22-$27 with discounts for students, seniors and groups, or whatever you can afford on February 12. Call 800-838-3006 or visit bucketbrigadetheater.com.

My Mother Has 4 Noses, a one-woman drama about the love between a daughter and mother, will open on February 10 at the Jungle Theater, 2951 Lyndale Ave. S., Minneapolis. Actor Jonatha Brooke recounts her experience caring for her aging mother in the last years of her life. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays and 2 and 7:30 p.m. Sundays through March 10. Tickets are $37-$47 with discounts for students and anyone under age 30. Call 612-822-7063 or visit jungletheater.com.

Politics and sports, fabrication and fact, and comedy and drama collide in *Dancing With Giants*, opening February 8 at the Illusion Theater. Set in the years leading up to World War II, the riveting drama tells of the friendship between wheeler-dealer Joe "Yussel the Muscle" Jacobs and boxers Max Schmeling and Joe Louis and how it is threatened by Hitler's minister of propaganda Dr. Joseph Goebbels. Written and directed by David Feldshuh, the play stars Tovah Feldshuh, Sam Bardwell, Ricky Morisseau and James Cunningham. Shows are scheduled Thursdays through Sundays through February 24 on the eighth floor of the Cowles Center, 528 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis. Tickets are $25-$48, or whatever you want on Sundays. Call 612-339-4944 or visit illusiontheater.org.

Jane Austen's Emma, a drama by Sandra Fenichel adapted from the comic masterpiece of the 19th-century British novelist, will open on February 9 at Theatre in the Round, 245 Cedar Ave. S., Minneapolis. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays through March 4. Tickets are $22 with discounts for seniors and students. Call 612-333-3010 or visit theatreintheround.org.

A Crack in the Sky, a new play about a young Somali immigrant and the power of the written word, will open on February 10 at the History Theatre, 30 E. 10th St. Written by Harrison David Rivers and Ahmed Ismail Yusuf, the autobiographical drama examines the courage of the immigrant and the generosity of those who help in the journey. Show times are 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. Fridays, 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays through March 4. Discussions about the Somali-American experience will follow the Sunday matinees. Ticket prices, which are subject to change, are $25-$40 with discounts for seniors and students. Call 651-292-4323.

Kingdom Come, a musical by Matthew Osceola Webster that transcends the catastrophic events of September 11, 2001, to celebrate our common humanity, will be performed from February 15-18 by Concordia University's Department of Music, Theatre and Dance. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday in the Westlund Blackbox Theatre, 312 N. Hamline Ave. Tickets are $10, $5 for seniors and students. Visit ticketworks.com.

