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Parent Kevin Brennan read a favorite book to kindergartners at St. Mark's School last week as a birthday treat for his son, Colin (left), who was turning 6 on that day.

After 106 years, St. Mark's to close grades K-8 school for restructuring

BY MELENIE SOUCHERAY

For the first time in 107 years, St. Mark's School at 1983 Dayton Ave. will not be welcoming students back this fall for another year of classes in kindergarten through 8th grade. St. Mark's pastor, the Reverend Humberto Palomino, informed teachers and staff on April 26 that while the prekindergarten program will continue for students 33 months to five years old, the grade school will be closed for restructuring and its 17 employees laid off.

In a letter to parishioners, Palomino

wrote, "Our focus will now be on growing our early childhood classes, which are showing excellent enrollment. All teachers and staff have been notified and those whose positions are being eliminated will receive severance. We informed the Archdiocese (of St. Paul and Minneapolis) of our intention to restructure the school and find a new way to meet the needs of families."

The announcement caught many people by surprise. St. Mark's Parish was founded in 1889, the school opened in 1913, and by

ST. MARK'S SCHOOL ►3

Grand Old Day is thrown into doubt for 2019

GABA pulls plug on June 2 street fest, then says it will strive to pull it off anyway

BY JANE MCCLURE

The sun had all but set on this year's Grand Old Day when the sponsoring Grand Avenue Business Association (GABA) announced on April 23 that it was canceling the June 2 street festival to regroup and return in 2020. Ten days later, Grand Old Day was back on. Supporters crowded into Billy's on Grand on May 2 to hear the good news. With the festival, which typically draws a quarter-million people, just a month away, organizers acknowledged they faced a stiff challenge assembling the money, volunteers, vendors and parade participants to pull it off.

As of last week, \$75,000 had been raised to bring back the festival. Another \$75,000 was needed, but supporters were hopeful the money can be found. "We're not going to keep you here long because we have a lot of work to do," said GABA vice president Bob Lawrence, who operates a State Farm Insurance agency on Grand. "We're taking a huge leap of faith."

Lawrence thanked those who have stepped up as festival sponsors, including White Bear Mitsubishi, which contributed \$15,000. Even though the organizers are scrambling, Lawrence added, "we expect this to be one of the best Grand Old Days ever."

"Rain or shine, show up," said St. Paul City Council

GRAND OLD DAY ►2

CITY BEAT

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Next Chapter's Nick Ballas is bullish on bookstores

New proprietor carries on in tradition of Common Good

BY ANNE MURPHY

Kathy Lilly has made it a practice to bake cookies and banana bread for some of her favorite neighbors—the staff of Common Good Books. With the recent sale of Garrison Keillor's bookstore at 38 S. Snelling Ave. to St. Paul native Nick Ballas, Lilly is hoping to continue that practice. She will get no complaints from the staff of the newly renamed Next Chapter Booksellers, who were all employees of Common Good Books.

The bookstore's new name is a harbinger of good things to come, according to Ballas and his staff. Customers and local authors are hopeful as well.

"All of the local writers are happy about the sale and the new life for the bookstore," said St. Paul author Mindy Mejia, who has already taken part in readings and book signings at Next Chapter.

Ballas' intent is to expand the author events and book clubs offered at the bookstore, but to maintain its character. Much of that character is reflective of the staff, according to longtime customer Patti Lazarus, who also lives within walking distance of Next Chapter. "The staff knows and loves books," she said.

"One of things that I view as really positive is

that all of Common Good's staff have agreed to stay," Ballas said. The average tenure of the staff is six years, and four members have been with the store from the beginning.

David Enyeart, a 1990 graduate of Macalester College, has been with the bookstore since its days in the Blair Arcade at Selby and Western avenues. "David is staying as store manager, and the 10 people he manages will be here, too," Ballas said. "He's very talented, knows the industry, knows how to help customers, and knows how to manage people. They're a really good group. They're one of the major reasons for my purchase."

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Grand Avenue was a river of humanity, as usual, for the 45th annual Grand Old Day in 2018. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

1◀ GRAND OLD DAY

member Chris Tolbert, who along with City Council member Rebecca Noecker and Mayor Melvin Carter showed up at Billy's to congratulate the festival organizers.

"It was a wake-up call for all of us" when the cancellation of Grand Old Day was announced, Carter said. City officials are now working to reissue canceled permits and see if there are any other ways they can help.

GABA's announcement of the event's cancellation caught many people off guard. In a matter of days, an ad hoc group called Grand Old Day Anyway was formed in hopes of mounting a scaled-back version of the event on Grand. Co-organizers Ashley LeMay, whose mother owns Tavern on Grand, and Andy Rodriguez, an employee of the St. Paul Department of Parks and Recreation, created a Grand Old Day Anyway Facebook page, and it quickly attracted more than 10,000 followers.

However, the idea of tens of thousands of people showing up on the avenue with no portable toilets, dumpsters or police security gave some GABA board members pause.

Grand Old Day Anyway's organizers posted a gofundme page on April 29 with the goal of raising \$100,000. As of late last week, it had raised less than \$5,000. The organizers said they were trying to get Forever52, a group of 2018 Super Bowl volunteers, to provide as many as 200 volunteers to help with Grand Old Day, but a check with that organization indicated that as of last week, no formal request had been received.

"We didn't make the decision to cancel Grand Old Day lightly," said Allison Penner-Hurst, interim president of the GABA board. Financing shortfalls, lack of time and potential liability risks led to the decision to cancel, she said.

GABA pays about \$14,000 for liability insurance for Grand Old Day, according to GABA board member John Wolf, co-owner of Dixie's on Grand, Emmett's and Saji-Ya. Police security costs for Grand Old Day are another \$27,000, he said, and then there are the costs for toilets, street barricades and dumpsters.

It was not until April 16 that the

GABA board learned that the numbers for Grand Old Day sponsors, vendors and volunteers had not hit their target, according to Penner-Hurst, and an additional \$100,000 was needed if Grand Old Day was to be held this year. "Costs have gone up and our revenues have gone down," she said.

GABA had pursued more sponsors and even tried to sell Grand Old Day naming rights, but businesses had not responded. The business association also needed about 200 volunteers for the festival. Despite the recruiting efforts, "we got three volunteers," Penner-Hurst said. The Grand Old Day parade is usually made up of 100 to 110 units. As of late April, 11 units were on board.

The resumption of Grand Old Day was a relief to many Grand Avenue business owners, who at an April 29 meeting and on social media said they had already committed tens of thousands of dollars in anticipation of Grand Old Day sales.

Rafic Chehouri, owner of Gerber Jewelers, said he had ordered about \$30,000 in merchandise for Grand Old Day.

Grand Old Creamery had invested more than \$30,000 in ice cream, T-shirts, printing, a trolley and other expenses. Co-owners Gary and Dawn Huffman are marking their business' 35th anniversary on June 2 and are the parade grand marshals this year.

Jeremy Nilson said his store, the Gaming Goat, had its second-best day ever on Grand Old Day last year. This year he ordered an extra \$30,000 in inventory in anticipation of the event.

Kayla Yang-Best, owner of Seasoned Specialty Food Market, said she expected Grand Old Day to give her new business greater exposure.

The owners of businesses that are closed or lose sales on Grand Old Day said they still benefit from the event. "We don't sell a lot of flowers on Grand Old Day," said Tom Johnson, whose family owns A. Johnson & Sons Florist, "but we benefit from the exposure. It would be terrible if Grand Old Day went away."

Jimmy Fritz estimated that his family's Wedding Shoppe loses about \$30,000 by having to close on Grand Old Day, but that the business makes it up in added

exposure that generates new customers the rest of the year.

Nonprofit organizations would also lose out if Grand Old Day were canceled. The Summit Hill Association and the Macalester-Groveland Community Council have each agreed to run an information booth this year and be paid \$1,500 for the service.

The St. Paul Pioneers semi-pro football team has sold wristbands for the beer gardens on Grand Old Day and had hoped to add a second wristband booth this year. Marla Collins of the Pioneers said the group hoped to bring in \$3,000 or more. "As a 501c3 we count on every penny to make our season happen," she said.

GABA, which gets its revenue from membership dues and Grand Old Day profits, typically has about \$120,000 on hand each year to pay its three-person staff and support Grand Old Day and other Grand Avenue events. However, it no longer has much in the way of reserves. GABA's reserves dropped from \$186,000 in 2011 to \$16,000 in 2017, according to financial records. Those funds have since fallen below \$5,000, board members said on April 29.

GABA has also seen a drop in membership over the years and a recent turnover in its leadership. More than half of the GABA board is new this year, and four seats on the board are vacant. The board's president, vice president and treasurer have all resigned in recent months, and executive director Connie DeLage has been let go. Another GABA staff member, James Farnsworth, said he quit because he was concerned about how the business association was being managed.

Prior to the initial cancellation of Grand Old Day, "we weren't getting accurate information from staff," Wolf said. "We were told we were close and making progress, and then we found out otherwise."

Board members and five former GABA presidents dug into GABA's finances on the weekend of April 20-21. Although they are pursuing a detailed financial audit, GABA board members said the initial review of financial records indicated that there has been no theft or malfeasance.

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1 ◀ ST. MARK'S SCHOOL

1960 it was the largest Catholic grade school in St. Paul with more than 1,500 students.

However, a half-century ago the Merriam neighborhood was filled with large Catholic families, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet served as St. Mark's teachers, the parish subsidized the cost of running the school, and families paid no tuition. While the parish still subsidizes school operations in part, the neighborhood's demographics have changed. There are fewer families with young children, and those families are generally much smaller. Many houses in the area have been converted to rentals for college students, lay teachers have replaced the nuns, and St. Mark's charges tuition.

St. Mark's enrollment in grades K-8 had dropped to 425 by 1998. It was 302 in 2008 and 139 in 2017-18. This school year it dipped below 100, and fewer than three dozen students were registered for next year. According to Jim Wilgenbusch, chair of the parish's Finance Council, more than half of the money deposited in the church's collection plate each week is now going to support the school. He said the parish cannot sustain that financial stress.

Alison Kaardal and her family joined the parish eight years ago. She and her husband enrolled their five youngest children in the school and have been happy with their experience. Two children have graduated and three are current students.

"I serve on the Parish Council and participated in the decision to reorganize the school," Kaardal said. "We're called to be good stewards of the money given to us, and we cannot spend money we don't have. As a parent, I understand and accept that decision. As a family, we talk about how God is with us during difficult times, and how we will, together as a family, remain active in our parish while going to school elsewhere."

In an attempt to reverse the decline in enrollment, St. Mark's leadership decided to institute a classical Catholic curriculum in the 2018-19 academic year. Several parents criticized that decision, contending that the new curriculum was not clearly defined. They believe the curriculum change was too little, too late,



Sister Fabiola, a teacher's aide, helped out last week with a lesson for the second grade at St. Mark's School.

PHOTOS BY
BRAD STAUFFER

poorly communicated and made without adequately involving school parents and parishioners. They blamed the adoption of the new curriculum and the way it was implemented for a large turnover in teachers last summer and the subsequent loss of students in the fall.

"There's been a declining enrollment at St. Mark's over many years," said parishioner Kevin Adelgren, whose three daughters have attended the school. "All of the parochial schools are suffering from that same problem." However, a rift developed at St. Mark's when the change to the classical curriculum was announced in April 2018, he added.

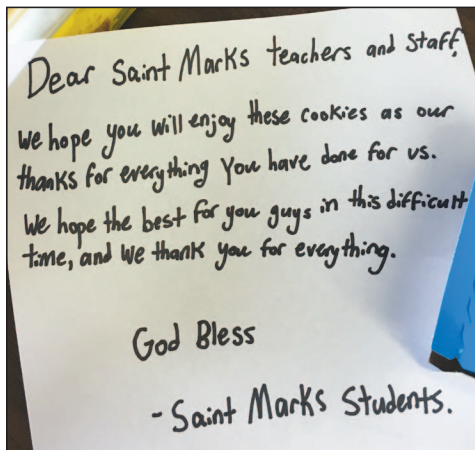
"It caught virtually all of the parents off guard," Adelgren said. "It was a deliberate change without any kind of public forum or any opportunity to ask ques-

tions about whether or not it was the right thing for the school." Adelgren also believes the way the school's restructuring was announced left many families with hurt feelings. "St. Mark's has been around for more than 100 years," he said. "Frankly, I think (the restructuring) could've been avoided had more attention been given to the community that existed here instead of the one (the parish leadership) is trying to attract."

"I see the Catholic schools as an enormous asset to the city of St. Paul," said Patrick Shrake, a lifelong member of the parish who attended St. Mark's School, enrolled his three children there and served as a parish trustee and Finance Council member. "There's some uncertainty about what happens when we're not offering a K-8 school in this neighborhood. So, as a neighbor, I wonder about the future. I don't want that to go by the wayside. I will not give up hope."

"We're meeting with parents and parishioners who want to meet," Palomino said, "and we're working with affected staff and parents to help them during this transition. Our focus now is the thriving preschool, and we'll be working collaboratively with staff and parish members to build on its success."

"My heart is broken, and I almost feel like I'm falling to pieces," Palomino said. "Jesus said to St. Francis of Assisi, 'The church is falling to pieces. Please rebuild my church.' I think Jesus is asking the same of me and all of us—to rebuild St. Mark's. We can do it. We have our hearts available. That is faith. We're trying."



St. Mark's students left this note and some cookies last week in gratitude to the staff at the school. PHOTO BY JANA HAYDEN-SOFIO

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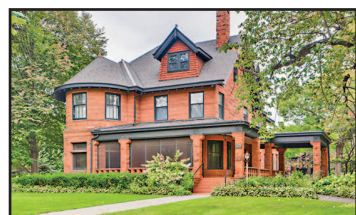
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Sizing up organized trash

City reviews performance of system in first 6 months

By Jane McClure

Six months into its new system of organized trash collection, the city of St. Paul is receiving fewer complaints from customers and the percentage of unpaid bills has leveled off at about 11 percent. However, St. Paul Haulers LLC, the consortium that has a five-year contract to handle residential trash collection in the city, has shrunk from 11 to seven private haulers as larger firms have bought up the market share of smaller firms.

Those were among the highlights of a City Council review on April 24 of one of the largest municipal service changes in St. Paul history.

Organized collection got underway on October 1 for the 73,485 households in St. Paul living in single-family homes, duplexes, triplexes and four-plexes. Since then, there have been more than 2.3 million trash pickups and more than 21,500 tons of garbage collected, according to Christopher Swanson, solid waste program supervisor in the St. Paul Department of Public Works.

One issue the city is watching closely is the garbage tipping fees being charged at Ramsey and Washington counties' resource recovery facility in Newport. County commissioners are considering increasing the fee from \$12 to \$16 per ton in the months ahead. City Council members said they will speak to the counties' commissioners about whether that fee can be held flat.

"That's a significant cost increase for our program and for the haulers' consortium," Swanson said. "(St. Paul is) 56 percent of Ramsey County, and the timing of the fee rollout is horrible."

Ramsey and Washington counties are currently upgrading the resource recovery facility, which was built in the 1980s to process trash into fuel for power plants. The increase in the garbage tipping fee would be coming at the same time that St. Paul officials are considering adding organics collection to its residential recycling program, which would also add to waste management costs.

Despite the possible cost increases, Swanson said that organized collection is going well. "The goal of this program is a cleaner St. Paul," he said, and it is reducing truck traffic in the city in addition to the wear and tear of streets and alleys. Another advantage of the new system is the city's ability to mediate when customers have complaints about garbage hauling service, he said.

Swanson touted the program's high-quality service and consistent pricing, as well as the additional yard waste and large bulk collection services it offers. However, he conceded, some glitches remain. For example, some residents still have their old trash carts from previous haulers. Others have experienced billing errors or problems with the pricing of add-on services such as yard waste collection.

The loss of four haulers to buyouts by larger haulers has troubled some residents, according to City Council member Jane Prince. "Going into this program, people in the community wanted to keep the small haulers, and that didn't happen," she said. Much of Prince's Ward 7 is now served by Waste Management, a multi-national company that Prince criticized for poor service. For example, one of Prince's constituents had to leave town for a family emergency and was not allowed to put a hold on her trash service because she did not give two weeks' notice.

Other City Council members continue to field customer complaints about trash collection. The quality of customer service appears to vary from hauler to hauler, council members said. While there is not a lot of leeway in the haulers' five-year contract, city staff members have raised the customer service issues with members of the consortium and are seeking recourse for poor customer service.

City Council members suggested stepping up the city's efforts to educate landlords about the program. For example, some landlords have opted for the lowest level of service, which has generated complaints about trash overflow. Another issue the council discussed is how to measure the program's success. While the impact on streets and alleys may not be known for years, city staff are investigating whether complaints about illegal dumping are decreasing.

The city has logged a total of 1,395 complaints about trash collection in the program's first six months. Most of the complaints were for billing errors, late fees and missed service, and most of them have been resolved, although some residents have opted to challenge their bills through a legislative hearing process that began last month.

According to Swanson, the number of missed pickups is fairly low: 1,676, or 7 percent of all collections. That figure does not include pickups missed due to this winter's record level of snow and ice, which made some alleys impassable.

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Developer hopes third time is charm for housing proposal at Laurel-Dale

By JANE MCCLURE

The St. Paul Planning Commission laid over discussion of a conditional use permit on May 3 for Hupp Holdings LLC to construct a five-unit housing development on long-vacant property on the northeast corner of Laurel Avenue and Dale Street.

The issue will go back to the commission's Zoning Committee on May 23, before likely being taken up by the full commission in June. The committee had voted 6-1 on April 25 to recommend approval of the project. Commissioners agreed that while the development requires several variances, they can be justified.

Some neighbors contend that the buildings would add too much density on too small a site. Eden Prairie-based developer Alan Hupp wants to build three two-bedroom houses along Dale Street and a four-car garage with two apartments above. The lot at 617 Laurel Ave. is about 40 by 170 feet and has been vacant

since 1991.

Commissioner Luis Rangel-Morales, who cast the sole negative vote on April 25, suggested that the variances were driven by economic considerations alone.

"We've heard a lot of terms we like to hear," he said, including the promise that the two studio units above the garage would be affordable housing. However, nothing holds the developer to that promise.

Hupp has presented several ideas for the property over the past few years. In 2017, the city's Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) approved variances for him to construct a row house with three three-bedroom units. That changed in 2018 to a row house with three one-bedroom and three two-bedroom units. Neighbors appealed a BZA decision to grant variances for that project, but the City Council upheld the variances last June.

Hupp now says that neither of those projects made sense economically. The six-unit building ran into



Alan Hupp is proposing a five-unit cluster development featuring three houses and a four-car garage with two apartments above for the long-vacant lot at 617 Laurel Ave.

complications during a site plan review.

Hupp's new plan avoids some of the more costly infrastructure requirements that a multifamily building has to meet. The two-story cottages would range from 950-1,300 square feet, and the units above the garage would be about 450 square feet.

The project needed several variances from so-called "cluster development" standards. The commission approved a lot size of 7,200 square feet instead of the minimum 21,000 square feet, a lot coverage of 39 percent instead of the maximum 35 percent, a 5-foot rear-yard setback instead of 25 feet, a 20-foot front-yard setback instead of 30 feet, setbacks of 2 and 4 feet for the garage duplex instead of 6 feet, and

four off-street parking spots instead of seven.

City staff and the Summit-University Planning Council both recommended approval of the variances. One neighbor sent a letter in opposition to the project and two appeared before the commission's Zoning Committee to oppose it.

Hupp called the Laurel-Dale site a "gem," noting its proximity to transit and shopping. He described his latest plan as a needed housing option in the neighborhood.

Neighbors Peter Carlsen and Joseph Rittman said residents were not fully informed of the approvals needed, and questioned why the project had not been sent back to the BZA. While the BZA acts on variances, the Planning Commission has purview over cluster devel-

opments.

