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### CITY BEAT

St. Paul police chief defends his officers' actions during the GOP convention ▶ 6

### FOOD



Talking turkey ▶ 27

### CLOSE TO HOME

Institute on Summit bids *Willkommen* to those interested in German culture ▶ 18

### ARTS



Beauty & the dead beast ▶ 31

### SPORTS



CDH returns to state ▶ 35

NEWS BRIEFS .....	2
VIEWPOINT .....	8
CRIME REPORT .....	16
DISTRICT COUNCILS.....	20
KIOSK .....	29
CLASSIFIEDS .....	40

## Shifting economy opens new fissures in St. Paul's budget

### Never mind 2009, council is having to plug million-dollar holes in '08 budget

BY JANE McCLURE

The sluggish economy has left a big hole in the budget for St. Paul's Department of Safety and Inspections (DSI). Though the city is seeing a big increase in vacant building registration fees and a slight increase in license fees, the revenue it derives from building permits has dropped precipitously, leaving DSI \$1.7 million in the red for 2008.

DSI isn't the only city department whose budget for 2008 is coming up short. The City Council, while it struggles to craft a tight city budget for 2009, is having to sort through a host of 2008 departmental budgets in an effort to bring them into balance. Most of the other departmental deficits are due to miscalculations in the cost of fringe benefits. That problem is especially severe in the Police Department, where the deficit has been estimated at \$1.6 million.

Because DSI's budget is largely fee-supported, it is greatly affected by changes in the housing market, business licenses and permit applications. Though the total number of building permits in St. Paul in 2008 is not expected to change much from 2007, the permits that are being pulled are for smaller construction projects, which come with lower fees.

"We had no idea the bottom would fall out for commercial projects," said DSI director Bob Kessler. According to him, the overall effect could be a 20 percent decline in revenue to DSI from building permit fees. However, the decline in revenue is not affecting the department's work load. Kessler is questioning how DSI can keep up if it has to lay off staff.

CITY BUDGET DEFICITS ▶ 5



Treza Rosado (center) and other St. Catherine students outlined their opposition to the college's policy on nonpartisanship during an October 27 protest. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

## St. Catherine officials come under fire for turning away political luminaries

### In election year, college takes nonpartisanship to unnecessary extremes, student group says

BY KEVIN DRISCOLL

College of St. Catherine administrators are reconsidering their policy for allowing political activists to speak on campus following a brouhaha in October over their decision to turn back such offers by third parties affiliated with DFL congressional candidates Al Franken and Betty McCollum, conservative political pundit Bay Buchanan and U.S. Senator Hillary Clinton (D-New York).

A group called Concerned Students of St. Kate's said they had gathered more than 235 signatures on a letter denouncing the St. Catherine administration's actions. The 800-word document criticized the college for "pursuing a path of neutrality" at the expense of political engagement. It asked, "How can we foster political engagement in a climate that does not allow either side of the aisle to speak on campus during a critical election year?"

St. Catherine president Sister Andrea Lee, in a letter to St. Catherine trustees, explained that while college administrators wanted to encourage political discourse among students, they had decided early this fall that they also wanted to be "especially vigilant to ensure that the college avoid any appearance of partisanship. This was necessary, we felt, because there are prevalent assumptions concerning St. Catherine's presumed partisan leanings."

Lee denied that the college had succumbed to any external pressure in turning down the requests for Franken, McCollum, Buchanan and Clinton to speak on campus. The administration's decisions, she said, "were consistent, based on a thoughtful and principled premise, and carefully made."

The state DFL Party had asked St. Catherine to allow Franken and McCollum to speak on campus. However, the college does not have a chartered Democrat student group on campus to sponsor those speakers, Lee said, "and the college itself will not sponsor a political speaker without offering a similar opportunity

ST. KATE'S PROTEST ▶ 4

## Decision time nears for bicycle boulevard

### Some residents favor sharing road, others fear users' safety

BY JANE McCLURE

Nearly 150 neighborhood residents turned out for a public hearing before the Highland District Council's Transportation Committee on October 27 to discuss turning Highland Parkway and Edgumbe Road into St. Paul's first bicycle boulevard. If the public testimony at that meeting is any indication, residents are evenly split over the plan to allow those streets to be shared equally by cars and bicycles.