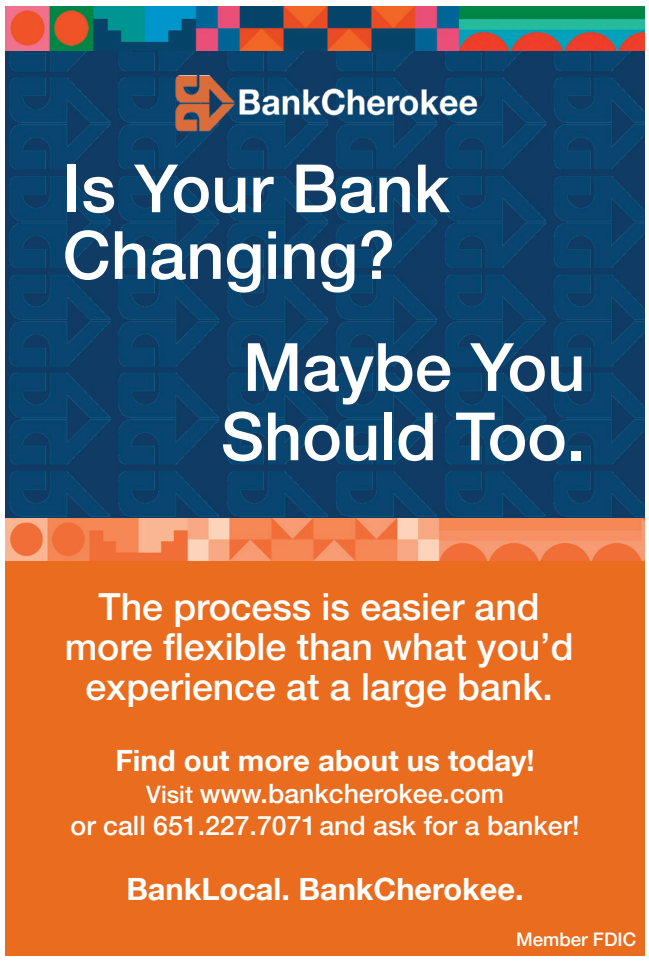
Et cetera

Northern Clay Center, 2424 E. Franklin Ave., Minneapolis, will hold its 10th annual Chili Cook-off from 1-5 p.m. Saturday, February 3. In addition to chili, chefs will be cooking up their best brownies and cornbread. Patrons will be invited to play with clay, watch wheel-throwing demonstrations, sample whiskey and participate in a free chili bowl workshop. Admission is $5. Call 612-339-8007.

The Love Show, the fourth annual Valentine's Day variety show, will be presented by humorist Kevin Kling and musical guests Dan Chouinard, Prudence Johnson, Claudia Schmidt, Simone Perrin, Dane Stauffer and Marc Anderson, will be presented at 7 p.m. Wednesday, February 14, in the O'Shaughnessy at St. Catherine University. Tickets are $29 with discounts for students, seniors and military personnel. Call 651-690-6700.







Sports



The Wright Call
By Dave Wright

Two Tauers head to CAA Hall

It made so much sense that you wonder why nobody thought of it before. Next month, the Catholic Athletic Association Hall of Fame membership will grow by two, and the engravers aren't likely to have any problem getting the names right. It's basically the same name for both new inductees.

John Tauer coached Nativity Grade School's basketball teams for two decades. His son, Johnny Tauer, was a star player for the University of St. Thomas and is now the head men's basketball coach and professor of psychology there. In his dozen years at UST, Johnny has a winning percentage of well over .800 and the Tommies have won two NCAA Division III national titles. Much of what he learned about coaching came from watching—and occasionally participating in—his dad's practices.

"I only taught at Nativity one year," John said. "I had a regular job, so we'd practice at night." Oftentimes, his son would tag along with his dad and shoot baskets on the side in the Nativity gym. Johnny attended Highland Catholic and later played against his dad's teams.

On one occasion, John only had nine players at a practice. "It was around Thanksgiving when Johnny was in 2nd grade," John said, "so I put him on the floor during a scrimmage. At one point, he took a charge and really got smoked. I made him promise not to tell his mother."

He said his son learned his lesson. "He told me it was probably the last charge he ever took," John said with a laugh.

Scheduling was a little different during John's era. "We'd play in a lot of tournaments," he recalled. "One year, we went 37-4. All four losses were to St. Peter's of Richfield. The amazing thing was, we led just before the buzzer all four times. They threw up shots before the buzzer went off and they went in. The shots won two games and we lost the other two in overtime."

Nativity had a longtime rivalry with St. Mark's. At one point in the late '70s or early '80s, St. Mark's was beating Nativity in every sport at every grade level.

"In one of the basketball games, we were trailing 66-6 after three quarters, and we were lucky to get the three baskets we did," John recalled.

One year the two teams ended up playing for the league championship. One of Nativity's players expressed confidence to anybody who'd listen that they could win this time. John wasn't nearly as confident, but he told his players that if they could hold St. Mark's to under 30 points, they could win the game. Final score: Nativity 31, St. Mark's 29.

Son Johnny was a natural on the court. Steve Fritz, now his boss as the University of St. Thomas athletic director, remembers scouting him when he was a sophomore at Cretin-Derham Hall. "He was so poised, so calm, so smooth out there," Fritz said. "He was like a coach on the floor."

When Johnny arrived at St. Thomas, he became a starter almost immediately. In his junior year, he helped the Tommies to a first-ever berth in the NCAA Division III Final Four. In his senior season, St. Thomas ran the board in the MIAC, going an unprecedented 20-0. The Tommies won their first 27 games that year before getting beaten in the Division III tournament.