Carlsen said the variances should not be granted simply because the lot is too small. He asked the Zoning Committee to delay action until neighbors could learn more. "I think you're just trying to get too much on this lot," he said.

Rittman also objected to the lack of information given to neighbors about the variances being sought, calling them "vast modifications" to cluster development standards.

While some neighbors like some aspects of the plan, Rittman said the project will mean additional traffic in a heavily used, narrow alley with poor sight lines.

Hupp said the development will likely appeal to people who would rather use mass transit than drive a car.

1◀ NEXT CHAPTER BOOKSELLERS

Ballas is a self-described lover of books and bookstores, so when he heard Common Good was for sale, he could not resist. After growing up in Como Park, Ballas lived in Boston and various countries in Asia, but in 2016 he and his wife Triya moved back to St. Paul and settled in Ramsey Hill.

Common Good "has been such a great bookstore," said Ballas, who also works as the managing director of Cathedral Hill Advisory, a consulting firm for organizations. "I've been a customer for a long time, and when I learned it was for sale, I dove deeply and came away feeling this was something I really wanted to do. As a business person, I looked at industry fundamentals. I looked at the store. I loved what was going on. It has such a vibrant environment and such a positive impact on the community."

Of the name change, Ballas said, "we actually ran a session with the staff. It was led by an advertising executive. We all brainstormed for couple of hours. And we felt Next Chapter Booksellers was the best. Our focus is the future, and we wanted the name to also focus on the people in the store and the important things they do."

"The new name says the staff love books," Lazarus said. "They're so knowledgeable. You walk in and they'll help you find the right book. Or they let you browse. If I go in on a Monday, after reading about a book in *The New York Times Book Review* on Sunday, they'll tell me they have the book or they'll say



Nick Ballas, owner of the newly rechristened Next Chapter Booksellers. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

it won't be out for two weeks. They know."

Lilly concurred. "If I call on a Sunday and say I have this list of books I want to order, they tell me they have the books or will get them right away," she said. "The staff are astonishingly knowledgeable and friendly. They're dynamite. It's just so nice to have this bookstore in the neighborhood."

"Three things stand out that make Next

Chapter a terrific bookstore for both readers and writers," said St. Paul novelist William Kent Krueger. "First of all, the location. It's convenient and right in the middle of the action along Grand Avenue. Second, the booksellers. They're knowledgeable and really approachable. And finally, as an author, when I do an event there, the folks at Next Chapter always turn out a fine and appreciative audi-

ence. I love these folks."

"We're lucky that the Twin Cities are home to not only active readers but an amazing number of authors, publishers, reviewers and other groups who highlight the joy of reading," Enyeart said. "Next Chapter Booksellers will continue to be part of that rich literary culture by connecting our customers to local authors through readings and book clubs. We're always looking to introduce readers to great books that reflect and amplify their experiences in Minnesota."

"So much of publishing is run by a select few decision-makers at Amazon and the big-box stores," Mejia said. "Independent bookstores are the antithesis of that. They feel passionately about books, know the difference between what's good and what simply has the most marketing dollars behind it, and they hand sell those great books to lucky readers every day."

"As an author, independent bookstores are our champions. They're such a foundational element in making the Twin Cities literary scene thrive," Mejia said.

"It's important to support small bookstores," Krueger said. "Without their voice, their vivacity, their eclectic interest in the written word, I'd be afraid that Amazon might dominate the choices that are available for readers."

Ballas, Enyeart and the rest of the staff at Next Chapter Booksellers will roll out the welcome mat for neighbors, readers, authors and other members of the local literary community at a grand opening from 4-7 p.m. Friday, May 17.

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Edie Weinstein has written a book —and the world is taking notice

Edie Weinstein, 16, lives in Highland Park and is a sophomore at Visitation School. When she was in eighth grade at Nativity of Our Lord School, she wrote *Grandpa and Lucy: A Story about Love and Dementia* for a Girl Scout Silver Award, the highest a Girl Scout Cadette can earn.

"I never actually had a grandparent with dementia," she said. "But I had a close relationship with my grandpa. I feel so strongly about the impact grandparents have on their grandchildren's lives."

Working with experts in the field, Weinstein learned about the challenges to relationships that families face when a loved one is living with dementia.

She thought, "If I can do anything to take down the barrier that is preventing [a troubled] relationship from forming, then I want to do that."

Weinstein also enlisted a group of artistically-inclined friends from Nativity to illustrate the 20-page book.

"We got together at Davanni's six times over the summer and went from mockup to the finished product. We just had a blast!"

Weinstein's book has been translated into Spanish and Chinese. She's been interviewed by several journalists and spoken to groups of 20 to 200.

The staff at The Alton Memory Care noticed. They recently arranged for Weinstein to read her book to residents and several pre-K children visiting from the Jewish Community Center.

Said The Alton housing director Kayla Nance, "There are a lot of things that (the residents) may not remember day-to-day,

but they do remember their children."

The Alton staff gives Weinstein's book to the families of current residents. And, they'll share it with prospective families who are touring the site. It helps dispel some anxiety.



Edie Weinstein reads her new book to current residents at the Alton.

"Often times when folks are coming to us, they are having a hard time thinking about placing their loved one somewhere, and they're not taking care of themselves," said Nance.

Weinstein wants to continue writing. In the meantime, she's donating a portion of the proceeds from book sales to support Alzheimer's education and outreach programs.

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Thao gets party's nod, but fellow DFLers will still challenge

City Council hopefuls Bowie, De La Torre exit convention in protest after incumbent's strong polling on first ballot

BY KEVIN DRISCOLL

Incumbent Dai Thao won the DFL Party's endorsement for the St. Paul City Council with 74 percent of the delegates on the second ballot at the Ward 1 convention on April 28. One hundred and eighty-one delegates cast ballots in the first round at the convention, according to Ward 1 coordinator Matt Hill, and Thao received the support of 59 percent of them, or just short of the 60 percent needed for endorsement. At that point, his two opponents, Liz De La Torre and Anika Bowie, withdrew from the balloting under protest, asking delegates to join them as they walked out of the hall. They later claimed in a press release that "the process was not fair, transparent or equitable."

Thao received the support of 101 of the remaining 136 delegates on the subsequent ballot to capture the endorsement.

"All campaigns in Ward 1 were provided with the same tools and resources to seek this endorsement," Hill and DFL city chair Beth Commers said in a joint statement. "We are proud of all the volunteers who dedicated countless hours to making sure all candidates had a fair and transparent opportunity to receive the endorsement."

Bowie and De La Torre had said they would abide by the endorsement prior to the convention, but now they intend to file for the November 5 general election. "It is important to both of us that we continue to fight for accountability and transparency, and we look forward to bringing that to the voters of Ward 1 in November," they said in their joint statement.

Candidate filing for the seven seats on the



Anika Bowie



Dai Thao



Liz De La Torre

City Council and four of the seven seats on the St. Paul School Board will run from July 30 through August 13.

Ward 1 is considered to be the most diverse of the city's seven wards. It includes Summit-University, Frogtown, Snelling-Hamline and Lexington-Hamline and parts of the North End and Hamline-Midway neighborhoods.

Thao, 43, a Hmong immigrant and former information technology professional, is seeking his second full term on the City Council. Married with six children, he lives in Frogtown. "Many families in Ward 1 are still struggling to keep their heads above water," he said, "and I want to continue fighting for them."

Thao cited among his accomplishments as a City Council member "securing the most affordable housing units through preservation and new development and securing the most economic investments, both private and public, outside of downtown. I also led on the establishment of earned sick and safe time, the minimum wage increase and paid parental leave."

According to Thao, the biggest issues facing the city and Ward 1 are the "displacement of homeowners and renters, the need to expand the city's tax base and reduce property taxes, and relief and support for homeowners and

renters through housing rehab programs and the creation of more affordable housing."

Thao would expand the tax base by "increasing density and not losing more commercial or industrial land, promoting commercial development and providing financial and technical support for new small businesses. We also need an equity plan across the departments to address racial disparities and streamline access to basic city services."

Bowie, 27, who is single and a resident of Summit-University, serves as lead organizer for Restore the Vote MN and vice president of the Minneapolis NAACP. She holds a bachelor's degree in criminal and social justice from Hamline University and was recently appointed to the St. Paul Police Civilian Internal Affairs Review Commission.

Bowie said she is running "to improve our city's infrastructure and introduce innovative ideas to ensure the safety and sustainability of residents." Affordable housing for renters and homeowners is one of her top priorities.

"We must treat affordable housing as mandatory common-sense policy," she said. "With property taxes increasing each year and new development that is disconnected from community, residents need to see if their dollars are going to good use. I plan to address our

housing challenges by identifying barriers and changing how policies are helping to perpetuate these issues."

Bowie supports "the development and implementation of a college savings plan (for St. Paul children), fine-free public libraries and improving our recreation centers." According to her, many Ward 1 residents "lack trust in our justice system in the aftermath of several officer-related shootings." She said she wants to "help build a city that believes in second chances and restoring the lives of people who have been historically and systematically disenfranchised."

De La Torre, 33, who is single and a resident of Ramsey Hill, is the daughter of Mexican immigrants. She holds a B.S. degree in political science and international studies from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls and works in the Ramsey County Department of Public Health as a legal services coordinator and sexual assault advocate.

Affordable housing is also one of De La Torre's priorities. "While I favor upzoning and eliminating outdated ordinances restricting housing density," she said, "that alone will not solve this crisis. I'll continue to advocate for emergency shelters and transitional housing. We must ensure that we're setting residents up to succeed while discontinuing the practice of concentrating affordable housing in specific areas of the city."

Criminal justice reform is also important to De La Torre. "Changing practices and standard operating procedures at any police department is an incredibly difficult task to undertake," she said. "Yet the St. Paul Police Department has been improving how they respond to victims of sexual violence."

"We also must move beyond transportation and infrastructure models that center around the privilege of owning a personal vehicle," De La Torre said. "I'm a proponent of the Complete Streets model that takes into consideration all modes of transportation—walking, biking, public transit and personal vehicles."

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Viewpoint

Licensing illegals lays waste to respect for law

BY ANDREW CILEK

The Minnesota House of Representatives has essentially voted to grant amnesty to illegal aliens in Minnesota. House File 1500 would grant them official government recognition, provide them with driver's licenses and IDs, make them a protected class unaccountable to law enforcement, and hide their identities and citizenship status from the public. This is amnesty by deception.

These government IDs would be proof that the state knows these people are here illegally, knows their ages and addresses, and approves their violation of immigration law. The issuance of a driver's license to an undocumented immigrant puts the state of Minnesota foursquare behind the lawbreaker and against immigration law.

A state-issued driver's license insulates the individual from any attempt to hold him or her accountable for being here illegally. The license holder simply asks the judge, "How can the government complain about my presence here after I presented myself, gave my name, age and address and, as a result, was awarded an official ID and driving privileges? The state cannot contend that I don't belong here."

Proponents of this legislation throw around unsupported rationalizations like reducing vehicle accidents, making Minnesota's roads safer and bringing revenue to the state. They cite no studies or evidence to back up these supposed benefits, which are likely to be small and to pale in comparison to the harm it will inflict in respect for the law. How do proponents know that illegal immigrants are driving recklessly? If they are, the solution should be to reduce their number, not to change the law to accommodate them.

Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison, in a guest editorial in the April 10 *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, lays bare the goal of amnesty in giving driver's licenses to those who have jumped ahead of immigrants who play by the rules and come to America lawfully. Ellison writes that the legislation will help illegal immigrants "do all the things the rest of us take for granted." There it is: amnesty pure and simple.

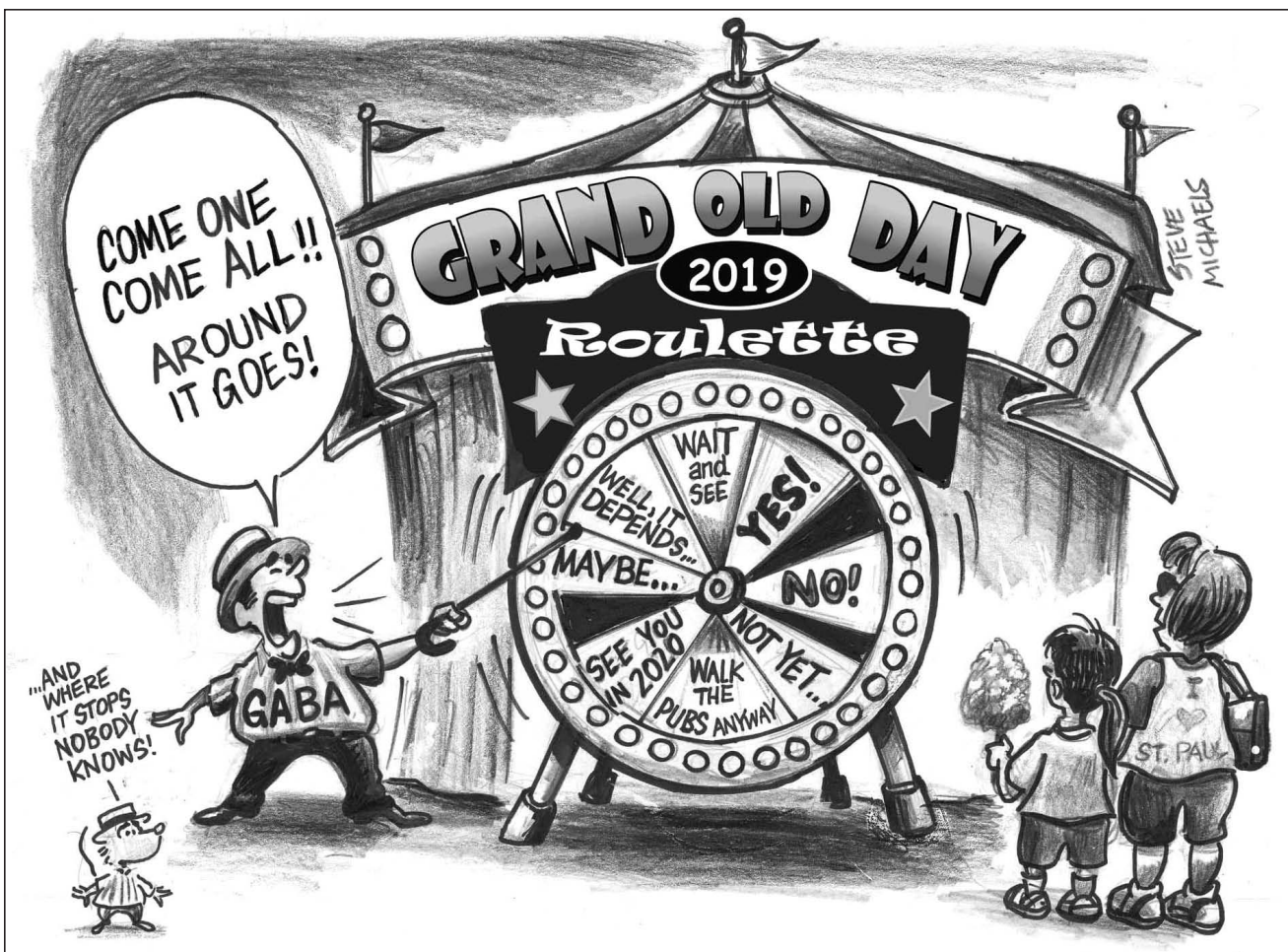
Consider the distortion of language. Illegal aliens become "undocumented immigrants," erasing the reference to violating the law and equating the lawbreakers to those who come here legally, honorably, patiently and respectfully. The driver's license bill then extends this linguistic swindle by erasing the "undocumented" part. If the state Senate can be persuaded to go along, then a quick signature from Governor Tim Walz will complete the implementation of amnesty after only empty discussions about improving road safety and benefitting businesses.

The corrupt intentions underlying this bill are further revealed by elements aimed at creating a special status for the undocumented. The bill is riddled with such language as, "The commissioner must not share or disseminate..." and "A driver's license agent must not share or disseminate..." to hide the amnesty from law enforcement and the public. The bill provides that "The commissioner and a driver's license agent must not share or disseminate any data...with any federal agency, federal department or federal entity for a use that would otherwise be permissible."

Also, "Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, this subdivision prohibits the commissioner and a driver's license agent from sharing or disseminating the data...with any entity...any political subdivision, any state agency as defined...or any federal entity, including but not limited to a local, state or federal law enforcement agency, the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, the Minnesota State Patrol, the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and any other law enforcement agency established within the department."

This bill is not just bad policy. This proposal is a "nullification law" that violates the fundamental duty of the Legislature to uphold the Minnesota Constitution and the rule of law. It condones lawlessness, rewards lawbreakers, obstructs law enforcement and sanctifies the fraudulent intentions of those who support it. In short, granting driver's licenses to undocumented immigrants sabotages the core value at the heart of the American system: citizenship.

Andrew Cilek is the executive director of the Minnesota Voters Alliance.



Inbox

Soured on garbage collection

When the city started debating organized garbage pickup, I was a fan for the common-sense reasons that were touted: fewer trucks rumbling through the alley and less noise and air pollution and damage to streets and alleys. (We had a couple of garbage trucks a day passing through our alley prior to organized garbage collection.) Now I'm being assessed by the city for nonpayment.

This isn't because I haven't paid for my garbage collection. It's for unpaid yard waste collection, which I noticed shortly after the switch had jumped from around \$90 seasonally to \$75 per week. Neither the city nor the collector had contacted me or given me information as to whether I would want to continue this service or provided rates. I immediately called to cancel and was promised by the city that the billing would stop and I wouldn't have to pay for a service I didn't request. This took about a dozen calls each to the city, Republic Services (the new hauler) and Waste Management (the old hauler). Each time I was assured the yard waste container would be removed and that I wasn't responsible for the unwanted service fee. Yet I'm now being assessed for nonpayment, and the yard waste container still sits in my alley.

If the city allows Republic Services to resort to such Mafia-style extortion, my next vote for council member or mayor, regardless of political affiliation, will be for the candidates who promise to get rid of organized garbage services.

Joachim (Joe) J. Breuer
Summit-University

Density agenda in Mendota Hts.

Over the decades, Mendota Heights' leaders have displayed a consistent commitment to sustain and nurture the special character of our city through the support of a careful and prudent approach to development. The quality of life is one of the major reasons we enjoy living here.

Over the past two years, however, this commitment has been compromised by the evident dedication of Mayor Neil Garlock, City Council members Liz Petschel and Joel Paper and the Mendota Heights Planning Commission to increasingly dense development in the city. One mark of this dedication is the approval of a new high-density apartment complex on the far west side of the city in the face of unanimous opposition by residents of the adjacent Augusta Shores, Lemay Shores and Furlong Addition neighborhoods.

Nevertheless, a far greater and indeed existential threat to our quality of life is the Land Use section of the city's draft 2040 Comprehensive Plan that was recommended for approval by the Mendota Heights Planning Commission on April 23, and will be forwarded to the City Council for final approval. If this strikes you as an exaggeration, consider that the Land Use sections of both the Minneapolis 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Mendota Heights' proposed 2040 Comprehensive Plan have striking parallels with the Metropolitan Council's Thrive 2040 plan, a plan with an undeniable density agenda.

A recent *Star Tribune* article refers to the Minneapolis plan as an "upzoning" test case in that it allows for fourplexes to be built in single-family residential neighborhoods. A letter to the *Star Tribune* notes that a blanket upzoning on this scale has never been attempted anywhere in North America and will potentially affect 49 percent of the land in Minneapolis. The Land Use section of Mendota Heights' draft 2040 Comprehensive Plan contains upzoning provisions comparable to those in the Minneapolis plan.