About two dozen of the 150 people in attendance addressed the committee. Proponents said that the bicycle boulevard would make the two streets more accessible to bicyclists and that additional sidewalks in places where there are currently none would make the streets safer

for pedestrians. Brian Strong, a Highland Parkway resident and cyclist, said he would welcome the bicycle boulevard. "My agenda is to go faster and farther," he said, "and I hope my property value goes up."

Fellow Highland Parkway resident Tom Matre also favors the bicycle boulevard. "I can't understand why people are against it," he said. "It's as if the apocalypse is coming by allowing all of these bikes."

Opponents said the bicycle boulevard would not be safe and could affect access to their homes. Highland Parkway residents Roger Maulik and Sue Laine, representing Citizens for Safe Biking, said they have gathered 200 signatures on a petition against the bicycle boulevard.

"We've come to the conclusion that the plan is badly flawed and needs to be put on hold," Maulik said. He said he fears that children will be killed by vehicles in the street or vehicles backing out of driveways.

Laine said the bicycle boulevard does not meet Minnesota Department of Transportation standards, a claim that St. Paul Public Works Department staff denies. She also spoke of safety concerns from a liability standpoint. "The residents of Highland Parkway will have to increase their liability insurance to defend themselves," Laine said. "And the city will be sued."

HDC Transportation Committee chair Brent Van Tassel said residents are welcome to continue to contact the district council with their thoughts on the bicycle boulevard. (Comments may be submitted at [www.highlanddistrictcouncil.org](http://www.highlanddistrictcouncil.org).) The committee will make its recommendation on November 24, and the full district council board will vote on the matter on December 3. The HDC's recommendation will go to the St. Paul City Council for a final vote in January to decide whether or not the bicycle boulevard will

BIKE BOULEVARD ▶ 4

# News Briefs

## It's end of road for assessment on Osceola Ave. cobblestones

Osceola Avenue residents living on the block between Chatsworth and Milton streets will pay \$40 per front foot for an ill-fated sandstone street-paving project, the St. Paul City Council decided on October 22. The lower assessment was approved after a public hearing earlier in October when residents complained of the poor job that was done two years ago to remove, clean and replace the sandstone pavers. Ward 3 council member Pat Harris cast the lone vote against the assessment.

That stretch of Osceola is one of St. Paul's few remaining streets paved with cobblestones. Residents and motorists have complained that the 2006 reconstruction, which was done by two different contractors, resulted in a bumpy, bone-rattling street surface. They have disagreed with city officials over the assessment amount for months.

The assessment amount was initially \$90 per front foot. Reconstruction of the block cost \$363,214, with the neighbors' share set at \$67,343.95. Residents with asphalt streets paid \$35.71 per front in 2006 under the same street-paving project.

Ward 2 council member Dave Thune expressed disappointment with the outcome of the effort to save the historic street. "I don't think there's any solution that will make everybody happy," he said. "I think we found out the hard way that relaying old cobblestones is not easy."

Council president Kathy Lantry said there needs to be a policy discussion before any more historic streets are rebuilt in St. Paul. (A few brick streets in the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood are scheduled to be rebuilt in 2009.) The city has had better luck removing, cleaning and replacing brick. Sandstone pavers are more difficult because the stones wear down more quickly over the years.

## Developers get 2nd extension on Schmidt Brewery purchase

Brewtown LLC, which intends to convert the old Schmidt Brewery into a mixed-used urban village, may be running out of time to do so. The developers were unable to meet an October 21 deadline to close on the purchase of the 15-acre West End property as they continue to seek financing for the \$200 million project. Brewtown has been given a 30-day extension, the second time the deadline has been extended. The first extension was granted in April.

Brewtown is composed of father-son developers Jeff and Craig Cohen and the West 7th/Fort Road Federation. The Cohens have paid about \$600,000 thus far in nonrefundable deposits on the project. They have one partner, Dominion Development, which would purchase the former bottling house and turn it into 115 artists' lofts. Dominion also would build 15 rental townhouses on a 2.5-acre vacant parcel nearby. Dominion cannot close



Cooper's SuperValu on West 7th Street and St. Clair Avenue was transformed into an old-time Red Owl, complete with vintage vehicles, on October 24 for the filming of *A Serious Man*. Set in Minnesota in the 1960s, it is the latest film by Oscar-winning directors and St. Louis Park natives Joel and Ethan Coen. At left, one of the props crew appears to be checking out some groceries inside the store. PHOTOS BY ANNE BRANDRUD

on the sale until Brewtown does.