When his playing days were done, Johnny turned to coaching, working as an assistant to Fritz until Fritz retired. In doing so, he was following his dad's footsteps. After he retired from Nativity, John helped out with the St. Thomas junior varsity for several years.

And it all started with the CAA heritage. As noted, Johnny attended Highland Catholic. However, when he was not playing, his dad said he was the best scorekeeper he ever had.

WRIGHT CALL ▶28

Turbo Teddy

Sims has talent to burn for Roosevelt boys' hoops

By Bill Wagner

At the start of this season, Roosevelt High School boys' basketball coach Robert Mestas pegged team captain Deszi Sims as a bonafide candidate to play Division I college basketball. A little over halfway through the season, there's been no reason for Mestas to think any differently.

That's because a guy like Sims, who averages around 25 points per game and leads the team in rebounds, steals and assists, is hard to come by. The 6-foot junior guard always seems to get a good shot off despite his less than imposing stature. He's ranked among the state's top 10 in scoring and it would appear to be just a matter of time before the collegiate talent-hunters come calling.

Sims didn't even play organized basketball until after he got to Roosevelt as a freshman. Football was his game and he's not bad at that sport, having played running back for the Teddies last fall.

"I'd played basketball, just never on an actual team," Sims said. "But back then I wasn't as good as I am now."

And he's still just scratching the surface of his potential. Sims has hands quick enough to steal the ball away and otherwise frustrate opponents with his defense. He has the athleticism and anticipation to secure rebounds, averaging about eight an outing this winter. However, probably the most impressive thing of all is how he creates shots with lightning-quick efficiency.

"He's doing things never before seen on a basketball court here," said Mestas, a former Division I college player himself. "He's a two-guard (shooting guard) in a point guard's body and he's still learning the game."

Mestas said that he sometimes has to counsel Sims about his turnovers, but he noted that Sims more than makes up for that by averaging several steals a game. As far as coachability, Sims has it to burn.

"He just loves basketball," Mestas said. "He's a humble kid and he's always smiling."

Mestas also likes Sims' attitude on the court. It's not the kind of approach that leads to undisciplined basketball, but just enough to show opponents that he intends to be aggressive.

It didn't even take half a season for Sims to cement his role as a Roosevelt starter. He averaged 13 points per game as a sophomore, and his performance has sizzled as a junior. He scored 41 points in a win over Cambridge-Isanti on January 16—"probably my best game," he said. He also hit for 39 in a blowout over Simley. In a loss to highly ranked Minneapolis North on January 19, the Polars showed Sims was human by "holding" him to only 17 points.

The interesting thing is how Sims gets his looks at the basket—usually driving to the hoop from the back court. "I might have two or three jumpers," he said, "but the rest are layups. It's easy for me to just go past people."

In most cases, he beats defenders with his first step. And it doesn't matter that he tops out at 6 feet because he plays so much bigger than his height.



Junior guard Deszi Sims, shown going up for two during practice, has been averaging around 25 points a game this winter for Roosevelt. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

"He's doing things never before seen on a basketball court here," said Mestas. "He's a two-guard (shooting guard) in a point guard's body and he's still learning the game."

A close follower of professional basketball, Sims said that his favorite player is Russell Westbrook of Oklahoma City. "He takes his time," Sims said. "He plays a patient game and doesn't force things, but he gets his shots."

Sims said he takes his responsibilities seriously as captain of the Teddies, who were 9-6 overall through January 20, including 2-2 in the conference. "You can lead by example or you can lead by being a guy who does more talking," Sims said. "I think I can do both if have to."

He also has plenty of talent around him, including senior guard Leo Buchwald, who has been scoring around 16 points a game and leads the team with 41 three-pointers. Junior forward Luke Barnes has been adding another nine points a contest.

One thing for sure is that Sims is passionate about basketball, which makes him a perfect player for a Mestas-coached team.

"He's a good coach," Sims said. "He loves basketball, too. He puts his all into it and he wants you to put your all into it."