If you are not bothered by the prospect of a fourplex being built next door when your neighbor sells to a new owner, this future should not be of concern. However, if you believe, as I do, that upzoning is fundamentally at odds with the record of careful and prudent development in Mendota Heights and that it will fundamentally degrade the quality of life in our city, I encourage you to contact your City Council members and recommend that the entire Land Use section of the proposed Mendota Heights 2040 Comprehensive Plan be thrown out and replaced by the Land Use section of the Mendota Heights 2030 Plan, the modest and prudent density provisions of which clearly support the quality of life that we have come to expect and enjoy.

Thomas J. Smith
Mendota Heights

Fix the roads we actually use

I'm just stunned that while St. Paul's roads have become so degraded as to be challenging to drive on and potentially dangerous to bike on, the City Council is dropping \$3.5 million on Ayd Mill Road improvements (*Villager*, April 24). I live close to Ayd Mill and use it frequently. I consider its state of disrepair to be one of its best attributes.

St. Paul should be focused on first fixing the roads St. Paul taxpayers primarily use. If the good people of Eagan want to

8◀ INBOX

fix up Ayd Mill Road, I encourage a Kickstarter. In the meantime, I'll be using my car to take my bike outside of the city for recreational biking—for the first time in 20 years of living here. The roads near my house are no good for biking anymore. I spent too much money last year fixing my bike from damage from the sorry state of Summit Avenue alone.

*Christopher Mitchell
Snelling-Hamline*

Keep city plows out of alleys

I hate to think of my alley being plowed by the same people who provide me with street plowing. For 49 years, my neighborhood's alleys have been served by the Beaver family, first the father, then his son, and now his grandson, who has expanded the services into Lawn and Garden Express. Their fees are reasonable, they begin plowing as soon as 2 inches of snow are on the ground, and they continue until their work is done. We have access from our alley to the Snelling snow emergency route long before the city plows have done the residential streets.

Please don't mess with excellent private service. Keep the city's nose out of it.

*Kathleen Deming
Macalester-Groveland*

Good for dodging potholes

What amazing foresight our fair city had by creating all the mostly unused bike lanes. Now I might have someplace to safely drive my car to avoid all of the streets' double-wide, long and continuous potholes.

*Chillon Leach
Merriam Park*

A fee for unwanted service

I have just paid over \$60 for a service imposed and forced on me. I neither use it nor want it nor need it. You encouraged me to reduce my "carbon footprint," and I have, and now you punish me with a mandatory charge for garbage pickup. It is so unfair.

*Elizabeth Ellis
Summit-University*

Open border is not compassion

"We are a nation of immigrants. But we are also a nation of laws. It is wrong and ultimately self-defeating for a nation of immigrants to permit the kind of abuse of our immigration laws we have seen in recent years, and we must do more to stop it."

It is hard to disagree with this statement, delivered by President Bill Clinton in his State of the Union Address in 1995. That is a speech President Trump could have made today, but it wouldn't matter because the left-wing has hijacked the Democrat party to such an extent that they would rather play "resist" than do anything within our power to fully secure our border.

Compassion isn't giving people a pass to be in this country illegally, whether they crossed the border on foot or just overstayed their visa. The president has a duty to protect the American people first. We can't fix our broken immigration system without first securing the border, and that means a wall, fence or physical barrier along with

smart technology and more border agents.

Those who support the status quo of lax border security are supporting a system that promotes the abuse of people through human smuggling where young women get raped and many die trying to cross extreme terrain. Then there are those illegal aliens who are underpaid, overworked and abused because they fear being deported and those Americans who have lost loved ones because of illegal immigration. Illegal immigration is not a victimless crime.

*Walter J. Huemmer
Highland Park*

Injustice in my coffee

I woke up this morning and tasted injustice in my coffee. I savored the diligence of the Mayan worker, but I could not remove the oppression left on my tongue. Exploitation stained my teeth. There was sweet resistance from the indigenous people, but an aftertaste of political corruption that I could not shake. There was a hint of poverty yet the warmth of hospitality.

Similar to caffeine, hope kindles another taste. I held the cup to my lips and took another sip. It was bitter, so I added more cream.

*Kate Becker, Senior
St. Catherine University*

Editor's note: As a student at St. Catherine, Kate Becker spent a month in Guatemala studying women's health and work. There she witnessed workers picking coffee beans by hand, filling heavy bags, carrying them long distances and getting paid an average of \$2 a day.

An attack on transgender rights

The Trump administration is considering changing the definition of gender under Title IX to a biological condition determined by the sex you are assigned at birth. The new definition would impact the estimated 1.4 million transgender and gender-fluid Americans by erasing their federal recognition and would be a huge step back for transgender rights.

Gender identity and sex are different. Sex is the biological differences between male and female, whereas gender identity is one's personal sense of his or her gender. Many people like to think of gender as a spectrum with male on one side and female on the other. One's gender identity can be anywhere on that spectrum. It's important for kids to be recognized by their gender identity at school, to be supported for who they are. Without federal recognition, they wouldn't have federal protection, which could lead to discrimination. This new definition would be taking away fundamental rights from people who were just beginning to have rights.

In 2016, the Obama administration opened up the protections under Title IX to include prohibiting discrimination based on a student's gender identity. Schools and other public institutions have started to be more inclusive of gender identity by making bathrooms inclusive for everyone. Changing the definition of gender under Title IX to a biological condition determined by the sex you are assigned at birth would ignore an important aspect of one's identity and perpetuate discrimination which Title IX was meant to address.

*Eva Leuthold, 8th Grade
Friends School of Minnesota*

Editor's note: The writer is a resident of Merriam Park.

VILLAGER

Volume 67, Number 6

Maurice F. Mischke, 1920-1991

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News Briefs

Union Park seeks more permit parking near soccer stadium

On split voice votes, the Union Park District Council (UPDC) recommended on May 1 that the city allow the expansion of a residential permit parking district in the Snelling-Hamline neighborhood and the creation of a new district in Merriam Park. The requests are being made as the result of increased on-street parking demand caused by the new Allianz Field soccer stadium. The requests will be considered by the City Council at a public hearing, likely in June.

Snelling-Hamline residents want to expand Area 8 just south of the stadium that currently includes Iglehart and Carroll avenues between Asbury Street and the Snelling Avenue alley, and Asbury from Iglehart to north of Carroll. The proposed change calls for extending the district on Concordia, Carroll and Iglehart from Asbury to Pascal streets. It is one of the city's oldest residential permit parking districts. It was created in response to people who used to park on those streets and catch a bus.

The new permit parking district being sought is just to the west on Concordia Avenue from Pierce Street to Snelling, the north side of Carroll from Pierce to Fry Street, all of Carroll from Fry to Snelling, the east side of Pierce from Concordia to Carroll, and Fry from Concordia to Carroll.

UPDC members debated the issue at length before voting to approve both districts. They also are asking city officials to consider if permit parking can be allowed only during the months when there are games at the stadium.

The new Merriam Park district met protests from one building owner who insisted that the UPDC delay the action. Macalester-Groveland resident Bill Corcoran owns a



A constant vigil. Liisa Roeder, left, gathered with others on the Lake Street-Marshall Avenue Bridge on April 24 to mark the 20th anniversary of antiwar protests that have been held there every Wednesday evening since 1999. The 90-year-old has participated since the demonstrations began. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

building on Carroll Avenue, one of which was recently occupied by a company that had as many as 200 employees but only six off-street parking spaces. While conceding that the growing business put "tremendous pressure" on parking in the area, Corcoran said the company has moved out.

"I'm not trying to strong-arm the issue," said Corcoran, while arguing that permit parking is unfair to businesses.

Neighbors said their streets get filled with cars before, during and after soccer games at Allianz Field. As more events are held there, they believe the parking demand will only increase. They said the parking demand is not just from fans, but from stadium employees.

City delays vote on plan to use former church as event center

Citing objections from the Ramsey Hill Association, the St. Paul City Council laid over a historic use variance request on May 1 for the former Dayton Avenue Presbyterian Church, 217 Mackubin St., which is slated for conversion into an event center. The variance has received the support of the Summit-University Planning Council, Planning Commission and Heritage Preservation Commission.

More than a dozen congregation members, new owner Mohammed Thabet and the real estate agent who handled the sale appeared at the council hearing to support the vari-

ance. Council member Dai Thao, however, asked for the issue to be laid over until May 8. He wants to know how the district council reached out to local residents before it voted to support the project. The Ramsey Hill Association is arguing there was a lack of outreach regarding the project.

Opponents contend that an event center, and the traffic and parking it will attract, is an incompatible use in a residential neighborhood and historic district. The former church property only has about three dozen off-street parking spaces.

Thabet also plans to use part of the building for adult and child daycare. That use is allowed under the current residential zoning, but weddings and other such events are not.

The sandstone building is in the Historic Hill District. It was designed by nationally prominent architect Cass Gilbert and was dedicated in 1888.

Historic use variances allow a property owner to repurpose a structure. The variances are permanent unless a property is destroyed or if the use is not established within two years of City Council's approval.

Dayton Avenue Presbyterian Church held its last service in the building in December 2018 after its membership had dwindled to just a few dozen people. The congregation and the programs and groups it sponsored have since moved elsewhere.

BZA grants height variance for Cretin-Derham Hall expansion

The St. Paul Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) approved a 10-foot height variance on April 22 that will allow Cretin-Derham Hall to move ahead with its plans to enhance its

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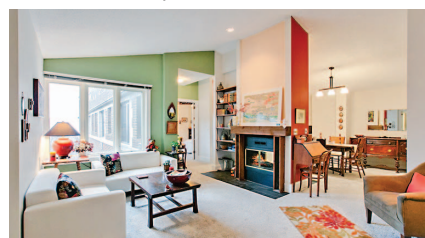
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St. Paul tweaks how it awards charitable gambling proceeds

By JANE MCCLURE

After weeks of debate, the St. Paul City Council voted on May 1 to change the way it allocates about \$125,000 per year in charitable gambling proceeds to youth programs across the city.

The approved changes are not as far-reaching as those that were proposed earlier this year. Organizations will not be shut out of the funding if they do not primarily serve youths from neighborhoods with low-income and minority populations, as they would have been under the original proposal.

A proposal to allow groups to receive up to \$15,000 a year also was dropped. Instead, the current \$8,000 cap will remain. The primary objection to the higher figure was that fewer groups could receive funding.

The adopted changes require organizations to serve youths ages 20 and younger, with at least 75 percent of them living in St. Paul, in order to receive charitable gambling proceeds. Groups will also have to show that they are addressing language or cultural barriers, lack of transportation and other issues.

An advisory board that previously oversaw the program has been eliminated. Instead, the city's Safety and Inspections and Parks and Recreation departments will now fill that role.

The original recommendations came out of a study conducted by St. Paul Youth Services' YouthPower program. However, many youth

service organizations and holders of charitable gambling licenses said they were not able to review the proposed changes before they were introduced and were not aware of a March public hearing on the subject.

Council members Rebecca Noecker and Jane Prince, who were seeking the changes, met with youth group representatives and reshaped the proposal.

Noecker said the adopted changes will still help the city target youths in need and meet city goals on racial equity. Council members also are hoping that more groups will become aware of the fund and apply.

For many years, St. Paul has required the holders of charitable gambling licenses to give 10 percent of their monthly net proceeds to youth programs. The money can be paid to the city's Youth Program Fund or given directly to eligible groups that are part of the 10 Percent Club.

Council president Amy Brendmoen noted that the city's charitable gambling funds have dropped dramatically over the years, from more than \$1 million annually to only about \$125,000. "This program was set up when pull tabs were the only game in town," she said.

The current list of eligible youth groups has about 40 members, including 25 sports groups or booster clubs, eight groups that support Scouting activities, and an array of other groups that support art and academic programs.

10 NEWS BRIEFS

Activity Center entrance as part of a nearly \$8 million school improvement project.

CDH has an underlying zoning of single-family residential. (Schools do not have a unique zoning category in St. Paul.) The maximum building height allowed is 35 feet, and school officials want a 45-foot-tall building.

The school's Activity Center entrance and space around it are slated for reconstruction. The plans include a tower on the Albert Street side of the building to reflect the one on Hamline Avenue that is more than 50 feet high. The oldest parts of the school date from 1928, which was before the city's modern zoning code.

The renovations will also provide a new gathering space inside the Activity Center entrance, better access to the Joe Mauer Fieldhouse and improvements to heating, cooling, ventilation, security, technology and other building systems.

The Highland District Council recommended approval of the variance request. No neighbors sent letters or appeared at the hearing to oppose the request.

St. Paul waits to assess flood damage in wake of 2nd crest

A second Mississippi River crest will keep St. Paul streets, parks and the Lilydale Yacht Club closed for some time. The river crested again at more than 18 feet—considered to be major flood stage—during the last week of April. The river started to go down after that and as of May 3 was at 14.5 feet, which is considered minor flood stage.

As the water level subsides, St. Paul Public Works and Parks and Recreation staff will begin cleaning up debris left behind by the flood. It is unknown yet whether there will be need for repairs to parks, streets, pedestrian and bike trails.

According to city emergency management, the time between the two flood crests—the first was at 20.19 feet on March 31—allowed Public Works crews to test, inspect and assess damage to roads, sewers, parks and other infrastructure, as well as to make some repairs

before the river began rising again following a late-April snowfall and rain.

All of the city's floodplain parks remained closed. That included the Meeker Island Dog Park, Upper Landing Park, Lower Landing Park, Raspberry Island, Harriet Island, Crosby Farm, Lilydale and Hidden Falls parks.

It is not known yet when the parks will reopen. Parts of Shepard, Warner, Childs and Lilydale roads and Water Street also continue to be closed due to flooding.

The Pool and Yacht Club has been closed during the flood and is likely to remain closed for some time.

Commission grants permit for 6-story building near stadium

A proposed six-story mixed-use building on Snelling and Shields avenues across from the new Allianz Field soccer stadium can move ahead. The St. Paul Planning Commission on May 3 approved a conditional use permit for Scannell properties for the project at 441-457 N. Snelling Ave. Scannell plans to demolish the two buildings there that once housed a Furniture Barn for many years. The World of Wireless building is not included.

The permit allows for a building up to 73 feet tall, as well as a higher floor area ratio than its zoning allows.

The building will have 5,700 square feet of commercial space on the first floor and 122 market-rate apartments above. There will be 72 on-site parking stalls for residents and 15 for the public. Parking will be accessed from Shields and Spruce Tree Drive and an alley.

No one appeared at a meeting of the Planning Commission Zoning Committee on April 25 to oppose the permit. The Union Park District Council supports it.

The developer has been working closely with the adjacent Bethlehem Lutheran Church, which will share the alley with the new building. Plans also call for coordinating the work with Wellington Management, which is constructing a similar building on the block to the south. Both projects are expected to get underway later this year.

News Briefs were compiled by Jane McClure.

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Rehab draws closer for Goodrich house

By JANE MCCLURE

After decades of neglect, a historic West End house will soon be ready for renovation and eventual sale to a new owner. The vinyl siding and an unsteady addition have been removed, and the John Lewis House at 412 Goodrich Ave. looks much like it did when it was built before Minnesota became a state.

Historic St. Paul, which is working with West End residents and the Little Bohemia Neighborhood Association to rehabilitate and sell the house, appeared before legislative hearing officer Marcia Moermond on April 23 to ask for more time to get renovation plans and financing together. Moermond granted an extension until June 11.

Historic St. Paul executive director Carol Carey has been trying for several weeks to get three bids to rehabili-

tate the house, but had only one bid in hand by April 23. Carey hopes to have the bids by this month and close on financing by early June so work can start.

It is not known yet when the house will be ready for sale. Carey said that historic restoration projects almost always take longer than anticipated.

Moermond said the house has been considered a nuisance for about two years. "That's a long time for a nuisance building to not be knocked down," she said. While she understands the desire to save the house, she said she does not want the city to set a precedent with more delays.

Historic St. Paul has \$50,000 from the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency and an additional \$50,000 in in-kind donations from fundraisers for the renovation work. Another \$100,000 is needed, which can be covered when the house is sold.

The 800-square-foot Greek Revival house is one of the oldest in the city. It was built by English carpenter John Lewis for himself and his wife Ann in 1856, two years before Minnesota became a state.

The property has been listed in past historic surveys over the years as worthy of preservation. An addition and front porch were built later, but the house was neglected and left vacant for long periods of time.

West End residents, led by the Little Bohemia Neighborhood Association and Historic St. Paul, have worked to stabilize and preserve the dwelling since 2017. The West Seventh/Fort Road Federation has also supported the effort.

Neighborhood resident and architect John Yust has worked on plans for the house and is already collecting appropriate hardware to be used in the rehabilitation.



Local architect John Yust, shown here in a photo from last year, is working on plans to restore the historic John Lewis House at 412 Goodrich Ave. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Council upholds variances for lot split, new garage on Heather Place

By JANE MCCLURE

A historic Summit Hill property can have its carriage house split off and a new garage added despite the objections of some neighbors. The St. Paul City Council voted 6-1 on May 1 to uphold an April decision by the city's Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) and allow variances for 5 Heather Place to stand.

The lot, which overlooks Grand Avenue, has two houses joined by a skyway with a carriage house at the rear. New owner Jeffrey Arundel wants to split off and sell the carriage house, which has three garage stalls. He would

then like to add a garage that would complement the one next-door at 7 Heather Place. The conjoined houses were built in 1910 by the Goodkind brothers.

Neighbors who opposed the variances raised technical and procedural questions. Council member Rebecca Noecker said that while she understands the objections to the review process, the appellants were unable to prove that the BZA erred in its decision.

Council member Jane Prince cast the sole vote against denying the appeal. She said that the criteria were not met for the variances and that the city was creating a nonconforming property by splitting off the carriage house.

Two variances were needed. The lot split transforms the carriage house from an accessory building to a principal one, which changes the required setbacks. A 5.1-foot rear-yard setback was approved instead of the minimum 25 feet, and a 5-foot side-yard setback was approved instead of the minimum 8 feet.

Some neighbors argued that the city's Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) should weigh in on the garage design before the variances are granted. However, Jerome Benner II of the BZA staff said zoning and HPC staff have worked closely together since the variance requests were submitted. City staff felt it was appropriate for the BZA to act first.

Attorney Brian Alton, who represented the neighbors, said the variance requests did not meet many of the criteria and findings required by the BZA. Among his arguments was that there is no hardship for the property owner and that the lot split was only being done for economic reasons.

Architectural historians Jim Sazevich and Christopher Keith outlined the history of 5 and 7 Heather Place. Sazevich said the houses were built on the lot to take advantage of views of the Mississippi River valley. According to him, the carriage house that is being split off was not part of the original Goodkind property and was instead attached to another lot.

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St. Paul reviews comprehensive plan for development over next 20 years

By JANE MCCLURE

A blueprint for development in St. Paul over the next 20 years will be the subject of a public hearing before the City Council at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 15. Six of the seven chapters in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan will be reviewed. The seventh chapter, on the Mississippi River corridor, is still being reviewed by the St. Paul Planning Commission.

The first six chapters of the 2040 Plan drew more than 1,000 comments at a Planning Commission hearing earlier this year, many of them in support of the plan's ideas for housing, transportation, land use, water management, heritage preservation, and recreation and open spaces. One frequent comment was the need for greater housing density and more affordable housing.

The Planning Commission's April 19 public hearing on the river corridor chapter, on the other hand, drew only three speakers—St. Paul activist Tom Dimond and representatives of the Friends of the Mississippi River and the Friends of the Parks and Trails of St. Paul and Ramsey County.

The 2040 plan for the river corridor addresses land uses with new policies on construction and wetland protection. It establishes six zoning districts, each with its own rules for land uses and building heights and setbacks—urban mixed district, urban core district, rural and open spaces, river neighborhood, river towns and crossings, and separated from river districts.

Tom Dimond praised the river chapter for its focus on environmental stewardship. He warned that if city officials do not remain vigilant about environmental protection, "it's very easy to start slipping back."

Shirley Erstad, executive director of the Friends of the Parks and Trails of St. Paul and Ramsey County, praised the plan for recom-

mending improved access to nature and increased opportunities for children to enjoy the outdoors.