The St. Paul City Council has approved the site plan and financing for the Dominion project. It also has worked with the developers to obtain funds for pollution testing and cleanup.

The brewery property has been vacant since the Gopher State Ethanol plant closed in 2004. The last beer was brewed there in 2002 when Minnesota Brewing Company closed, marking the end of almost 150 years of beer production at the site.

## CommonBond seeks funding to clean up Lex-Ham property

CommonBond Communities is applying for Metropolitan Council and state funding for a pollution investigation and cleanup of its proposed Lexington Commons on the southwest corner of Lexington Parkway and Central Avenue. The St. Paul City Council approved the grant application on October 22.

CommonBond wants to convert the former Lexington Nursing Home into apartments for homeless people. It would own the apartments and provide support services and property management. The project would also include the construction of a new headquarters for the nonprofit housing development agency, which is currently located in downtown St. Paul.

CommonBond already owns a former

chiropractic clinic and a vacant home in the vicinity, and has reportedly made offers on other nearby properties. The clinic and house would be torn down and a three-level office would be built in their place at a cost of about \$8 million. Another \$6 million to \$8 million would be spent on turning the former nursing home, which has been vacant for more than two years, into 48 efficiency apartments.

Some neighbors oppose the project. The Union Park and Lexington-Hamline community councils are holding meetings with neighbors to discuss the development.

## HRA provides \$100,000 grant for Highland housing project

A proposal to build affordable housing in Highland Park received a boost last month when the St. Paul City Council, acting as the Housing and Redevelopment Authority, agreed to provide \$100,000 of Invest St. Paul funds to help Project for Pride in Living extend its purchase option for a site at West 7th Street and Snelling Avenue.

The project is at a very early stage, said Barb McCormick of Project for Pride in Living. At this point, a three-story, 48-unit building is envisioned, with one-, two- and three-bedroom units. Ten of the units would provide supportive family housing. Families would have to meet guidelines for low-income housing to live in the apartments. The project has

an estimated cost of \$11.5 million.

The proposal is consistent with the Highland District Plan, which calls for medium-density housing at the site, McCormick said. "We like the site because it's on a bus line and is close to shopping on West 7th," she said, "but we know it could be a while before the site is developed."

McCormick said public meetings will be held before anything new is built on the site, which is currently home to a video rental store. Over the past few years the property has been eyed for a variety of uses, including a dialysis clinic. CVS Pharmacy also reportedly has expressed interest in the site.

## Twin Cities car-sharing service unveils first solar charging hub

HourCar, the nonprofit Neighborhood Energy Connection's car-sharing program, has announced that its two plug-in hybrid vehicles will now be powered by the sun. A solar-powered charging station, believed to be the first of its kind operated by a car-sharing organization, was unveiled on October 22 at Mississippi Market's Selby Avenue store. A similar solar-powered charging station will be located at the Hiawatha light-rail line's 46th Street station in Minneapolis.

"The future of transportation is here," said NEC executive director Chris Duffrin. "Pairing solar panels with electric cars is the clean, smart and increasingly affordable way to go."

The solar panels are connected to electric grids that supply power to the vehicles. Each charge provides enough electricity to power the vehicles for trips of 30-40 miles. HourCar members will be able to connect the organization's two plug-in Toyota Priuses to standard 120-volt electric outlets when the cars are parked in their dedicated spots. When the cars are on the road, the 2-kilowatt solar systems supply electricity to their host sites.

Gail Graham, general manager of Mississippi Market, which has dedicated a permanent parking space to HourCar and has let it install solar panels on the roof of its store, said there is no downside to the HourCar partnership. "Our customers appreciate the convenience of having a car available to them when they shop," she said, "and now our store will also be partially powered by renewable energy."

The solar systems were made possible by a grant from the Minnesota Office of Energy Security, a division of the Minnesota Department of Commerce. Each system costs approximately \$18,000.