Sims said he and his teammates are now on a mission to avenge their section final defeat a year ago and get to the state tournament.

"That was a tough loss," he said. "We want to get right back there this year and win it."

STA grappler Litecky has been very tough to beat at 195 pounds

By Bill Wagner

Getting cut after tryouts for a high school sports team can take a lot out of an athlete. However, Thomas Litecky found a way to turn that disappointment into a positive and the St. Thomas Academy wrestling team is better off for it.

Litecky, a 6-foot-3 senior with a 21-1 record in the 195-pound class through January 21, was cut from St. Thomas' basketball team as a freshman.

"It definitely wasn't fun," he said. "That was the first time I'd ever experienced athletic failure. It was tough."

However, Litecky landed on his feet after coach Nick McCarthy invited him to try out for the wrestling team.

Litecky wrestled mostly on the junior varsity team as a freshman, but by the time he was a junior he'd established himself as a promising grappler at 182 pounds, posting a 28-17 record, including 15 pins. This year he has moved up seamlessly to 195 pounds, with 13 of his wins coming by pins.

"I'm more strong than I'm quick," said Litecky when asked to describe his wrestling style. "I'm not one to jump right into a takedown. My main strength is that I have good endurance. I usually tire my opponent out by the third period."

McCarthy has seen steady progress in Litecky's wrestling. "He's a good athlete," he said. "As a sophomore, he became a regular at the top of the lineup."

Litecky's size, combined with his natural athletic ability and work ethic, make him a tough adversary. McCarthy said Litecky didn't let his lack of mat experience set him back, and picked things up like a sponge.

"He's tough to beat because he's really proficient in all positions," McCarthy said.

Litecky's long-legged body makes it hard for opponents to get a grip on him. "My teammates are always joking about my long legs," he said. "If I seem caught, I can use my legs to get back out."

Litecky described a match he had in a tournament in Delano earlier this year as a good test of his wrestling skills.

"This Osseo guy came out strong," he said. "He was strong and fast, and it didn't look promising early on. I think he took me down twice in the first period."

But then the tide reversed. "I ended up pinning him," he said. "Before that I could see him running out of gas."

Litecky relies a great deal on watching film to find flaws to exploit in upcoming opponents. "I definitely like watching tape," he said. "If I can get some idea about what to expect when I'm out there, it has to help me."

Last year, Litecky narrowly missed qualifying for the state tournament. This year, he faces similarly tough odds in reaching that objective. Only the top two wrestlers in each weight class can qualify, and the Cadets (8-5 overall) compete in a very tough section.

"Getting to state is definitely the goal," Litecky said. "It'll be hard, but I'm working for it."



St. Thomas Academy senior wrestler Thomas Litecky trains with junior Phil Skeps. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Sports Shorts

The 32nd annual Minnesota Girls and Women in Sports Day will recognize 21 athletes and sports leaders in six separate categories at noon Wednesday, February 7, at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. Admission is free. For more information contact Sara Eisenhauer at smeisenhauer@umacathletics.com or 651-286-7488.

A celebrity flag football game featuring the Minnesota Vikings/NFL Alumni taking on Dave Stevens and the Wounded Warrior Amputee Football Team will be held from 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, January 31, in Sea Foam Stadium at Concordia University-St. Paul. Some of the players scheduled to appear include Rich Gannon, Robert Smith, Ron Jaworski, Sage Rosenfels, Rod Woodson, ESPN's Kenny Mayne, Rickey Foggie, Ben Leber, Pat Williams, Kevin Williams, EJ Henderson, Chris Doleman and Todd Steussie. Stevens is a double amputee who made NCAA history playing football at Augsburg and also played three weeks of baseball with the St. Paul Saints. The cost is $10, free for students and children, with proceeds benefitting Minnesota disabled veterans.

St. Thomas Academy coach John Barnes has been named a finalist for National Coach of the Year in swimming by the National High School Athletic Coaches Association. Eight finalists from across the nation will be honored in each of 19 sports during an awards banquet on June 27. Barnes has won more state swimming titles (14 at STA and one at Minnetonka) than any other coach in Minnesota. His dual-meet record of 144-3-1 also is one of the highest in the state. During his career, he has coached eight Olympic-trial qualifiers, 15 national qualifiers, 36 junior national qualifiers, 26 high school all-Americans, two World University Game gold medalists and two national age group record relays (boys ages 13-14). He was named Minnesota High School Coach of the Year in 1996, 2014 and 2015.