Colleen O'Connor Toberman of the Friends of the Mississippi River urged the Planning Commission to reconsider sections of the plan where there are conflicts with rules promulgated by the National Park Service, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the state's Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (MRCCA) and the federal Mississippi National River and Recreation Area. The plan's sections on the Ford site, the Shepard-Davern area, Pig's Eye Lake and West Side Flats conflict with MRCCA regulations, particularly in regard to building heights.

On the site of Ford Motor Company's former assembly plant in Highland Park, for example, the city has established zoning districts that allow buildings that are 17 feet higher than MRCCA rules permit. In the Shepard-Davern area, the city allows building heights of up to 55 feet with a conditional use permit, or 7 feet higher than what the MRCCA allows. City plans allow heights of up to 90 feet on the West Side Flats with a conditional use permit and heights of 75 feet or more around Pig's Eye Lake, both in conflict with MRCCA's underlying zoning.

St. Paul's proposed 2040 Plan states that the city will consider the MRCCA rules when redevelopment proposals come forward, but city officials reserve the option to seek flexibility and possible changes in the various critical area designations.

The Planning Commission's Comprehensive and Neighborhood Planning Committee reviewed the river chapter on May 1. The full commission will revisit the chapter on May 17 for final approval and submission to the City Council. Following its adoption by the City Council, St. Paul's 2040 Comprehensive Plan will be forwarded to the Metropolitan Council for inclusion in the region's 2040 Plan.

City gives heed to renters' needs

By JANE MCCLURE

Renters now make up 51 percent of the population of St. Paul and that figure is expected to grow as numerous large-scale apartment buildings continue to spring up across the city. Ways to address the needs of that growing rental population are now being studied by City Council staff members, with a report expected to be released in June.

A series of meetings to address those issues have been held over the past few weeks and will continue. Almost 100 people attended a "renter voice summit" on April 18 that was hosted by Ward 4 council member Mitra Jalali Nelson and the Macalester-Groveland, Union Park, Como, Hamline-Midway and St. Anthony Park district councils.

Nelson, who is the only renter on the City Council, said she hopes to hold similar forums around the city to promote citizen engagement and distribute information on renters' rights. "More than half of our city are renters, but we have yet to see comparable representation on district councils and other groups," she said. "Renters are underrepresented at every level."

Nelson has raised three policy issues that would affect renters and landlords. One is a "just cause evictions" policy that would keep tenants from being evicted except for such reasons as failure to pay rent or other violations of a lease. A second is a single rental application and fee instead of multiple and sometime nonrefundable fees. A third would "ban the box" that prospective tenants now must check if they have criminal histories.

The initiatives would build on a fair housing policy that the City Council passed last year. Some of the measures already in place

include property tax incentives for landlords who hold down rents and a \$12 million affordable housing trust fund.

Nelson wants the city to focus more on renters' rights and to provide more resources for landlords and tenants. Information on tenants' rights and responsibilities was passed out at the April 18 summit.

"Too many tenants are afraid to call their landlords for basic repairs because they fear retaliation," Nelson said.

District council representatives at the summit urged renters to get involved by seeking board or committee seats. Executive director Brandon Long said the Union Park District Council has a task force that is looking at ways to involve more renters. It is also working to get more renters on its board. Renters currently occupy four of the 21 board seats.

The West Seventh/Fort Road Federation also approved the addition of renters' seats at its April annual meeting. Those seats will be up for election in 2020.

Having "building captains" to share information with apartment residents was one idea discussed at the summit. Another was to ensure renters get the same "welcome packets" that district councils give to homeowners.

Groups were organized by district council area during the summit to discuss renters' issues. One common theme brought up is that not all renters are transient. Some have lived in the same neighborhood for 20 or more years. Several renters said they are already involved in their neighborhoods as volunteers.

Other common themes at the discussion tables were rising rents, affordable housing, tenants not knowing their rights, and landlords feeling squeezed by rising costs imposed by the city.



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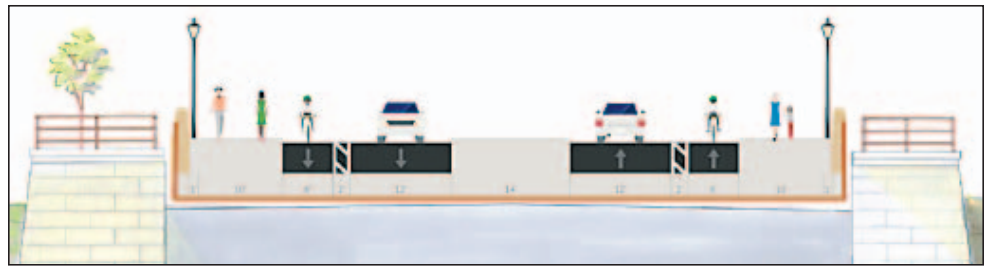


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The 77-foot-wide bridge will have two vehicle lanes, two bike lanes and two sidewalks.

Prepare for detours during yearlong work on Summit bridge over Ayd Mill

By JANE MCCLURE

The city of St. Paul is working on ways to keep bicyclists and pedestrians safe while redirecting vehicles when the Summit Avenue bridge over Ayd Mill Road is rebuilt later this year. Public Works officials reviewed the proposed detour routes on April 22 with the Macalester-Groveland Community Council's Transportation Committee.

The bridge will close after the Twin Cities Marathon on October 6. Final state, federal and railroad approvals are expected to wrap up in June. Bids will be sought in August. A final review by the Heritage Preservation Commission is still required, since the bridge is in the Summit Avenue West Historic District.

The \$8.2 million project will be paid for with a mix of local, state and federal funds.

Summit will be closed on both sides of the bridge during construction. Motorists will be detoured to Grand Avenue via Hamline Avenue and Lexington Parkway. Bicyclists and pedestrians will also be detoured to Grand, but via Syndicate and Dunlap streets.

Bicyclists will travel on the north side of Grand in a set of two-way bike lanes that will be separated from motorized traffic by bollards. Bikers will travel in a shared lane on Syndicate and will have dedicated space on Dunlap where parking will be removed on one side. The city will consult with residents before deciding on which side to ban parking.

Parking in front of Kowalski's Market at 1261 Grand Ave. will be removed to make way for the bike lanes. The bus stop there will remain.

The southbound exit ramp from Ayd Mill Road to Grand will be closed. Southbound vehicles will be able to exit south of Grand

and use a two-way Ayd Mill Road ramp. Public Works transportation planner Luke Hansen said the space on the closed ramp can be used for construction staging.

"We're developing contingency plans if there are problems," said Brent Christensen, assistant city bridge engineer.

Transportation Committee members suggested keeping an eye on Syndicate and Dunlap streets so they do not become motor vehicle shortcuts. They also want Hamline watched between Grand and Summit to assess whether on-street parking should be banned there.

The bridge will come down starting this October. New abutments, piers and walls will be built over the winter. During the summer of 2020, the bridge's sidewalks, railings and lighting will be completed. Street sections leading up to the bridge will be rebuilt and storm water systems will be completed. The goal is to reopen the bridge by the end of September 2020.

Plans call for a 77-foot-wide bridge carrying two vehicle lanes, two bike lanes and two sidewalks. The existing bridge deck is 102 feet wide. Summit, by comparison, is 200 feet wide on either side of the bridge.

A buffer between the traffic and bicycle lanes will be painted, but Christensen said the space should provide room for a future physical buffer such as bollards. The bridge also could accommodate future sidewalk widening if needed.

The new bridge will be jointless. The current bridge joints can give bicyclists a jolt. Summit carries about 200,000 bicycle trips per year.

Ayd Mill Road below the bridge will be reduced to one lane in each direction, with occasional closures as needed.

Grand specialty market seeks rezoning

By JANE MCCLURE

For the second time this year, a converted Grand Avenue house is being considered for a new restaurant. The owners of Seasoned Specialty Food Market, 1136 Grand Ave., want to use the building's second floor as a restaurant. To do that, the property must first be rezoned from community business converted to commercial.

The Zoning and Land Use Committee of the Summit Hill Association (SHA) discussed the rezoning request on April 30 with shop owner Kayla Yang-Best, but its members did not act because they were not sure if the zoning application was complete. The SHA also had not been able to meet with neighbors.

The zoning change will be taken up by the St. Paul Planning Commission's Zoning Committee on May 22, with a full commission vote possible on May 31. Any zoning change would eventually have to go to the City Council for a final hearing and approval.

The request comes at a time when the SHA is looking at ways to address growing concerns about vacant storefronts on Grand Avenue. One question is what happens to the former houses that were rezoned in the 1980s to allow small businesses to move in while retaining the architectural integrity of Grand. That zoning classification, called community business converted, or BC, was meant to accommodate retail, service and office uses that are less intensive than restaurants.

In March, after a contentious process, the City Council voted to rezone 770 Grand Ave. from BC to Traditional Neighborhoods 2 to allow Treats, an ice cream shop and tea house, to locate there. Supporters said the rezoning was the best way to allow the shop to open. Opponents feared it would lead to the rezoning and more intensive commercial uses of other properties on Grand.

Yang-Best's food market is located in what used to be the My Sister's Closet. Her family bought the property and spent a year renovating it before opening in March 2018. She has turned the first level into a food market.

The business has a small grab-and-go deli, but Yang-Best said customers come into the store and want a place to eat. Having a small sit-down space would mean the market would be considered to be a restaurant, which is not allowed in BC zoning districts. City staff recommended rezoning the property to business two (B2), which would allow a restaurant.

Committee members said they liked what Yang-Best is trying to do, but that had to be considered in light of Grand as a whole. Committee chair Denise Aldrich said the options being looked at for Grand include a zoning study, a development moratorium and a review of the zoning overlay district on the eastern end of the avenue.

Ward 2 City Council member Rebecca Noecker, who represents the eastern end of Grand, has said she would support a zoning study or other review of possible changes.

Crime Report

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

Highland Park

Burglary—Pearle Vision, 2024 Ford Pkwy., reported the loss of nearly \$3,000 worth of computer equipment, cash and gift cards on Friday, April 26. The thefts took place over a three-month period by someone who had gained access to a rear office.

Theft—Wallets were stolen from vehicles on the 800 block of South Mississippi River Boulevard on April 18 and on the 2000 block of Ford Parkway on April 19.

—A vehicle was reported stolen on the 1900 block of Ford Parkway at 2:41 a.m. Wednesday, April 24. It was later recovered by Minneapolis police.

—Golf clubs were reported stolen from a vehicle on the 2000 block of Ford Parkway at 11:20 p.m. Wednesday, April 24.

Assault—An assault with a dangerous weapon was reported at Ras Restaurant and Lounge, 2516 W. Seventh St., at 11:56 a.m. Monday, April 22.

Lexington-Hamline

Theft—A vehicle was reported stolen at LA Fitness, 1370 University Ave., at 2:29 p.m. Sunday, April 21.

—A 24-year-old woman was arrested for stealing more than \$500 in items from the Midway Target at 9:59 p.m. Tuesday, April 23.

Macalester-Groveland

Burglary—A vehicle and cash were reported stolen from a residence on the 1300 block of Sargent Avenue at 8:48 p.m. Wednesday, April 24.

Theft—Tools, clothes and cigars were stolen from a vehicle on Grand and Snelling avenues around 11 p.m. Wednesday, April 10.

—A Rolex watch was stolen from an apartment on the 1100 block of Edgcombe Road between 1-4 p.m. Monday, April 15.

—A bicycle valued at more than \$1,000 was reported stolen from an apartment on the 1200 block of Grand Avenue at 7:48 p.m. Monday, April 15.

—A MacBook computer and stethoscope were stolen from a vehicle at Rita Ambourn Hair Designers, 464 S. Snelling Ave., between 7:15-9 p.m. Tuesday, April 16.

—The catalytic converter was stolen from a vehicle on the 300 block of South Lexington

Mac-Groveland man charged with robbing four banks in Highland

Eli Sebastian Hill, 46, of Macalester-Groveland was charged with four counts of felony theft in Ramsey County District Court on April 26. According to the criminal complaint, Hill admitted to robbing four banks in Highland Park over the last two months to feed his gambling addiction.

The robberies took place on March 11 at the TCF Bank on Ford Parkway, on March 18 and April 19 at the BMO Harris Bank on Snelling Avenue, and on April 22 at the U.S. Bank on South Cleveland Avenue.

Hill was arrested on April 25 after officers reportedly tracked the vehicles involved in the thefts to him. Hill also admitted to robbing a bank in Stillwater, and estimated that he stole around \$13,000 in total from the five banks.

Hill was sentenced to 10 years of probation last August for embezzling more than \$150,000 from his former employer, HealthEast. He made his first appearance on a separate theft-by-swindle case, in which he is accused of stealing more than \$18,000 from Allina Clinics, on April 19 in Hennepin County.

Parkway during the evening of April 18-19.

—Clothing and a MacBook computer were stolen from a vehicle outside Sweet Peas, 472 S. Snelling Ave., during the evening of April 18-19.

—Two hard drives, ear buds and various papers were stolen from a vehicle on the 1700 block of Grand Avenue between midnight and 1:11 p.m. Friday, April 19.

—A MacBook computer was stolen from a vehicle on Prior Avenue south of Summit Avenue around 8:50 a.m. Friday, April 19.

—A laptop computer and gym bag were stolen from a vehicle at Snuffy's Malt Shop, 244 S. Cleveland Ave., at 6:25 p.m. Monday, April 22.

Mendota Heights

Robbery—Two males stole money from the cash register of a business on the 700 block of Highway 62 at 4:32 p.m. Sunday, April 14.

Assault—Officers were dispatched to the

500 block of Miriam Street around 11:24 p.m. Friday, April 12, for a 911 call from a taxi driver who reported that a passenger had passed out in the back seat. When awoken, the passenger screamed at and physically assaulted two officers. The suspect was arrested for disorderly conduct, obstruction and assault.

Merriam Park

Burglary—An occupied residence was burglarized on the 1800 block of Portland Avenue at noon Sunday, April 21.

—A room was burglarized at the Midwest Hotel, 2144 University Ave., between 11:40 a.m.-12:48 p.m. Tuesday, April 23.

Theft—An aluminum cargo trailer valued at \$3,000 was stolen on Mississippi River Boulevard just north of Summit Avenue during the evening of April 13-14.

—A bicycle valued at \$1,000 was reported stolen on the 2300 block of Marshall Avenue on Wednesday, April 17.

—Work tools were stolen from a vehicle on Cleveland and St. Anthony avenues between 12:05-8:05 a.m. Thursday, April 18.

Snelling-Hamline

Robbery—The Family Dollar Store, 1536 University Ave., was robbed at 1:38 p.m. Friday, April 19.

Theft—A wallet with a sheriff's ID was stolen at LA Fitness, 1370 University Ave., between 7:30-9:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 9.

—An iPad was stolen from the Midway Cub Foods between April 16-19.

—A laptop computer was reported stolen at Office Max, 1490 University Ave., at 11:55 a.m. Friday, April 19.

Miscellaneous—Officers responded to a report of several hundred people gathered at the BP Station, 1347 University Ave., at 2:32 a.m. Saturday, April 20. There were about 40 vehicles in the lot. The manager agreed to temporarily close the station in order to assist with dispersing the crowd.

Summit Hill

Robbery—An armed robbery was reported near Victoria Crossing West, 867 Grand Ave., at 4:08 p.m. Wednesday, April 17.

Burglary—St. Croix Cleaners, 678 Grand Ave., was broken into at 4:28 a.m. Saturday, April 20.

Theft—The catalytic converter was reported stolen from a vehicle on Dunlap Street and Goodrich Avenue at 11:10 a.m. Friday, April 19.

—The exhaust pipe and catalytic converter were stolen from a vehicle on the 900 block of Goodrich Avenue during the evening of April 24-25.

Summit-University

Robbery—Subway, 857 Selby Ave., was robbed of cash by a male carrying an assault rifle at 9:12 a.m. Friday, April 26.

Burglary—An unoccupied residence was broken into on the 700 block of Carroll Avenue between April 10-19.

—Two sets of golf clubs were stolen from a garage on the 900 block of Ashland Avenue between April 22-25.

Theft—A backpack containing gold hardware, a MacBook, tax information and other items was stolen from one vehicle, and a purse and laptop computer were stolen from another on Selby Avenue and Kent Street between 6:15-7:55 p.m. Thursday, April 11.

—Three Apple iPods were stolen from a vehicle at the Red Cow, 393 Selby Ave., between 11:30 a.m.-12:17 p.m. Saturday, April 20.

Assault—Officers responded to a call of a fight and arrested a 40-year-old woman for two counts of felony threats of violence at 11:25 a.m. Saturday, April 20, on Selby Avenue and Dale Street.

West End

Burglary—Money was stolen during a burglary at Skinner's Pub and Eatery, 919 Randolph Ave., during the evening of April 16-17.

—Several handguns were stolen from a residence on the 800 block of Scheffer Avenue between April 21-25.

Theft—NuWay House, 545 W. Seventh St., was broken into during the evening of April 19-20.

—Around \$600 was reported stolen from St. Paul Tap, 825 Jefferson Ave., at 6 p.m. Saturday, April 20.

—A vehicle was reported stolen on Western and Harrison avenues on Monday, April 22.

—Cash was reported stolen at Skinner's Pub and eatery, 919 Randolph Ave., at 10 a.m. Tuesday, April 23.

Assault—A 38-year-old man was cited for kicking and punching a security guard at United Hospital, 333 N. Smith Ave., at 2:45 p.m. Tuesday, April 23.

Weapons—A call about a man who had been shot was received at 11:11 p.m. Wednesday, April 24, on the 1500 block of Middleton Avenue. Three male suspects were arrested.

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School Notes

The St. Thomas Academy Experimental Vehicle Team placed second overall and first in the United States in the high school division of the NASA Human Exploration Rover Challenge on April 12-13 at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama. The competition required the design and assembly of a rover capable of traversing the simulated surface of another world and gathering environmental samples. This was the STA team's first time competing in the challenge. It also earned the Rookie of the Year Award, Technology Challenge Award, Featherweight Award for the lightest high-school rover (117 pounds) and STEM Engagement Award for its outreach work with Girl Scouts and elementary students.



Members of Team Rover at St. Thomas Academy show off their award-winning experimental vehicle.

Upper Mississippi Academy, an experiential learning charter school, plans to move into the former McNally Smith College of Music at 19 E. Exchange St. in downtown St. Paul for the start of the next school year. The academy plans to initially use 45,000 square feet of space in the building, but will have access to up to 65,000 square feet, roughly double the size of its current facility at 426 S. Osceola Ave. The school will serve grades 6-12 next term.

Joseph Seidel, who teaches at St. Thomas Academy, received the 2019 Lead-Learn-Proclaim Award from the National Catholic Educational Association on April 23-25 in Chicago. Seidel has worked at STA since 1987. He teaches theology and crime and justice, and serves as the school's senior service project coordinator.

Holy Spirit Catholic School, 515 S. Albert St., is expanding its preschool program for the 2019-2020 school year for children who are 3-4 years old by September 1. There will be a partial-day program from 9-11:30 a.m., a full-day option from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. and extended-

day option until 6 p.m. For information or a tour, call 651-698-3353.

Nova Classical Academy, a K-12 charter school at 1455 Victoria Way, has hired Brett Wedlund as its executive director. He will begin his new role in July. Wedlund currently serves as superintendent of Kaleidoscope Charter School in Albertville. He succeeds Jon Gutierrez, who has served as interim director for the last two school years.

St. Joseph's School of Music, 450 N. Syndicate St., had the following Honors Competition winners: Frances Atmore and Erik Hanhan, trumpet; Amber Clift, violin; Dana Fried, voice; Andrew Noecker, trombone; Ian Snider, viola; and Justin Bunting, Dawit Swartzendruber, Samuel Swartzendruber, Emma Wahyu and Waverly Yang, piano.