STA coach John Barnes shares a hug in 2016 after becoming the winningest boys' swimming coach in state history with 15 titles.

27◄ WRIGHT CALL

The pair were on opposite sides of the court a couple of times. In one of those games, the younger Tauer threw up an air ball from the corner. Instinctively, his dad blurted in dismay, "Oh, Johnny!" He then stopped himself. "I never did that again," he said.

There will be plenty of stories told about the two Tauers when the CAA Hall of Fame banquet is held on Monday, February 12, at Mendakota Country Club in Mendota Heights. A cash bar and silent auction will open at 5:30 p.m., and dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. The cost is $75. More information can be found at stpaulcaa.org.

Nice guy Thome gets credit where its due

It turns out that Jack Morris will have some local company this summer when he's inducted into Major League Baseball's Hall of Fame. Jim Thome wasn't with the Minnesota Twins very long. He played just 179 games over two seasons. And considering that he appeared in 2,543 games during his 22-year career, his time with the Minnesota Twins can be fairly considered an after-dinner cup of coffee.

But the big guy made quite an impression during his brief time here and it wasn't just because most of his home runs were moon shots. When he came to town at the start of the 2010 season, it was quickly apparent that Thome's reputation as a genuinely nice guy was well-deserved. There was no bragging about his mammoth home runs. In fact, he seemed almost embarrassed by the attention.

When Thome signed with the Twins, Gardy said, "We just signed a guy who's going to be in the Hall of Fame, and it doesn't get much better than that. He swings like Babe Ruth. We've seen too many of his homers fly against us. Now let's see some fly for us."

By the time he came to Minnesota, Thome's days as a first baseman were behind him. He was here to swing the big bat much like Harmon Killebrew did in the 1970s. He did just that, swatting 37 dingers—many of which either won games or turned the tide in the Twins' favor.

Thome's manager at the time, Ron Gardenhire, anticipated that. When Thome signed with the Twins, Gardy said, "We just signed a guy who's going to be in the Hall of Fame, and it doesn't get much better than that. He swings like Babe Ruth. We've seen too many of his homers fly against us. Now let's see some fly for us."

One of those big flies dismissed the Twins from the postseason in a playoff game for the 2008 Central Division championship.

Another Hall of Famer who spent some time in these parts—a chap named Ted Williams—once contended that hitting a baseball is the hardest thing to do in sports. Thome wouldn't dispute that. He struck out 2,548 times, but he also walked 1,747 times and his ratio of home runs to at-bats—1 in 13.76—is fourth best in major league history.

Thome looked and played bigger than his considerable 6-foot-4, 250-pound frame. More important, though, he quietly mentored young players, often by example. There are a few players with better numbers who aren't in baseball's hallowed hall, and there are a variety of reasons why. One of them certainly is this: They were considered jerks by the folks who covered them—and now do the voting—and by many of their teammates.

Thome was just the opposite. It's refreshing to see a nice guy finish first for a change.