Congresswoman Betty McCollum's office will begin accepting applications on August 1 for nominations to the U.S. service academies from students in the 4th District. The application deadline is November 4. For information, call Connie Haddeland at 651-224-9191.

Announcing the Opening of Our Cutting-Edge Hemp Store

The Nothing But Hemp store is directly across the street from Billy's.

Shoppers can buy award winning CBD products that can normally only to be found at dispensaries in Oregon, California and Colorado. Nothing But Hemp's CEO, Steven Brown a former United States Marine stated: "We go through a stringent process prior to partnering with hemp cultivators. This includes ensuring that all of the products have been lab tested, have certified cannabis awards, and have received recognition by professionals in the field."

Steven believes in the importance of having strong relationships with his suppliers, and because of this, he has formed a partnership with Siskiyou Sungrown Farms. - The wonderful farm in Oregon, which specializes in cultivating cannabis for health and wellness. At this time, Siskiyou Sungrown sets the standard for state-of-the-art cannabis products. Further, the company comprises a team of engaged professionals who boast degrees in: health science, biochemistry, engineering, soil science and geology; as well as advanced degrees in permaculture and entomology.

A Background for Success

Steven has a long record working as a consultant in the cannabis industry, has helped open one of the largest dispensaries in Los Angeles, and worked closely with companies that have multimillion dollar indoor cultivating facilities. Now, since the new legislation, Steven wants to make sure that Minnesotans can get the same quality products that are found out West. - And research on his competitors shows that they are carrying "white label products," which is the process of companies going to hemp suppliers, and asking the latter put their own label on it. So this means there is a middle man, and the extra cost for their services, is passed straight on to the consumer. For example, Steven's competitors charge \$110 for 1000Mg of non-

recognized CBD products. Again this happens, because they are white labeling and going through a middle man. It also means that the hemp from the third party could be inferior quality.

The Nothing But Hemp store on Grand Avenue in Saint Paul, carries award-winning products that have been featured in High Times, Herb, Buzz Feed, Forbes, and Women's Health Magazine. Nothing But Hemp will be carrying everything from oils, to CBD candies, CBD bath bombs with essential oils, and many types of super skin care products.

Excellent Product Reviews

In fact, Steven says that his products work so well, that his online customers have been raving about the results. A teacher in Saint Paul stated: "It makes my migraines go away after 15 minutes, it is the only thing that works."

Special Offer for the Nothing But Hemp Soft Opening

Nothing But Hemp is excited about making quality vetted CBD products accessible to the people of Minnesota at an affordable price. Everyone is invited to come to the Nothing But Hemp soft opening the month of May. They will receive a free gift with the purchase of any oil.



844 Grand Avenue, Suite 1 | Saint Paul | NothingButHemp.com | 619-251-5703

Health and Fitness

Roaring as one

People of all abilities can get fit together at Lions United in MH

BY BILL WAGNER

The Lions United Fitness Center recently held the grand opening of its new 5,300-square-foot health and fitness center in Mendota Heights, a facility that is designed to be a workout hub for athletes both with and without special needs.

The arrival of the center at 2535 Pilot Knob Road is timely in that it comes in advance of the 2019 Summer Games held by Special Olympics Minnesota on June 21-23, the bulk of which will take place at the University of St. Thomas. Athletes will be competing in numerous events, including basketball, track and field, swimming and gymnastics.

That the nonprofit Lions United is open to people with and without disabilities is significant, according to company founder and lead trainer Andy Cameron. He said the center is a chance for both groups to interact in a meaningful way through sports.

"This is a way to bring communities together that don't need to be separate," said Cameron, who has a 15-year track record as a certified Special Olympics coach.

Lions United is designed to prepare members for exceptional performances in individual athletic competitions, team sports and life. It is equipped with an 11-piece circuit set that has been slightly modified for people with disabilities, along with power lifting stations, rowing machines, kettle bells and medicine balls. Lions United also has cable machines and crank cycles for people in wheelchairs, a tire-flipping machine, suspension weight-

training machines and heavy bags.

The state-of-the-art facility, which is federally certified through the Americans with Disabilities Act, will devote special attention to those with autism, Down syndrome and cerebral palsy. A further goal is to do so at little or no cost to people with physical or mental disabilities or their families.

"The number one rule here is to have fun," said Cameron, who grew up in Mendota Heights, attended high school at Holy Angels in Richfield and played junior hockey in Wisconsin. "There's nothing but positive reinforcement."

Cameron's commitment to Special Olympics began when his cousin Steven was diagnosed with Down syndrome as a youth. Cameron got a firsthand look at what it is like to work with special needs individuals. From the outset, Special Olympics has been a labor of love for him.

"I feel the impact not only when I help an athlete, but a family, so I see what's possible," Cameron said. "Many (families) have lost hope of their child ever living a normal life, but when they see the progress that results from hard work, they're amazed. It's a great feeling. We've had families come in and say, 'We didn't think this would be possible.'"

Along with being a personal trainer and sports nutritionist, Cameron is certified in nine Special Olympics sports—basketball, bowling, flag football, floor hockey, golf, power lifting, softball, swimming, and track and field. He gets rave reviews from people he has coached over the years.

"It's an amazing experience," said Mark Pfeiffer, who won two gold medals for bowling in last year's



Adam Eisele trains with encouragement from dad Brian during Lions United's open house on May 4. At right, owner Andrew Cameron helps Will Stine with a set of leg curls. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

Special Olympics. "He always brings the sense of family to the workout and we just have a blast."

Cameron said it is hard to describe the exhilaration of being a successful Special Olympics coach. "I feel a special connection when training Special Olympics athletes," he said. "Seeing them overcome their limitations is an amazing experience. It's not just training, but being a role model for them in all aspects of life."

The membership fee at Lions United for those with special needs is \$20 per month, though that cost will be reimbursed by the National Independent Health Club Association (NIHCA) if a member works out there at least eight times a month. The monthly fee for individuals without special needs is \$40, or \$20 with the NIHCA



reimbursement.

"Pack of lions" family memberships also are available at varying prices. Other benefits include a newsletter and blog feed so interested parties can keep up with special events and receive health tips.

For Cameron, it really comes down to making an individual's visit to Lions United a positive experience, and he feels good about the future of the new facility.

"We're putting 'personal' back in personal training," he said.



Salesperson Amber Baysinger holds a jar of hemp flowers at Nothing But Hemp, now open at 844 Grand Ave. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

New Nothing But Hemp on Grand caters to CBD craze

BY FRANK JOSSI

The budding hemp industry has come to St. Paul with the opening of a Nothing But Hemp location at 844 Grand Ave. The store carries 150 hemp-based products, including lotions, oils, drops and smokable items. Its clean design and brightly lit sales floor look nothing like a traditional head shop.

"We thought a lot about the look and feel of the store and how to make people comfortable about coming in the door," said Nothing But Hemp CEO Steven Brown. "We have a digital television with information about hemp, chandeliers and an attractive space. We wanted to make it inviting."

Brown also has hemp stores in Minneapolis' Uptown, Maplewood Mall, Duluth and Forest Lake. He continues to aggressively pro-

mote the industry by cofounding the Minnesota Hemp Association and is working with its lobbyist on proposed state legislation.

Hemp is a cannabis species, but does not carry the same properties or potency of marijuana. It has .03 percent or less of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the chemical that gives marijuana users a high. The active ingredient in hemp is cannabidiol (CBD), which reportedly has many medicinal properties that do not carry psychological effects.

"We see a lot of people use CBD in Minnesota for anxiety, pain, depression, PTSD (post traumatic stress syndrome) and a few for seizures," Brown said. "We're finding CBD can help with many types of ailments. It's not a cure, but it helps patients manage their health problems."

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17◀ NOTHING BUT HEMP

Zach Robins, counsel for the Minnesota Hemp Association, said hemp has applications in many fields, though CBD and health care have captured the imagination of entrepreneurs. He anticipates up to 50 hemp stores opening this year alone in Minnesota. One major requirement, Robins said, is that hemp store owners make no medical claims about CBD, in part because so little research has been done on it.

West Side resident Will Golden uses CBD from Nothing But Hemp to reduce inflammation in his shoulder from chronic tendinitis. The boat restorer heard from some friends that CBD might reduce shoulder pain and researched companies in the field.

"I've used it religiously for the past month and I've had positive results," Golden said. "Depending on the day, I usually take a capsule in the morning and I'm able to work throughout the day just fine. I haven't noticed any negative side effects from it."

How CBD is applied is dependent on age and ailment. Older CBD users prefer to use oils, edibles and creams, Brown said, while younger people are more inclined to smoke it using vaping equipment. The front area of Nothing But Hemp has around 30 smokable hemp products.

For many customers, Brown said, hemp offers a healthy and natural alternative to pharmaceutical products.

"Using hemp is all about health," he said. "People want to figure out ways to take care of their problems without using pharmaceuticals, which I've been speaking out against because they're ripping people off with high prices."

One CBD oil sold through a drug company costs \$281 compared to \$50 for the same product and size at Nothing But Hemp, Brown said. The prices for products at the shop range from \$10-\$165. They include a line created by television talk show host and hemp advocate Montel Williams. Another line called Charlotte's Web is named for a Colorado girl who used CBD under her parents' guidance to eliminate having up to 300 seizures a day.

Brown is careful about selecting suppliers because he knows some hemp has



Amber Baysinger shows off a variety of CBD products available at Nothing But Hemp at 844 Grand Avenue. At right are CBD tinctures and oils.
PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

been sold with small levels of toxic elements or with higher levels of THC. His website includes research conducted by third-party laboratories which validate that the products have been tested for heavy metals, microbials, pesticides, solvents and other chemicals. The lab also gives a reading on the THC level, usually significantly less than the .03 percent regulation.

Brown comes to the hemp industry after a career in retail sales at GNC and T-Mobile and marketing consultations with several organizations. He worked with a California marijuana seller, learning the industry while assisting it in digital sales and communication strategies.

He split time between Los Angeles and the Twin Cities before deciding to start Nothing But Hemp. In 2018, the federal farm bill removed hemp from the Controlled Substances Act, opening the door to greater commercialization of the homeopathic approach. Minnesota allowed an industrial hemp pilot program in 2015 that, after a slow start, now has hundreds of applicants.

Nothing But Hemp's first store, a kiosk at Maplewood Mall, was so profitable that Brown said "it paid what we owed on rent every single day during



the first month and raised double the rent the second month."

Brown's desire to start a hemp business originated with a family tragedy. His father, a nurse, died of an overdose of opioids while trying to deal with the pain from an injury decades before the drug's popularity ignited an epidemic in the United States. Brown sees CBD as offering a more natural solution to people dealing with pain, stress, anxiety, seizures and other ailments.

Hemp, however, is not just being employed for health issues. Some businesses use it for clothing, biofuels, rope, textiles and other products. Brown now believes hemp-mixed concrete could be the next big thing.

"It's more sustainable and better for the environment," he said. "You'll see more of it in the future."

Tour de Highland to roll out May 18

Bikers and walkers are invited to enjoy a day of riding, touring and tasting at the sixth annual Tour de Highland from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, May 18.

The event, which is cosponsored by the Highland District Council and Highland Business Association, will feature bike rides of 10 and 20 miles along the Mississippi River. Check-in begins at 9:30 a.m. in the Highland Bank parking lot. The longer ride will begin at 9:45 a.m., followed by the shorter one at 10 a.m. Participants may head out on their own or join in guided trips. Riders are reminded to wear a helmet and to bring a bike lock.

Returning this year is an informational walk to learn about the history of Highland Park. Writer and local history buff Jane McClure will lead the walk at 10:15 a.m. Check-in starts 15 minutes earlier in the bank lot. This year's theme is "Highland Goes to War... World War II and Post-War Changes."

Erik's Bike Shop will again provide free bicycle safety checks before the ride. A warmup will be conducted by fitness experts from the Jewish Com-



Bikers can join in guided trips at the Tour de Highland. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

munity Center at 9:15 a.m.

After the ride, participants can lock up their bikes at the bank and stroll the neighborhood to enjoy free food and beverage samples at participating businesses from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Walkers and others who choose not to ride can still check out the food and drink samples by checking in after 11 a.m. at Tiffany Sports Lounge.

The Tour de Highland will take place rain or shine. The cost is \$15 for adults and \$5 for kids 6-16 in advance; \$20 and \$10 on the day of the event. Children 5 and younger, and active military personnel and their families can par-

ticipate for free.

Registration includes the free food and beverage samples, a water bottle and tour backpack for the first 150 paying riders, and entry in a raffle for a cruising bicycle sponsored by Tiffany and New Belgium Brewery.

Online registration closes on May 16. People may also register on the day of the event in the bank's parking lot. However, tour backpacks may not be available for walk-up registrants.

For more information, including a map of the bike routes, visit highland-districtcouncil.org/events-2/2019-tour-de-highland.

Business Briefs

The St. Paul City Council recently announced the winners of the third annual St. Paul Business Awards. They include the following: A. Johnson & Sons Florist, 1738 Grand Ave., won the Traditions Award (active in the city for at least 20 years); Waldmann Brewery & Wurstery, 445 N. Smith Ave., won the New Kid on the Block Award (opened within the last five years); Brake Bread, 1174 W. 7th St., won the Good Neighbor Award; and the Sir Boxing Club, 1440 Arcade St., won the People's Choice Award. For more information, visit stpaul.gov/bizawards.

Twin Cities-based IPS Solar will install five new solar arrays around the state Capitol complex this year at a cost of just over \$1.5 million. The five sites will produce 2 percent of the Capitol complex's energy once they are all online. The project is expected to save \$87,000 per year in energy costs.

BevSource has opened The Lab, a pilot brewery and tasting room, at 767 Eustis St. Consumers will be able to sample a variety of new beverages there before they are available in stores. The selections will include limited batches of alcoholic drinks, such as beer, hard soda and seltzers, all made on site, as well as nonalcoholic drinks, including tea, sparkling water, protein and energy drinks, and children's beverages. Learn more at bevsource.com.

Dr. Ryan Greiner of Merriam Park has begun a one-year term as president of the Twin Cities Medical Society. Greiner is employed at North Memorial Health, where he is the medical director of observation services and hospital medicine and the physician adviser for utilization management.

Keg and Case West 7th Market, located in the former Schmidt Brewery at 928 W. Seventh St., has won *USA Today's* Readers' Choice award for Best New Food Hall of 2019. The retail and culinary marketplace opened last fall with 23 independent and locally owned vendors and restaurants.

Shablott Family Dentistry has opened in the Blair Arcade at 400 Selby Ave. Dr. Scott Shablott, who also operates an office in Hopkins, has more than 20 years of experience in dentistry. He offers a full-range of dental services along with emergency care.

Joe Anderson of Merriam Park has joined the Reidell-Estey & Associates real estate team. Anderson has worked out of the Summit Hill office of Re/Max Results at 748 Grand Ave. since 2011 and will remain in that office.



Ballet Co. Laboratory, a new professional ballet company and school, has opened at 276 E. Lafayette Frontage Road. The space boasts three studios with natural light, dressing rooms and a lobby. At left, dancers Elaina Sutula and Sam Neale rehearse for a show.

Cindy Haas, vice president of private banking for Gateway Bank, was named Partner of the Year by the Dakota County Regional Chamber of Commerce. Haas was honored for consistently encouraging the advancement and success of women in business around the county. She has served on the chamber's board for the past seven years.

J.W. Hulme Co., a 115-year-old creator and purveyor of fine leather goods, recently moved into a new store and showroom in Victoria Crossing West at 867 Grand Ave. The company was previously headquartered at 678 W. Seventh St.

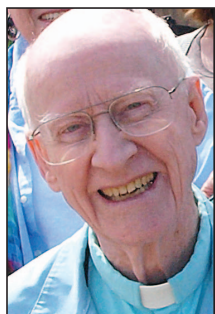
Tech Dump, a nonprofit electronics recycler, recently moved into its expanded headquarters and factory in a 90,000-square-foot building at 860 Vandalia St. The initial plan is to occupy two-thirds of the building and rent out the remainder. Visit techdump.org.

Castle Building & Remodeling has won Best of Customer Service on Houzz, a leading digital platform for home renovation and design. The 42-year-old design-build firm was chosen from more than 2.1 million home building, remodeling and design industry professionals. Customer service honors were based on several factors, including customer reviews submitted in 2018.

Mason Creative, which is owned by Highland Park resident Char Mason, has received a prestigious Star Award from the International Live Event Association in the Best Corporate Event category. The company was recognized for its work in putting on the "Celebrating 30 Light Years" anniversary event for JTH Lighting Alliance last October.

Religious Notes

The Reverend John Clay is retiring this month at age 92 as pastor of St. Stanislaus Catholic Church, 398 Superior St. In 1975 he became the first non-Czech pastor of St. Stan's, a parish founded by Czech immigrants in 1872. The parish has reportedly lost some members after Clay had to take the last few months off for health reasons. Parishioners reportedly are now questioning how to keep the church going with such an integral person retiring. Clay will serve as pastor emeritus. An outdoor picnic in his honor will be held from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday, May 19.



The nondenominational Chapel of Grace will hold its dedication service at 3:30 Sunday, May 19, at the Historic Fort Snelling Chapel. Dr. Sonny Hernandez, a Christian apologist and author, will speak on "Defending the Christian Faith." Services are held at 3:30 p.m. every Sunday. Call 651-699-6536 for details.

St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church, 60 N. Kent St., offers Sung Compline services at 7 p.m. every Thursday. Call 651-228-1172.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ, 900 Summit Ave., will offer the final two parts of a three-part series on the seasons of grief at 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays, May 8 and 15; and an Evensong service at 5:15 p.m. Sunday, May 19. Call 651-224-5809.

Marc Jaros, director of choral activities at Normandale College, has been named music director-elect of the 46-year-old Twin Cities Catholic Chorale with orchestra. The TCCC presents sung orchestral High Masses at 10 a.m. on Sundays (with the exception of Lent, Advent and the summer months) at St. Agnes Catholic Church, 535 Thomas Ave.

The third annual Or Emet Art Show will be held from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Sunday, May 19, at the St. Paul Talmud Torah, 768 S. Hamline Ave. The show will feature work by artists and musicians from the congregation. For information, contact Dave Zukor at dzsw95@gmail.com.

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District Council News

Highland Park

highlanddistrictcouncil.org • 651-695-4005

Tour de Highland—The sixth annual Tour de Highland will be held from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, May 18. Participants may take part in a 10- or 20-mile bike ride either on their own or with a guide. There will also be a guided walk led by Jane McClure to learn about the history of Highland Park. This year's walk will focus on "Highland Goes to War... World War II and Post-War Changes." Registration is open until May 16. For more information, visit highlanddistrictcouncil.org/2019-tour-de-highland.

Garage Fest—The annual Highland Park Garage Fest will take place from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Friday and Saturday, May 31-June 1. The \$15 registration fee covers the cost of promoting the sale, a garage sale sign and a map of all sale locations and merchandise. Registration will run through May 21. Visit the HDC website for more information and to register.

HDC committees—Committee members will be appointed at each HDC committee meeting in May. Those who are interested in serving should consult the meeting dates and times below.

Upcoming meetings—Transportation Committee, 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 14; Community Development Committee, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 21; and Community Engagement Committee, 6:45 p.m. Tuesday, May 28. All three meetings will be held at the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. For future meetings, visit the HDC website.

Macalester-Groveland

macgrove.org • 651-695-4000

Call for judges—The annual Alley Garden Awards are coming up and the Macalester-Groveland Community Council is looking for judges to help walk the alleys of the neighborhood from June 20-27 to determine the winners. Those who are interested are asked to email mgcc@macgrove.org for more information.