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

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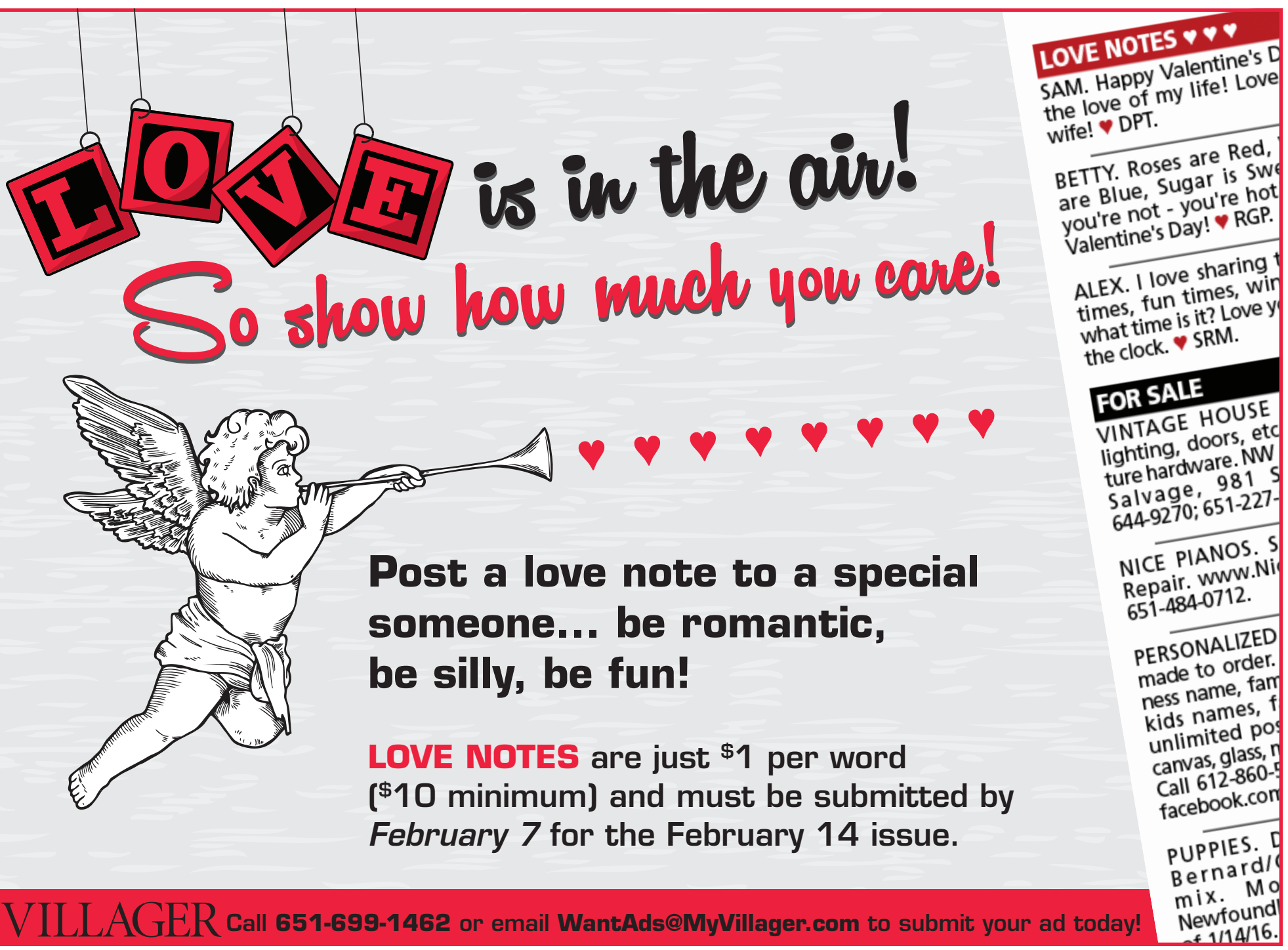
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Continued page 30



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FEBRUARY

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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

Feb. 14: Boomers & Beyond
Feb. 28: Macalester Groveland & Highland Park Home Improvement Fair
St. Patrick's Day

MARCH

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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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Mar. 14: Home Improvement
St. Patrick's Day
Mar. 28: Home Improvement
Easter

APRIL

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April 11: Home Improvement
April 25: Gardening
Cinco De Mayo

MAY

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May 9: Health & Fitness
Graduation
Mother's Day
May 23: Grand Old Day

JUNE

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June 6: Father's Day
June 20: Boomers & Beyond
Fourth of July

JULY

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July 4: Independence Day
July 18: Highland Fest
Backstories
Rondo Days

AUGUST

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Aug. 1: Education
Aug. 15: Education
Aug. 29: Home Improvement
Selby JazzFest

SEPTEMBER

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Sept. 12: Home Improvement
Sept. 26: Home Improvement

OCTOBER

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Oct. 10: Boomers & Beyond
Halloween
Oct. 24: General Election
Halloween

NOVEMBER

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Nov. 7: Holiday Gift Ideas
Nov. 21: Holiday Gift Ideas
Grand Meander

DECEMBER

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30	31	1	2	3	4	5

Dec. 5: Holiday Gift Ideas
Dec. 19: Last Minute Gift Guide
Health & Fitness

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

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

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MATURE COUPLE looking to rent a furnished 1 bedroom apartment, condo, or small house. Preferred neighborhoods are Mac-Groveland, Highland Park, Cathedral and Crocus Hills. Wanted April 15-July 1. Please respond to 651-600-8813.

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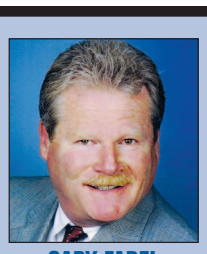
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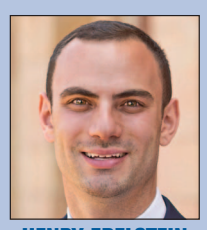
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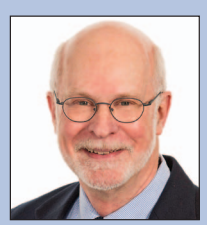
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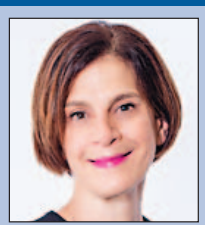
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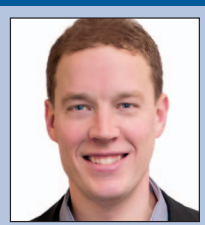
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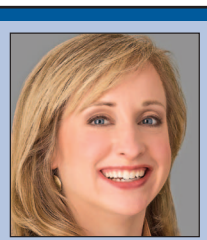
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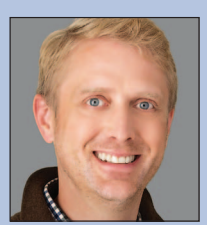
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930 S HIGHVIEW CIRCLE!
Beautiful Mendota Heights townhome in convenient location. Light-filled spacious and gracious living! Four bedrooms, beautiful master suite, wonderful built-ins, finished lower level with bedroom and bathroom. GoodCompanyRealtyGroup.com



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CLASSIC BRICK BEAUTY!
Sparkling & spacious 3BR, 2BA gem in the heart of Highland! Enjoy 2 fireplaces, gleaming hardwood + new carpet, large windows for natural light. Formal dining plus sunny kitchen with breakfast room. 2 Car+. 1677 Bohland Avenue. *click on www.teamedelstein.com



TOM EDELSTEIN CRS, ABR
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DESIGNED TO DELIGHT!
Captivating 3BR, 3BA is accented with lovely hardwood floors, 2 fireplaces, great room with vaulted & beamed ceiling. Sun-splashed kitchen, stainless steel appliances. wet bar, lush back yard oasis with deck, 2-car. 1907 Hampshire Avenue. *click on www.teamedelstein.com



TOM EDELSTEIN CRS, ABR
651-695-4300 • $595,000



WALKOUT RAMBER IN LAKE ELMO!
This completely updated, all brick home has all the bells and whistles! Custom stonework, in-floor heat, cherry cabinetry, 6 car garage, mother-in-law suite and more. Pristine 2+ acre property. www.LakeElmo-Home.com



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612-247-5106 • $975,000



TRADITIONAL TWO STORY!
Custom built home with brand new roof! Kitchen is open to the family room and sunroom. 6 bedrooms/5 baths, open floor plan with high ceilings & natural light. Amazing 1+ acre yard & attached 3 car garage! www.ExperienceNorthOaks.com



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612-247-5106 • $789,900

Just Listed!



1051 DOUGLAS ROAD MENDOTA HEIGHTS!
Gorgeous 3BR, 2BA Mendota Heights home nestled on an extremely desirable lot backing up to a nature preserve with pond. Excellent entertaining spaces throughout and all 3 bedrooms on one level with an attached 2 car garage. This is a must see!