Garden Fest—Garden Fest will be held this year from 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, May 11, outside the Edgumbe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St. Representatives from A Backyard Farm will be on hand to talk about gardening in small spaces. There will also be a plant share, seed swap, Ask a Master Gardener session and flower planting activity for children. A donation of \$2 is suggested for those without plants to exchange. In case of rain, the event will move inside to the rec center's gym. Visit macgrove.org/what-we-do/gardenfest for more information.

Call for artists—The community council has received a grant from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council for the 2019 Mac-Grove Fest and is looking for talented people to participate. The event will take place on September 7 at Groveland Park. Stage performers, art exhibitors and others with creative ideas are being asked to contact the council. For information, visit macgrove.org/what-we-do/macgrovefest.

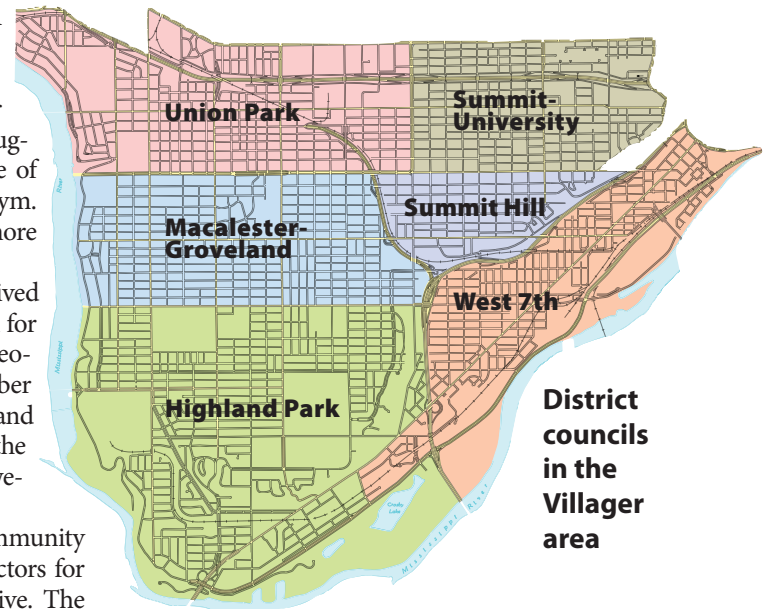
Get involved—The Macalester-Groveland Community Council currently has openings on its board of directors for Grids 2 and 5 and an at-large business representative. The board also has three standing committees that meet once a month. Those who attend three consecutive committee meetings can become voting members. Visit macgrove.org/committees.

Upcoming meetings—Community Building Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, May 13, Edgumbe Recreation Center; Transportation Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, May 20, Edgumbe; and Housing and Land Use Committee, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 22, Groveland Recreation Center.

Union Park

unionparkdc.org • 651-645-6887

Union Park micro-grants—The Union Park District Council is inviting residents, either individually or as small groups, to apply for grants of \$200-\$600 to complete small projects in the neighborhood. Applicants are being encouraged to form partnerships with other neighbors, businesses and organizations. The application deadline is May 15. Email microgrant@unionparkdc.org with questions or visit unionparkdc.org/



District councils in the Villager area

micro-grant for information.

Lex-Ham garage sale—The annual multifamily garage sale will be held in the Lexington-Hamline neighborhood from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Friday and Saturday, May 17-18. A map of the sale locations will be posted on the website. Visit lexham.org/2019/02/04/lex-ham-garage-sale.

Upcoming meetings—Transportation Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, May 13, Room 127, 1821 University Ave.; Environment and Parks Committee, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 15, Merriam Park Recreation Center, 2000 St. Anthony Ave.; Committee on Land Use and Economic Development, 6:30 p.m. Monday, May 20, Wilder Center, 451 N. Lexington Pkwy.; Neighborhood Involvement Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, June 3, Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave.; and board of directors, 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 5, Otto Hall at Episcopal Homes, 1860 University Ave.

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

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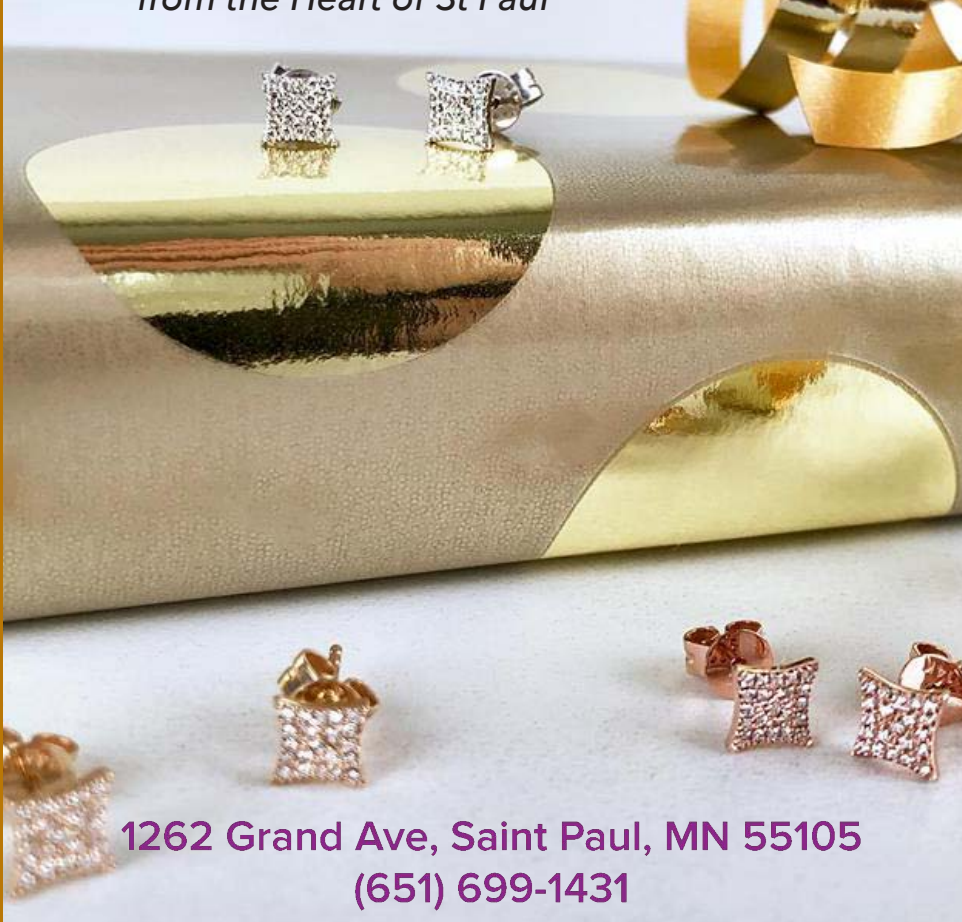
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The Kiosk

Wednesday/May 8

TIPS ON GROWING tomatoes, peppers, and potatoes will be offered at a meeting of the Longfellow Garden Club beginning at 7 p.m. at Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37th Ave. S. in Minneapolis. A silent auction on garden-related goods will be part of the program. The public is invited.

Thursday/May 9

A GARAGE SALE to benefit YMCA Camps du Nord and Widjiwagan will be held today through Saturday, May 11, in the Merchandise Mart at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds. More than 250 families have contributed quality clothing, household goods, sporting and camping equipment, toys, books, etc. The sale will run from 9 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday. A bag sale will be held from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday. Call 651-645-6605.

LEARN HOW CITY WATER is treated before reaching your tap. Attend the open house from 2-7 p.m. at St. Paul Regional Water Services' treatment facility, 1900 Rice St. Hour-long tours will be offered along with information on lead water pipes, how to find water leaks and otherwise conserve water. Call 651-266-6350.

SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS LATER, D-day is recalled by *Beyond the Beach* author Stephen Alan Bourque and veterans of the Normandy landings of June 6, 1944, in a World War II History Round Table at 7 p.m. in the Visitor Center at Historic Fort Snelling. Admission is \$5, free for students and World War II veterans. For information, call 612-726-1171.

Friday/May 10

EMOTIONS ANONYMOUS, a 12-step program for people who want help in dealing with daily stress, is offered at 7 p.m. today and every Friday at the Twin Cities Friends Meeting House, 1725 Grand Ave. For information, call Paul at 651-402-6774.

"GREAT CONVERSATIONS Through the Ages" will be addressed by St. Olaf College Professor Steven Reece in a free program at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the Weyerhaeuser Building at Macalester College. A free buffet dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. For dinner reservations, email reservation@astonishme.org.

Monday/May 13

"CREATING CARING Communities," what we can do to make Minnesota a better place for people with mental illness, will be addressed in a free program from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the National Alliance on Mental Illness, 1919 University Ave. For information, call 651-645-2948.

ST. PAUL'S CLIMATE ACTION and Resilience Plan to reduce carbon emissions and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 will be discussed by Mayor Melvin Carter and his chief resilience officer Russ Stark from 6-8 p.m. at Neighborhood House, 179 E. Robie St. The public is invited to comment on the draft plan. To view it, visit stpaul.gov/climateaction.

Tuesday/May 14

LA LECHE LEAGUE of the Midway-Como area will hold its monthly meeting

St. Mark's presents 20th annual festival May 17-18



St. Mark's pastor, the Reverend Humberto Palamino, gave parishioners Damiyan Deegan, 11, Ryan Brennan, 9, and Nick Blommel, 11, a few pointers in the Ball Toss at last year's Parish Festival. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Come one, come all to the St. Mark's Parish Festival on May 17 and 18. The Catholic church, which has anchored the corner of Dayton Avenue and Moore Street for the past 130 years, will present the 20th annual festival from 5-10 p.m. Friday and from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday on the school grounds. Dayton Avenue will be closed to traffic between Moore and Prior Avenue throughout the festival.

Among the attractions that will be coming back from past parish fests are the medallion hunt, a concert by the Irish band Tipper Road and the street dance on Friday evening, and the many games of skill and chance for children on Saturday.

New this year will be a climbing wall, live reptiles from the Minnesota Herpetological Society and four giant inflatables, including a double slide, an obstacle course, a Batter Up baseball game and a game of elimination called the Wrecking Ball.

The quick-witted comedians of Comedy Sportz will take the festival stage at noon on Saturday, followed by the North Star Barbershop Chorus at 1:15 p.m., the third-grade play at 2:30 p.m., and the St. Mark's School Band at 3:30 p.m.

A Country Store with handmade products, a homemade pie booth, and hair, face and henna painting will be available throughout the festival. So will grilled burgers, bratwursts and hot dogs, tacos, egg rolls, French fries, ice cream, soft drinks, and a variety of beer and wine. St. Paul firefighters will demonstrate how to prevent and put out kitchen fires from 2-4 p.m. Saturday. Mass will be celebrated under the big top at 5 p.m. Saturday.

Saturday evening, the adults will be invited back to the parish hall for a gala celebration featuring raffles, a silent auction, appetizers and a cash bar beginning at 6 p.m., a sit-down dinner in the school gymnasium at 7:30 p.m., followed by the presentation of the Light of Christ Award and dancing to the live music of the Northstar Big Band.

For more information about the festival, visit onestrong-family.org/festival.

For gala tickets or to preview items in the silent auction, visit stmark.xyz/gala.net.

for pregnant and nursing mothers from 7-8:45 p.m. at Hamline Church United Methodist, 1514 Englewood Ave. Babies, toddlers and support persons are welcome. Breastfeeding, parenting and pregnancy will be discussed. Call Heidi at 651-659-9527.

Wednesday/May 15

THE CARD CLUB will meet for games of bridge, 500 and cribbage beginning at 8:30 a.m. at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 S. Snelling Ave. New members are welcome to join in the competition every Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. An optional lunch is served at noon for \$10 per person.

WANT TO LINE DANCE? Veteran teacher Dariel Allen is offering an hour-long class at 10:30 a.m. every Wednesday at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 S. Snelling Ave. Drop in any week. The cost is \$5.

Thursday/May 16

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.

Friday/May 17

LEXINGTON-HAMLIN will be lined with garage sales from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. today and Saturday, May 18. For a map of the sales to be found between Lexington, Hamline,

Summit and University avenues, visit lexham.org.

Saturday/May 18

THE MINNEAPOLIS ROWING CLUB will hold an open house from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. today and Sunday, May 19, at its boathouse, 2968 West River Pkwy. in Minneapolis. Tour the award-winning structure, learn of the history of the 142-year-old Rowing Club dating back to 1877 and what it offers members today and experience rowing on the training barge on the Mississippi River.

PROFESSIONAL WOMEN over 50 are invited to attend a networking event presented by the Minneapolis-St. Paul Transition Network from 1-4 p.m. at St. Clement's Episcopal Church, 901 Portland Ave. Comedian and author Lorna Landvik will be the keynote speaker. Refreshments, appetizers and a silent auction will also be featured. The cost is \$35 for nonmembers. Visit thetransitionnetwork.org.

MOMS DEMAND ACTION for Gun Sense in America will meet from 2:30-4 p.m. at the Rondo Library, 461 N. Dale St. The group will hear from the founder of Black Truce and discuss upcoming events. Admission is free and open to all.

Sunday/May 19

"DECODING U.S.-CHINA TRADE" will be addressed in a Great Decisions program at 1:30 p.m. at the Waters of Highland Park,

678 S. Snelling Ave. The free hour-long program will include a 30-minute film followed by discussion. Call 651-363-3040.

THE ALPHA DELTA KAPPA Teacher Sorority will hold a scholarship fundraiser at 1:30 p.m. at Macalester Plymouth United Church, 1658 Lincoln Ave. Singer Dorothy Doring, a former teacher in the St. Paul Public Schools, will perform American standards from the Roaring '20s. Admission is \$20, and a reception will follow.

Monday/May 20

MOBILE MENDERS will offer its free sewing services from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the West Seventh Community Center, 265 Oneida St. Pants, shirts, stuffed toys—whatever needs mending will be repaired. Email mobilemenders2017@gmail.com.

BORDER GARDENS will be discussed by Martin Stern of Squire Gardens in Afton at a meeting of the Garden Club of Ramsey County at 7:30 p.m. at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 1807 Field Ave. New members are welcome. Visit ramseygardeners.org.

Wednesday/May 21

ST. PAUL MAYOR Melvin Carter invites citizens to discuss their priorities for the city's budget in 2020 at a public meeting from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Tiffany Sports Lounge, 2051 Ford Pkwy. The meeting will be led by the city's Office of Financial Services.

That's no bull

South Mpls. eatery is throwback to earlier times, gizzards and all

The last time I visited my mother-in-law in Charleston, South Carolina, I searched the Internet for restaurants that served award-winning chicken gizzards. I found an eatery in a rundown strip mall just down Old Savannah Highway from her house that reportedly had the best chicken gizzards around. My wife and I motored there only to find a “closed” sign—not as in “we’re not open, come back later,” but as in “we’re no longer in business, but if we pass our next health inspection, ya’ll come back.”

Mecca was relieved.

“Rats,” I said.

“No, not rats,” she said, “chicken gizzards, but close.”

“A well-cooked gizzard is a thing of joy,” I retorted.

“Apparently not joyful enough.”

She had me there. But I don’t need to travel all the way to Dixie to find scrumptious chicken gizzards. I can just stop by Bull’s Horn Food & Drink at 4563 34th Ave. S. in Minneapolis.

Bull’s Horn serves Crispy Chicken Gizzards (\$9). The secret, according to co-owner Amy Greeley, is simmering the gizzards for a few hours before frying them. “That makes them nice and tender,” she said. “So when we fry them, it just adds the crunch.”

Bull’s Horn fries the gizzards in a light batter that’s crunchy and sticks to the meat. It’s a tad spicy, too, so I couldn’t eat the entire basket without paying the price later. But believe me, I wanted to.

Gizzards can be a tough sell in this part of the country, Greeley admits, but she and her husband and business partner Doug Flicker keep them on the menu because they’re so good. Greeley grew up in Highland Park and attended Cretin-Derham Hall. She and Flicker now live near the west end of the Ford Bridge and for years they drove by the corner building that houses Bull’s Horn.

The one-story structure was built in 1927, and Bull’s Horn’s space probably served as a bar since shortly after the end of Prohibition in 1933. For a long time, as far back as the 1950s, it was known as the Sunrise Inn, and it reminded Greeley and Flicker of the neighborhood bars they used to know and love. The building’s “imperfections” were part of its charm, they said, and inspired the name and



Hot Dish

By Morgan Smith

logo for their restaurant—a bull’s head with one horn up and one horn down.

Greeley and Flicker used to own the Piccolo restaurant near Lake Harriet, and they still operate the Esker Grove restaurant in the Walker Arts Center and the Sandcastle on Lake Nokomis. They bought Bull’s Horn’s building in the spring of 2017 and expanded its kitchen into the adjacent commercial spaces. That kitchen now prepares food for Bull’s Horn, Sandcastle and several other eateries, including the Electric Noodle food truck.

The state-of-the-art kitchen and a new restroom take up most of the renovated space, but the dining room was also expanded and now seats about 60 at tables and 13 more at the bar. Greeley and Flicker found leftover wood paneling in the basement, so it’s almost impossible to distinguish the old part of the dining room from the new.

With the newly uncovered transom windows, a 1930s-era bar and back bar, the jukebox and Meat Raffle Mondays, Bull’s Horn is a throwback to earlier times. But don’t let that fool you. The operation is definitely 21st-century.

“We make a point of trying to be sustainable,” Greeley said. “We opened with a solid compost, recycling and waste program and last year we installed solar panels. Our kitchen uses sensors to run only as much (electricity) as needed, so it’s not going full steam whenever it’s on.” This summer the couple plan to construct a parking lot next to the restaurant’s patio with permeable pavers, cisterns and a rain garden to greatly reduce the amount of runoff on the property.

Besides the amazing gizzards, my first meal at Bull’s Horn included a Pit Ham Sandwich (\$12.50) with a side order upgraded from chips to baked beans for \$2. Mecca ordered the Weather Brooklyn Burger (\$7.75) with American cheese (\$.75) and an upgrade from



A bucket of Dill Pickle Fried Chicken and side dishes at Bull’s Horn. At right, the restaurant logo is rendered in a painting that hangs above a retro jukebox.

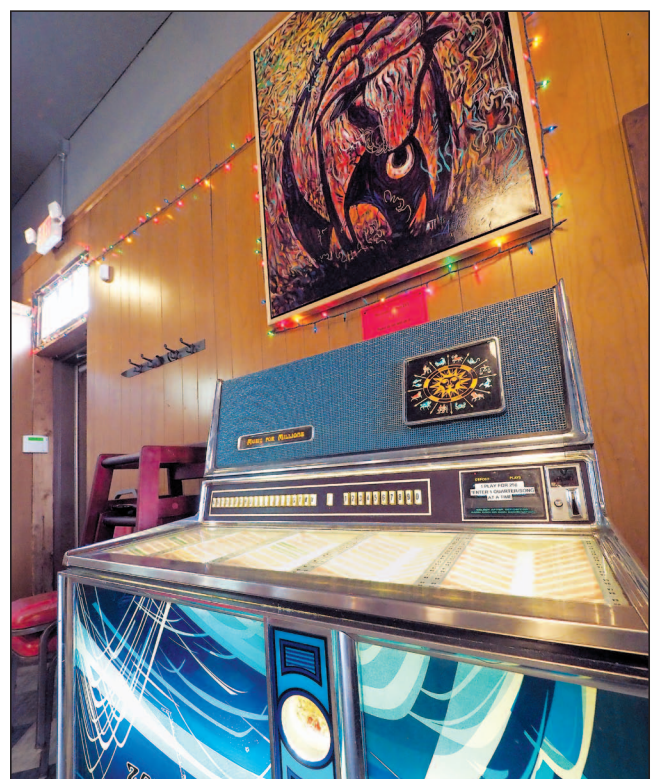
PHOTOS BY
BRAD STAUFFER

chips to fries (\$2).

The burger was fine, and Mecca’s fries were addictive. If I’d been at a potluck, I probably would’ve gone back for fourths on the baked beans. However, my Pit Ham Sandwich was a little on the dry side.

We had arrived at Bull’s Horn at about 5 p.m. on a Sunday and, soon after, families with young children were waiting for a table. The Sunday dinner special is Smoked BBQ Chicken (\$14 for a half chicken, \$26 for a whole), which comes with creamed corn, macaroni and cheese and one other side dish. The kitchen was pushing out golden-hued chicken halves as fast as it could barbecue them, and they looked delicious.

Bull’s Horn opens at 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday and at 11 a.m. Friday through Sunday. My friend Juan and I met there for lunch on a recent Friday. He ordered the House Pastrami Sandwich (\$12). I went with the dry-rub Fried Chicken Wings (\$7.50 for 8 pieces, \$11.25 for 12).



I’m not a big fan of pastrami, but Juan was more than happy with his sandwich. The Fried Chicken Wings disappeared quickly, and we both declared them fine eating.

My next foray to Bull’s Horn will be on a Wednesday, when the dinner special is meatloaf (\$16 for a half order, \$26 for a whole). Plus, Wednesday is Open Mic Comedy Night. Mouthwatering meatloaf, aspiring hams and a belly laugh or two: Sounds like a winning combination to me.

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On the Town

Rebirth of Ramsey Hill

Film recalls the pioneers who saved a gilded district from urban renewal

BY FRANK JOSSI

David McLaughlin was just a baby when his parents made the decision in 1971 to move to St. Paul's Ramsey Hill, a once well-heeled neighborhood of large, single-family homes that was suffering at the time from a troubling increase in crime, vacant commercial buildings and dilapidated housing. When his late parents, Mike and Judy McLaughlin, moved into their house at 275 Summit Ave., a beat cop came by and scolded his mother for bringing a baby into the neighborhood. "He said she was a horrible person about to make a huge mistake," McLaughlin said.

The McLaughlins were not the only ones making that "mistake" at the time. Many other young, urban pioneers and historic preservationists were also working to restore Ramsey Hill's old homes to their former glory. Those people and their successes are celebrated in the new documentary film, *St. Paul's Historic Hill: Salvaging a Gilded Past*.

The 56-minute movie will have its premiere as part of a fundraiser from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, May 16, in the Louis Hill mansion at 260 Summit Ave. The film will roll at 6:30 p.m. that night, and again at 2:15 and 3:30 p.m. Sunday, May 19, at the University Club, 420 Summit Ave. Tickets are \$100 for the fundraiser, \$25 for the other screenings, and are available at ramseyhill.org.

The documentary is largely the work of Dan Reed. Since moving to Ramsey Hill in the 1980s, Reed has met the cast of characters who helped reclaim the neighborhood's large old homes, many of which had been carved up into apartments.

"These people are starting to die off," Reed said. "We had to tell the incredible story of how they came together to make this one of the coolest neighborhoods in the Twin Cities."

The Ramsey Hill neighbors came together to stop the once-majestic homes from being demolished, to work with the city to reduce crime and to help one another restore the old homes. The Ramsey Hill Association was "a key player in the preservation movement," according to Reed. Mike and Judy McLaughlin were among the founding members of that neighborhood group.

Revitalizing the area was not a simple task. Ramsey Hill in the 1970s had one of the highest crime rates in the state, according to Reed. Neighborhood women were regularly accosted by johns looking to hire prostitutes. Those women once erected a sign at the corner of Selby and Western avenues that read: "Dear John, Soliciting is Bad for Your Health."

Prostitution eventually declined, but other problems persisted, Reed said. Ramsey Hill had been red-lined by bankers who refused to lend money to people wanting to buy homes in the neighborhood. City buses heading downtown would not stop for riders in Ramsey Hill. The historic Blair House at Selby and Western had no residents and no unbroken windows.

For a time in the late 1970s, the city considered wiping out the entire neighborhood and replacing the old manses with new tract homes, Reed said. Neighbors fought that idea. They also pressured the St. Paul Public Schools to improve the neighborhood's Webster (now Obama) Elementary School.

Ramsey Hill's revival required "an army" of people willing to buy into a vision of what the neighborhood could again be, Reed said. Neighbors, business people and developers invested in the improvements with no guarantee that they would pay off.

John Rupp was one of those investors. He bought the Dacotah Building in 1974 and opened W.A. Frost a year later. The bar and restaurant remain neighborhood landmarks today.

Peter Quinn, owner of Grand Avenue's Café Latte, moved to the Ramsey Hill area in the mid-1970s with his wife, Linda. The couple bought a house at 691 Portland Ave. for \$18,000 and restored it. Many of the neighborhood's houses were abandoned at the time, Quinn said, and some were being used for "illicit things. It wasn't a particularly safe neighborhood. One of the first nights we moved in, someone threw a rock through our window and we called the police. The police



David McLaughlin and his family live on the upper floors of this 1901 residence his parents renovated at 275 Summit Ave. He operates the Summit Manor wedding and reception venue on the first floor. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

said, 'Welcome to the neighborhood.'"

However, the architecture kept the Quinns in the neighborhood. They enjoyed restoring their Portland Avenue home so much that they began buying other properties in Ramsey Hill, eventually rehabilitating a dozen of them. "It was something we loved doing," he said. "There was great energy around restoring these old homes."

Christopher Keith, who moved to Ramsey Hill five years ago, served as a research historian for the film. Keith lives in the oldest remaining house on Summit Avenue, the 1857 David and Mary Stuart home at 312 Summit. A Merriam Park native, he fell in love with the historic homes of Ramsey Hill as a youngster. He used to beg his parents to drive down Summit Avenue just so he could look at the mansions.

As Keith studied the neighborhood's history, he found that it was in the 1960s when the

"major downswing" occurred. Many Ramsey Hill residents were moving to the suburbs and few families had the wherewithal or desire to remain in the old mansions.

The neighborhood's restoration began in the Cathedral Hill area and spread from east to west, although even in the 1980s the corner of Selby and Dale Street could be dangerous, Keith said. Assisting in Ramsey Hill's comeback was the creation of the National Register for Historic Places, a federal program that protected historic buildings from demolition.

Aaron Gjerde, the current president of the Ramsey Hill Association, moved into the neighborhood in 2001 and turned a former triplex at 143 Virginia St. into a beautifully restored single-family home. A man walking by a few years ago asked Gjerde if he still rented rooms, leading him to discover that his home had once served as a flophouse.

"It's a beautiful neighborhood," Gjerde said. "I love the old homes and the diversity, whether it's economic or ethnic. It's a common misconception that this neighborhood is full of rich people; it isn't. Everyone thinks the entire neighborhood is Summit Avenue."

Reed's film looks beyond Ramsey Hill to the larger Summit-University neighborhood, Gjerde said, and it addresses the renaissance of Grand Avenue, the revival of Summit Hill, the rise of the local Penumbra Theatre, and the displacement of residents due to gentrification.

What was the key to restoring Ramsey Hill? "The timing was perfect, in a way," McLaughlin said. "It was the right people at the right time who saw the potential. They were young people who bought these homes for nothing and had the vision to restore them."

St. Paul's Historic Hill: Salvaging a Gilded Past was sponsored by Twin Cities Public Television. TPT will air it at 7 p.m. Sunday, June 2, on its Minnesota Channel.



The exterior of the McLaughlin home and Summit Manor event center at 275 Summit.

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On the Town *Briefly*

Theater

Red Hot and Cole, a musical revue that traces American songwriter Cole Porter's career from Indiana to New York, London and Paris, is being staged through May 19 at Theatre in the Round, 245 Cedar Ave. S. in Minneapolis. The scintillating mixture of biography and song is directed by Mary Cutler with musical direction by Christopher Stordalen and choreography by Brianna Belland. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays and 7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 16. Tickets are \$25. Call 612-333-3010 or visit theatreintheround.org.

Shul, a new drama by Sheldon Wolf about the shrinking membership of a synagogue who must decide what to do with their old building, keep it, sell it or share it with the local Sikh community, is playing through May 19 on the Minnesota Jewish Theatre's stage at the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. Directed by Robert Dorfman, it stars Raye Birk, Nancy Marvy, Charles Numrich, Jóher Coleman, Avi Aharoni, Nat Fuller, Paul Schoenack and Dexieng Yang. The curtain rises at 8 p.m. Saturday, 1 p.m. Sundays, and 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays. Tickets are \$23-\$38. Call 651-647-4315 or visit mnjewishtheatre.org.

The Gun Show, a high-caliber drama by E.M. Lewis that aims to bridge the political divide over gun control, is being performed through May 18 by Uprising Theatre. Lauren Diesch stars. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Fridays, 1:30 and 7:30 p.m. Saturdays, and 7:30 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays at the Off-Leash Art Box, 4200 E. 54th St. in Minneapolis. Tickets are \$20. Call 612-520-1230 or visit uprisingtheatreco.com.

Marjorie Prime, a drama about the meaning of memory and the limits of artificial intelligence, is playing through May 19 on the thrust stage at Park Square Theatre, 20 W. Seventh Place. Candace Barrett Birk stars as an elderly woman in the early stages of dementia who moves in with her daughter and son-in-law and the hologram of her late husband Walter at the age of 30, who remembers only what the family chooses to tell him. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays. For ticket information, call 651-291-7005.



'God of Carnage.' Kari Elizabeth Godfrey (left), Colin Koll Healey and Kate Kennedy star in Yasmina Reza's *God of Carnage*, a comedy about civil discourse that will be performed by Lex-Ham Community Theater from May 10-18 at Dreamland Arts, 677 N. Hamline Ave. Show times are 7 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$16-\$20. Visit brownpapertickets.com/event/4214120.

Dirty Business: The Spy Musical, a passionate story of four women who helped change the course of World War II, is playing through May 26 at History Theatre, 30 E. 10th St. Written by Laurie Flanigan Hegge and Robert Elhai, the musical was inspired by Minneapolis-born Betty Pack, a young debutante who marries a British diplomat,

was recruited as a British spy and stole the code books from the Vichy French Embassy in New York City that enabled American forces to land safely in North Africa. Her story intersects with that of British spy mistress Vera Atkins, American code breaker Elizebeth Friedman and chanteuse Josephine Baker of the French Resistance. Kendall

Anne Thompson, Jennifer Baldwin Peden, Melanie Wehrmacher and Timotha Lanae star. Show times are 10 a.m. or 1:30 p.m. Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$15-\$56. Call 651-292-4323 or visit historytheatre.com.

The Brothers Paranormal is playing through May 26 at Penumbra Theatre, 270 N. Kent St. A collaboration between Penumbra and Theatre Mu, the thriller tells of two Thai-American siblings who launch a ghost-hunting business. When they investigate the home of an African-American couple displaced by Hurricane Katrina, what's real and what is fantasy clash against a shocking truth. Show times are 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays, 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays. For tickets, call 651-224-3180 or visit penumbraetheatre.org.

The Amazing Adventures of Acis and Galatea the Wonder Nymph will be performed by the Out of the Box Opera at 5, 7 and 9 p.m. Saturday, May 11, at the historic Pillsbury A-Mill, 315 Main St. SE in Minneapolis. Soprano Siena Forest and tenor David Walton star in this opera written in 1718 by George Handel and John Gay and based on Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. The epic story will be retold in four spaces within the old mill, from the crypt-like hydropower tunnels to the rooftop overlooking the Mississippi River. Tickets are \$50 and \$60, or \$65 and \$75 with two drinks. Visit outoftheboxopera.com.

Music

Jazz and blues pianist John Sims will perform from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, May 9, at Summit Brewing, 910 Montreal Circle, as part of the Minnesota Music Coalition's NoVox series. Admission is free.

A hymn festival honoring former cantor Paul O. Manz on the 100th anniversary of his birth will be presented by cantor David Cherwien and the Mount Olive Cantorei at 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 10, at Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 3045 Chicago Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Manz has been credited with creating the hymn festival template that combines creative hymnody, improvisation and words of reflection. Admission is free and open to all, and a reception will follow in

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The St. Paul Civic Symphony will present its annual Mother’s Day concert at 1 p.m. Sunday, May 12, at Landmark Center. The free program will feature the music of women composers, including Faust Overture by Emilie Mayer, Apu-Tone Poem for Orchestra by Gabriela Lena Frank, D’un soir triste and D’un matin de printemps by Lili Boulanger, and Symphony No. 3 by Grazyna Bacewicz.

Ginkgo Coffeehouse, 721 N. Snelling Ave., will play host to concerts by the following: The Belle Hollows, the Nashville folk duo of Rachel Johnson and Jeremy Johnson, at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 15 (tickets are \$12); Claudia Schmidt, guitarist, dulcimer player and singer extraordinaire, 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 17 (\$20); and veteran troubadour Bill Staines, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, June 1 (\$20). Visit ginkgocoffee.com or call 651-645-2647.

The St. Paul Vocal Forum will perform an eclectic array of music in concerts on May 18 and 19. The program “Sweet Music Awake!” will feature the premiere of an original work by Elizabeth Alexander commissioned to mark the 15th anniversary of the community choir. The shows will begin at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Unity Church-Unitarian, 733 Portland Ave., and at 4 p.m. Sunday at St. Michael’s Lutheran Church, 1660 W. County Road B in Roseville. Admission is free, though donations will be welcomed.

The Singers will conclude their 15th anniversary season on May 18 and 19 with the world premiere of “Helios” by Minnesota composer Tim Takach. The concert-length work is a choral cycle of 12 movements inspired by the planets of the solar system. The libretto explores the theme of chaos vs. control using myth, science and faith. The music will begin at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Nativity Catholic Church, 1900 Stanford Ave.; and 3 p.m. Sunday at First Lutheran Church, 1555 40th Ave. NE. in Columbia Heights. Tickets are \$22-36 (free for students at the door). Visit singersmca.org.

The Minnesota Boychoir will perform at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, May 19, at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 285 N. Dale St. Free and open to the public, the concert will feature a mix of sacred and secular works sung by 150 boys in four ensembles. Visit boychoir.org.

Books

The Great Books Discussion Group will delve into the genre of sudden fiction with a program on William Maxwell’s “The Country Where Nobody Ever Grew Old and Died” and Grace Paley’s “Wants” at 5 p.m. Wednesday, May 8, at the University Club, 420 Summit Ave. New members are welcome. Call 651-285-7550.

German author Takis Würger will discuss his novel, *The Club*, about the dark secrets of an exclusive group of privileged young men, at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 8, at Next Chapter Books, 38 S. Snelling Ave. Admission is free. Call 651-225-8989.

Let’s Go Fishing! *Fish Tales from the North Woods* author Eric Dregni will discuss his book in a free program at 7:45 p.m. Thursday, May 9, at Waldmann Brewery & Wurstery, 445 N. Smith Ave. An associate professor of English at Concordia University-St. Paul, Dregni will offer a fascinating and occasionally hilarious compendium of

fishing lore illustrated with historical postcards, advertisements and snapshots. For reservations, visit rchs.com or call 651-222-0701.

SubText Books, 6 W. Fifth St., will play host to readings by the editors and contributors of the poetry anthology, *Upon Waking: 58 Voices Speaking Out from the Shadow of Abuse*, on May 14; author Norm Mitchell from his novel, *The Hidden One*, May 16; and poet Dobby Gibson from his collection, *Little Glass Planet*, May 23 at Black Dog Cafe, 308 E. Prince St. The programs are free and begin at 7 p.m. at Subtext unless otherwise indicated. Call 651-493-2791.

Summit Hill author James Silas Rogers will introduce his new poetry collection, *The Collector of Shadows*, with a reading from 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, May 15, in the Oak Room at Sweeney’s Saloon, 96 N. Dale St. Admission is free. A cash bar will be available.

Frank M. White, author of *They Played for the Love of the Game: Untold Stories of Black Baseball in Minnesota*, will tell of outstanding athletes and sporting achievements of the past in St. Paul’s Rondo neighborhood at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 23, at the Roseville Library, 2180 N. Hamline Ave. Admission is free and open to all. Call 651-222-0701.

Exhibits

“The Good Making of Good Things,” a celebration of the American craft movement in wood, metal, fiber, ceramics and glass, is on view through June 2 at the Minnesota Museum of American Art, 350 N. Robert St. Curated by Elizabeth Essner, Lily Kane and Meaghan Roddy, the national touring exhibit features contemporary pieces as well as mid-century craft from the museum’s permanent collection. Admission is free. Call 651-797-2571 or visit mmaa.org.

“Eternal Beauty,” more than 30 landscape paintings by celebrated Minnesota artist Nicholas Brewer (1857-1949), are on view through September 8 in the art gallery of the James J. Hill House, 240 Summit Ave. Admission is free. Call 651-297-2555.

The Catherine G. Murphy Gallery at St. Catherine University is showing a retrospective of the paintings and prints of Professor Emerita Patricia Olson; “Nostalgic Femininity,” an exploration of the relationship between nostalgia and gender in Japanese woodblock prints of the late 19th century; and the work of senior studio art major Amanda Grove. “Nostalgic Femininity” curator Christina Spiker will speak at 6 p.m. Monday, May 13. Admission is free. Visit gallery.stkate.edu.

“Close to the Edge: The Birth of Hip-Hop Architecture” is on view through June 15 at SpringBOX, 262 University Ave. Curated by Sekou Cooke of the Syracuse University School of Architecture, the show explores this emerging architectural movement through the work of 25 professionals, academics and students. Gallery hours are noon-8 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays. Visit aia-mn.org/hip-hop.

“The Tree Show,” an exhibit of paintings, drawings, photography, textiles, ceramics, sculpture and installations inspired by trees, is being displayed through May 25 at Vine Arts Center, 2637 27th Ave. S.

in Minneapolis. Demonstrations of botanical printmaking will be offered from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday May 11. Participating artists will discuss their works from 6-8 p.m. Friday, May 17. Visit vineartscenter.org.

“Minnesota Cloudscapes,” a collection of large-scale abstract impressionist paintings by Heather Friedli, is on view through May 15 in Landmark Gallery at the Schmidt Artist Lofts, 900 W. Seventh St. The gallery is open from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays. Call 248-660-3771 for a private viewing.

“This Beautiful World,” an exhibition by local photographer Joe Linn, is being displayed through June 2 at AZ Gallery, 308 Prince St. Linn has traveled extensively, capturing beautiful scenes with his camera. Gallery hours are 5-8 p.m. Thursday and Friday and 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Admission is free.

“Helix: The Curious Natural World of Mary Roettger,” a retrospective of the 30-year career of the late clay sculptor, will be displayed from May 10 through June 23 in the Emily Galusha Gallery at Northern Clay Center, 2424 E. Franklin Ave. in Minneapolis. A members’ exhibition will run concurrently in the Main Gallery. An opening reception for both shows will be held from 6-8 p.m. Friday, May 17. Admission is free. Call 612-339-8007 or visit northernclaycenter.org.

“City Bus at Day, City Bus at Night, No Clouds Everywhere,” an installation by Minneapolis artist Dietrich Sieling that reflects his longtime love for the interior world of the city bus, will open with a public reception from 5-8 p.m. Thursday, May 16, at the Minnesota Museum of American Art, 350 N. Robert St. Sieling has populated two-story Rauenhorst Court with painted blocks, bus doors, exit lights, larger-than-life passengers and intricate patterns and text, all with a dazzling vinyl sun overhead. Admission to the reception is free, but reservations are required. The installation will remain on view until September 22. Call 651-797-2571.

Family

Tuck Everlasting, a play based on the book by Natalie Babbitt about aging, dying and what it means to be immortal, is being staged by the Youth Performance Company Thursdays through Sundays through May 19 at the Howard Conn Fine Arts Center, 1900 Nicollet Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Tickets are \$7-\$15. Call 612-623-9080 or visit youthperformanceco.org.