MIKE DISTAD
612-275-1343

Coming Attraction!



PRESTIGIOUS LOCATION!!
Beautiful 5BR, 3BA masterpiece on the highly-desired Mississippi River Road! One level living, stunning backyard with gardens and fireplace, wonderful river views from the screened porch. Must see! 180 Mississippi River Blvd S. *click on www.teamedelstein.com



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Coming Soon!



CHARMING HIGHLAND MIDCENTURY!
Charming midcentury rambler on a sweet block of Bayard. Well maintained with wood floors and 3BR on same floor. Just a few blocks to The Nook, Highland Golf Course, and much more. Call for details! 1424 Bayard.

MICHAELA TOOHEY
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1477 GRANTHAM STREET, ST PAUL
Cape Cod home in sought after St. Anthony Park - 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, kitchen remodel, sun room, hardwood floors, wood burning fireplace, and main floor office. Come see!

ANITA C. HILL
651-707-6408 • $525,000

JUST LISTED!!!
10993 Oak Grove Circle: Immaculate end unit townhome with nature view. All freshly decorated plus new flooring and appliances. King sized master bedroom with deluxe master bath, 2nd floor laundry, and many neighborhood amenities.

JIM BURTON
651-690-8556 • $229,900

JUST LISTED!!!
674 Apache Lane: Quality built ranch style south facing on a beautifully landscaped and fenced lot. Entertainment sized rooms, family sized kitchen, delightful rear porch.

JIM BURTON
651-690-8556 • $529,900

SOLD

THIS HOME IS TRULY MOVE-IN READY!
Meticulously cared for split entry home in Saint Paul Park, close to the River and main street. For a free market analysis or Buyer consultation reach out today!"

MARINA LAGUNA
612-636-8504

COMING SOON 3BR TUDOR!
Maintenance-free stucco with 2 NEW baths, master suite, carpet thru-out. Refinished hardwood floors, NEW kitchen w/granite and stainless appliances. Fireplace, central air, 2+car garage - Beat the Spring Market!

GARY FABEL
651-334-3659 • $379,900

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS IN THE HEART OF HIGHLAND!
1210 Bayard offers stunning new kitchen with Bosch appliances, beverage refrigerator, induction cook top, quartz and stainless, spacious main floor space with family room, 3 large BRs up and lower level fun room, with private 62.5 wide yard. Call Lolly for details!

LOLLY MCNEELY SALMEN
612-810-4138 • $515,000

SECOND CHANCE OPPORTUNITY!
Sale fell!!! Spacious remodeled 2 bedroom, 2 storywithin walking distance to everything that is Longfellow. Hardwood floors, central air, 2 car garage. Call Lolly or Moraghan.

LOLLY MCNEELY SALMEN
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PARK TOWERS!
This luxurious 23rd floor condo features 2/BR, 3/BA, bright sunny open spaces with deluxe accoutrements, panoramic views and heated parking. Located in the historic Rice Park neighborhood with a short walk to the Ordway and Xcel. 59 4th Street #23E.

SARAH KINNEY
651-282-9621 • $725,000

CONVERTED MANSION!
Elegant 3-level condo with panoramic river bluff views, original parlor, library & dining room all meticulously restored. Features include 2,517 sqft, 2 BR, 3 BA, fabulous common areas and a 2/c garage. 302 Summit Ave.

SARAH KINNEY
651-282-9621 • $695,000

HISTORIC ROW HOUSE!
This beautiful brick end unit, built in 1882, has been completely restored. Features include over 3,000 fsf, 3/BR, 3/BA, 2 fireplaces, arched and stained glass wndws, high-end appls and great details. Currently a duplex, but could be easily converted to single family. 198 Kent St.

SARAH KINNEY
651-282-9621 • $825,000

SPLENDID RENOVATION!
This Cathedral Hill home features 5/BR, 4/BA, an updated kitchen, first floor family room, a master BR, wine cellar, new 3-car garage, a charming 2/BR carriage house with a secluded courtyard. All set on a third acre lot. 435 Portland Ave.

SARAH KINNEY
651-282-9621 • $1,195,000