Red Balloon Bookshop, 891 Grand Ave., will play host to the following: a book launch with illustrator Rosemary Valero-O’Connell and her graphic novel, *Laura Dean Keeps Breaking Up With Me*, at 6:30 p.m. May 7; a reading of llama-themed stories, including the new picture book *Llama Destroys the World!*, 10:30 a.m. May 9; Christine Riccio and her debut novel, *Again, but Better*, 6:30 p.m. May 9; and a panel discussion about new books with Minnesota authors Jacqueline West, Pete Hautman, Kirstin Cronn-Mills and Bryan Bliss, 6:30 p.m. May 14. Call 651-224-8320.

Kaleidoscope returns in May with an array of free cultural performances suitable for children age 5 and under at St. Paul Public Library branches. The schedule includes MN Opera Presents

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'Threefold!' New works by choreographers Penelope Freeh, Helen Hatch and Sally Rousse that pay tribute to legendary dancer and teacher Bonnie Mathis will be performed by the St. Paul Ballet on May 23-25 at the Southern Theater, 1420 Washington Ave S. in Minneapolis. The program includes Freeh's "Simple Folk," a quartet featuring Freeh, Rousse, Da'Rius Malone and Chris Hannon set to folk songs transcribed by Beethoven; Hatch's "The Machine Stops," based on an E.M. Forster story and featuring dancers Berit Ahlgren, Kacey Hauk and Elayna Waxse and a live score by Seth Conover and Micah Patchin; and Rousse's "Reckoning Agents," a trio with dancers Rousse, Dmitri Peskov and Eve Schulte. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday and 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday. Tickets are \$13-\$28 or whatever you can afford for the Saturday matinee. Call 612-326-1811. Above are dancers Berit Ahlgren and Kacey Hauk. PHOTO BY DAN NORMAN

Watershed Community Conversations

May 13, May 30 & June 4



Photo: Caroline Yang

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Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD) is hosting conversations with residents to learn more about the needs and interests of your community, desired improvements and opportunities to work together to better manage rainwater runoff and achieve cleaner waters.

Your input will help guide development of CRWD's 2020 Watershed Management Plan. Once created, the plan serves as the road map for our work through 2030. Please join us at one of four conversations hosted throughout the District.

Activities for kids and food provided as well as a drawing for Bell Museum tickets.

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at 11:30 a.m. May 9 and Play With Music at 11:30 a.m. May 16 at the West Seventh Library, 265 Oneida St. (651-298-5516); Play With Music at 10:30 a.m. May 9 and Petite Concerts at 10:30 a.m. May 16 at the St. Anthony Park Library, 2245 Como Ave. (651-642-0411); Kaleiokapilialoha Hula Dance at 10:30 a.m. May 10 and Play With Music at 10:30 a.m. May 17 at the Hamline-Midway Library, 1558 Minnehaha Ave. (651-642-0293); Afoutayi Haitian Dance at 11:30 a.m. May 11 and Siam's Congo Music at 11:30 a.m. May 18 at the Latimer Library, 90 W. Fourth St. (651-266-7000); Siam's Congo Music at 4:30 p.m. May 15 and Lalo's Lunchbox Live at 4:30 p.m. May 22 at the Rondo Library, 461 N. Dale St. (651-266-7400); and Kaleiokapilialoha Hula Dance at 10:30 a.m. May 20 and Tap, Shake, Scrape at 10:30 a.m. May 31 at the Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy. (651-695-3700). Visit sppl.org/kaleidoscope.

"Como: Making A Global Impact," a series of free lectures, will continue at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays through May at the Como Park Zoo & Conservatory's Visitor Center Exhibit Gallery. Each week a different champion of conservation will share stories, photos and videos from their efforts in the field and discuss how local folks can make a global impact. The schedule includes Como zookeeper Adam, who recently spent some time in Namibia working with the Giraffe Conservation Foundation, on May 12; Como zookeeper Becky, who recently went to California to help rescue and rehabilitate sick, injured, malnourished, orphaned, entangled and oiled marine mammals, May 19; and Como zookeeper Ruthie, who recently spent time working with the turtle populations in Texas, May 26.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will present an Urban Birding Festival from Thursday through Sunday, May 16-19, at the Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave. Featured will be a host of hands-on activities, bird crafts, demonstrations and outdoor bird watching, weather permitting. For library hours, call 651-642-0385.

Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy., will play host to the following free programs: Yarn Night, fiber therapy for all ages and abilities, at 6:15 p.m. Thursday, May 16; a performance and instruction in the ancient Polynesian art of hula dancing by

Kaleiokapilialoha from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Monday, May 20; and a workshop in LED-illuminated embroidery at 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 21. Call 651-695-3700.

Intergenerational Play Time with stories, songs and live ukelele music will be offered from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesday, May 21, at the Minnesota Veterans Home, 5101 Minnehaha Ave. S. in Minneapolis. The free program is open to babies, toddlers, preschoolers and their parents. Call Erin Betlock at 612-548-5751.

Dance

Ballet Co.Laboratory will present a new take on the classic fable *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry on May 18 and 19 at SteppingStone Theatre, 55 N. Victoria St. *Remembering the Little Prince* is told from the perspective of a young girl who longs for more quality time with her workaholic father. She transports him to the world of the Little Prince and helps him view life through the eyes of an inquisitive child. The ballet features over 50 dancers, including company professionals and students and guest artists. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$22, \$27 and \$33. A special show narrated completely in French will be offered at 6 p.m. Friday, May 17. Visit balletcolaboratory.org.

Et cetera

The St. Paul Conservatory of Music will introduce its new Contemporary Music program with a celebratory launch from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 23, at the school's Summit Center for Arts and Innovation, 1524 Summit Ave. Four members of the faculty will perform beginning at 5 p.m., including violinist Randy Sabien, former chair of the McNally Smith College of Music String Department; singer, composer and guitarist Harry Chalmiers, former president of McNally Smith; singer Jen Parker; and drummer Arthur "L.A." Buckner. The performances will be followed by a reception and information about the Contemporary Music Program, which will begin offering classes in the fall in rock, blues, jazz, folk, bluegrass and other genres for students of all ages. For information, visit thespcm.org.

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By Dave Wright

Hot Twins are cold at the gate

The Major League Baseball season is a month old. By the time most people read this, the Minnesota Twins will have played roughly one-fifth of their 2019 schedule. That's long enough to start taking some numbers seriously.

The best number is 1, as in Minnesota's place in the American League's Central Division. The Twins were 2½ games ahead of Cleveland as this was being written. But as always, there are some codicils to be considered. For one thing, the Twins have only faced the Indians, considered the best team in the division, three times and that was in the season-opening series at Target Field. The Twins don't visit Cleveland until June. By then the Indians, who have been hobbled with injuries, may be harder to handle.

No matter though. The early season has seen Minnesota bash the ball with a vengeance, including a plethora of home runs—several of which bring back memories of sluggers like Harmon Killebrew and Kent Hrbek. The Twins, for the most part, have also enjoyed some solid pitching.

Few folks in these parts expected such a good start. However, it has not been reflected in the turnstile numbers at Target Field. As of May 2, the average gate count was listed as 16,814—24th among AL teams. And that's the announced attendance. The reality is, there have been a lot fewer fannies in the seats.

Some quick explanations come to mind:

1. The weather has been brutal, with lots of games played in temperatures of 50 degrees or less. With virtually every game now available on television and school still in session, fans are clearly in a wait-and-see mode.

2. The Twins are paying for their past sins. Unlike fans of the Vikings, and to a lesser extent those of the Wild, Twins fans are not as easily lured by early success. However, the baseball season is long and, if the past is a prologue, attendance should pick in another month or so.

3. The changing nature of baseball is that fans don't identify as readily with players as they used to. There are a fair amount of names on the Twins' roster that we've known for a while, but many of the players who've helped elevate the team are new to local fans.

The latter point may explain why several teams are running into the same identity problem the Twins have. There are currently a dozen MLB teams whose attendance is down, and 10 of them are averaging under 20,000 a game. With the huge salaries that must be paid to attract new players to town, that makes owners nervous. It's probably a bit early to panic about these numbers, but it's not too early to start worrying.

Gophers also look to boost attendance

The Twins aren't the only team in town looking to improve its attendance figures. The University of Minnesota looked at its attendance for men's basketball and hockey games and apparently gulped with dismay. On his way out the door, university president Eric Kaler has a not-so-novel idea for how get more people into Williams and Mariucci arenas—ply them with beer and wine.

That has already been done for the people who sit in the premium seats at those venues. Now Kaler wants the same for the people in the cheap seats. He said he'll ask the U of M regents for permission. One of those regents, Michael Hsu, supports the idea, telling a media outlet: "We have to be competitive with other venues." This was an apparent reference to local professional sports arenas and stadiums in town where you can get any type of alcohol you want—for a price.

It sounds reasonable, but one wonders what that might be like at Williams Arena, which wasn't built with this in mind.

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Drive to succeed

Hutchinson sets the course for Central girls' golf

BY BILL WAGNER

Central High School senior Iyanna Hutchinson has been playing golf since she was 4 years old. However, the three-time state tournament participant and five-time all-conference golfer for the Minutemen would be the first to tell you that her outstanding career in the sport might have gotten off to such a promising start because of a fib.

Hutchinson had a chance to play in golf tournaments throughout the state as part of a summer youth program run by her uncle, David Goodlow, who helps coach the Central boys' golf team. The only trouble was, she was too young to participate.

"I needed to be 7, but I was still just 6," Hutchinson recalled. "Yes, my Mom lied," she added with a chuckle.

Being too young didn't faze her in the least. She posted the best score of all age groups that competed that summer.

Hutchinson, who will golf next year at Division III Augsburg University, has been beating a lot of rivals on golf courses ever since. She has continued to improve each year after she began competing for the Minutemen in seventh grade. She has been to the state tourney each year since she was a freshman and has finished as high as 20th in state Class AAA competition.

In her first two meets this spring, she was the medalist, shooting a 37 in a dual meet against Minneapolis Southwest on April 18 at the Hiawatha Golf Course, and was the co-medalist, with a 32, at the Par 3 Friendship Tournament on April 23 at Roseville Cedarholm Golf Course.

Hutchinson was ranked 29th in the state, regardless of class, as of last week by the Minnesota Golf Association. She can drive the ball 270-285 yards and her 18-hole average last season was 82. Some people who analyze her game say that she still needs to make some adjustments for collegiate competition, but her coach doesn't buy it.

Orth supplies steady hand for Sibley softball

BY BILL WAGNER

Softball pitcher Jaelyn Orth can get batters out in any number of ways. The Sibley High School junior right-hander has a blistering fastball, but can also change speeds to throw off a hitter's timing.

"Her fastball makes her changeup that much more effective," said Sibley coach Phil Stohr.

Through May 3, Orth had seven victories and 72 strikeouts, which ranked among the best in the state in both categories. She also had a 1.11 earned run average for the Warriors, who were 8-3



Senior Iyanna Hutchinson is now in her sixth year of being a standout on the links for the Minutemen.

PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

"She's the real deal," said Steven Jents, who's in his first year of coaching the Central girls. "She's one of the longest hitters in the state—she bombs it. And there's not a weakness in her game. I'd be shocked if she weren't the medalist in every tournament we have this year before sections and state."

Jents especially likes the way Hutchinson thinks her way around a course. "She has the right mental makeup for it," he said. "She can forget about a bad shot and move on."

Hutchinson, who was recently presented with a St. Paul Athena Award as Central's top female student athlete, said she's happy with the way her season has gone so far. However, she did note that there are some things she needs to improve in her game.

"My putting is pretty good," she said. "It's a lot better than it used to be. I just need to keep my concentration."

This year, Central has 13 golfers between the varsity and junior varsity girls' teams. Last year, Hutchinson was the only one competing for the girls. She would enter competitions as an individual against other girls, but practiced

with the Central boys.

This year is different. All of the other members of the Central girls' teams are freshmen, which Hutchinson likes. "You can really build a program if you have girls coming up together," she said.

According to her, being the school's sole girls' golfer for a season wasn't all that bad. "Golf is more of an individual sport anyway," she said. "I'm used to being on my own. I try my best to stay positive. You can't let it bother you if you make a bad shot. I just want to keep my head clear."

She definitely has the physical skills to excel. "My uncle David says that my hand-to-eye coordination is really something," she said.

Augsburg golf coach Eric Rolland worked hard to get Hutchinson on board for next year and she said she's excited about her golfing for the Auggies next year. However, Hutchinson still hasn't ruled out transferring to a Division I school if things go well in college. "I'd love for that to happen," she said.

For this spring, her objective is clear. "The goal is to make top 10 in the state," she said.

overall.

Orth was on fire early in the season with a stretch that included four straight shutouts and 27 consecutive scoreless innings. In one 19-inning span, she struck out 17 and walked only four while giving up just 10 hits.

Orth fanned 11 batters in a hard-fought 2-1 victory at Hill-Murray on April 25. She also struck out 10, but gave up two unearned runs, in a 4-2 loss at Mahtomedi on April 23.

Stohr said Orth still has not hit on all cylinders. "She's really locked in and focused right now, but she'll get better and better," he said. "She's getting stronger as

the season goes on."

Stohr said he has to resist the temptation to give Orth the ball more than he does, since the more time she gets on the mound, the more time she craves. While there are no state high school league-imposed limits for the number of innings pitched in softball, Stohr said he is careful not to push her to do unnecessary duty if a game's outcome is all but assured.

While Orth admitted she doesn't like being pulled from games, she understands Stohr's position. "I'm definitely a

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competitor,” she said, “but I also think it’s good for our younger players to get experience.”

Orth comes from an athletic family. Her father, Tom, is the Sibley football coach and her mother, Domonique, is the pitching coach under Stohr. Orth said she gets a lot of support from both her parents.

“My dad focuses on the athletic-related parts of the game, while my mom handles more of the specifics of my pitching,” she said.

When she is not on the mound, Orth serves as either a designated hitter or shortstop. She bats third in the lineup and through May 3 was tied for first on the team with a .486 batting average, had 17 hits and 12 runs batted in.

Stohr noted that Orth also runs the bases well and believes she deserves strong consideration for all-state honors.

“That would be an incredible honor,” Orth said, “but what I’m really trying to do is whatever I can to help my team win.”

Orth also plays basketball and tennis for Sibley, but loves softball most of all and expects to continue playing after high school. “I’m not sure about where I’ll be attending college yet,” she said, “but I definitely want to play softball.”

Asked what she would bring to the table



Junior pitcher Jaelyn Orth has been sending the heat for the Warriors softball team. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

as a college player, Orth was candid. “I think my biggest asset would be my work ethic and determination,” she said. “No matter what my role would be or what position I’d play, my focus would be on the team.”

Sports Shorts

Annah Schmitt, 10, of Highland Park won the 31KG weight class championship in the intermediate category during the USA Judo Youth National Championships in March in Colorado Springs. She trains at the Grappler Station, 614 S. Snelling Ave.

St. Peter’s Women’s Golf League will begin play on May 9 at the Highland 9-Hole Golf Course. The league will tee it up on Thursday mornings through September. Annual dues are \$25. Call Monica Daley at 651-698-5289.

The Tuesday Highland Niners started their 45th golf season on May 7. Annual dues are \$50. Contact Louise O’Hara at 612-518-6492.

The Highland 9 Monday Senior Golf League is looking for men and women ages 55 and older to become new members. The league has reserved tee times from 7:30-9 a.m. on Mondays from May through September at the Highland 9-Hole Golf Course. Annual dues are \$25. Contact Steve Borries at 612-360-7925 or sfborries@msn.com.

Madeline Moberg, a 2015 graduate of Central High School and member of the women’s swimming team at Bates College in Maine, received 2018-19 all-academic honors from the New England Small College Athletic Conference. She is the daughter of Michael Moberg and Sarah Lewis of St. Paul.

The Officer Scott Patrick Memorial 5K Walk/Run to support Special Olympics Minnesota will be held at 9 a.m. Saturday, June 1, at the Village at Mendota Heights. Registra-

tion is \$25 in advance or \$30 on the day of the event. Participants will receive a T-shirt. Visit tinyurl.com/y34ug6qs under “special events.”

The St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce’s 32nd annual Golf Classic will take place from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday, July 8, at Mendakota Country Club in Mendota Heights. The cost is \$200 before June 24 and includes greens fees, cart, lunch, dinner, beverages, special events and tournament giveaways. Visit tinyurl.com/y3epmhvy or call 651-223-5000.

The Gus Macker 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament will take place on Saturday and Sunday, June 15-16, at St. Paul College. The entry fee is \$160 per four-person team. Proceeds will benefit Spare Key and the Minnesota Law Enforcement Memorial Association. Register by May 27 at macker.com/st-paul-mn-2019-2.

Highland Park Senior High School students Chloe Smith and Seth Zeitchick signed letters of intent on April 22 to play Division III sports next year. Smith will be playing softball for St. Olaf and Zeitchick will be playing football for Gustavus Adolphus.

St. Paul JAM Basketball group sessions will be offered this summer at the Nova Classical Academy gym, 1455 Victoria Way. Players entering grades 4-9 will learn how to improve their offensive skills while having fun playing plenty of basketball. Sessions run weekly beginning June 10 through July 25 (no sessions the week of July 4). Players are typically scheduled for two or more days per week Visit stpauljam.com for details.

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For years the whole idea was that if you needed a snootful in advance of a game you went to Stub & Herb’s or a similar watering hole.

The opening of TCF Bank Stadium brought with it beer and wine sales for Gopher football games. Kaler’s theory is such a move will bring in extra revenue and perhaps fans to other venues on campus. To which regent Dean Johnson asked, “Do you have to have alcohol to enjoy everything?”

Perhaps not, but the line between Division I college games and professional sports events is blurring. This may be just a sign of the times.

The Gophers have tried a second tack to increase attendance at games by doing something rarely seen these days—lowering ticket prices. Season tickets for men’s basketball next season will start at \$340, the lowest figure in 23 years. Season tickets for men’s hockey now start at \$500, a \$100 reduction from last year.

In the case of hockey, it’s an attempt to win back disaffected

folks who were unhappy with trading games with the University of Minnesota Duluth and North Dakota for Big Ten contests against Ohio State and Penn State. It’s also an admission that the grand plan used by NFL teams of seat licensing doesn’t work with this crowd. The new plan may get them a few folks back, but the reality is college hockey fans are a smart bunch. They had something they liked a lot taken away from them. In the interim, they found other games to go to and simply lost interest in the Gophers.

Once gone, it may take more than beer, wine and a reduced ticket price to win them back.

Rare honor for Tommies’ Sinn

This is something that just doesn’t happen very often. Ruth Sinn’s women’s basketball teams at the University of St. Thomas have dominated the MIAC in a way any coach could only envy. The Tommies have won 74 straight conference games and have been overwhelming league opponents for some time now.

Still, Division III coaches rarely get to step out of their level in basketball. Sinn will be an exception when she serves on the staff of the 2019 U16 women’s national hoops team. Sinn will be in Colorado Springs in a couple of weeks for the team tryouts. The tournament will be held in Chile on June 16-22.

Role model gets her day on court

Following the Minnesota Twins’ lead with Joe Mauer, the Minnesota Lynx will retire Lindsay Whalen’s No. 13 jersey on June 8 at Target Center. Now the Gopher women’s basketball coach, Whalen played the game the right way—hard and determined. She asked no quarter and gave none as a pro. Her first year as a college coach brought some early success, tempered by the reality of life in the Big Ten.

And she handled it all with grace. In an era when folks are crying out for role models, Whalen is doing it the right way—quietly.

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

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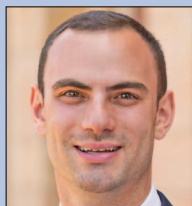
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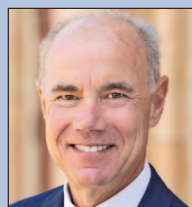
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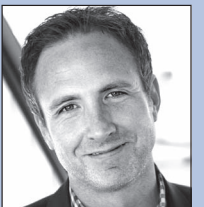
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