HourCar, whose members number more than 650 in the Twin Cities, operates the two plug-in hybrids along with 14 other high-efficiency vehicles from hubs throughout Minneapolis and St. Paul. HourCar plans to expand the fleet to 26 vehicles in 2009 by partnering with hub sponsors. For information, visit [www.hourcar.org](http://www.hourcar.org).

News Briefs compiled by Jane McClure and John Wadell



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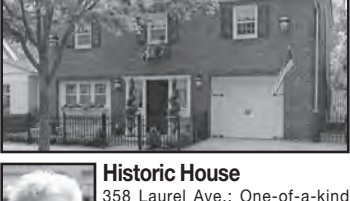
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# City Council finds \$300,000 for a third refrigerated rink

## Palace sheet puts icing on \$1.4 million program to extend winter skating

BY JANE MCCLURE

Despite concerns about an increasingly tight 2009 city budget and the need to address a shortfall in the 2008 city budget, the St. Paul City Council voted 5-2 on October 22 to spend an additional \$300,000 to complete the construction of a new refrigerated outdoor ice rink at the Palace Recreation Center.

The vote may represent the final face-off over the controversial Palace project, at least until the grand opening and the politicians' ceremonial first puck drop. The rink at Jefferson Avenue and View Street raised eyebrows in the West End neighborhood when construction began in September without the promised neighborhood meeting to discuss the project.

Palace's will be the third and last refrigerated ice rink constructed in St. Paul under a \$1.1 million program that was pushed by Mayor Chris Coleman and approved by the City Council in the fall of 2006. The program draws on \$850,000 in loans through the city's Neighborhood Sales Tax Revitalization (STAR) program and \$250,000 from an internal parks fund transfer.

The other two refrigerated ice rinks are located at the Phalen and North Dale recreation centers. Cost overruns at those two rinks necessitated the additional \$300,000 for Palace's rink. The cost overruns were due to everything from the placement of lighting, electrical and plumbing services to the need for extra fencing or screens to protect nearby houses from flying pucks. Additional measures were also taken at the North Dale center to address neighborhood concerns about the noise generated by that rink's refrigeration unit.

Energy costs for the two refrigerated rinks totaled \$14,273 in 2007-08. The city also spent \$20,667 for two small ice resurfacers that will be shared by the three rinks.

City Council member Dave Thune, whose Ward 2 includes the Palace playground, has championed the refrigerated ice rink there, saying the western neighborhoods of St. Paul also need a refrigerated rink to extend the outdoor skating season.

The additional \$300,000 for the Palace rink will come out of a parks maintenance fund. Casting the two votes against the expenditure were City Council members Pat Harris and Kathy Lantry. Lantry has opposed spending money on refrigerated rinks when city budget cuts have closed unrefrigerated ice rinks across the city. Harris, who supported the initial \$1.1 million allocation for the three rinks, said he thought the additional \$300,000 could be better spent on other things.

Some council members questioned why work had begun at Palace before all of the money was in hand. The decision was made by Parks and Recreation director Bob Bierscheid following months of debate over the siting of a third refrigerated rink.

The Groveland Recreation Center had been considered for the third rink because of the heavy use its traditional ice rinks get. That proposal was ultimately rejected by Groveland neighbors, in part because it required installing a concrete slab that would have impeded use of the playground's ballfield's during the rest of the year. Similar problems were encountered at other prospective sites, including the Linwood Recreation Center.

Palace is not losing a ball field, but it will lose most of the space that has been used for picnics and horseshoe pitching in the past. The rink will also limit how the recreation center can be improved in the future. Studies on expanding that playground's rec center expansion are just getting under way.

Bierscheid, who will be retiring at the end of the year, has recommended that the city build more refrigerated ice rinks. According to him, skating at the Phalen and North Dale rec centers has increased dramatically since the refrigerated ice rinks were installed—from 5,286 skaters in 2006-07 to 16,250 in 2007-08 at Phalen; and from 1,788 in 2006-07 to 4,420 in 2007-08 at North Dale.

### 1 ◀ CITY BUDGET DEFICITS

Where DSI's revenue is up, along with the work load, is in the area of vacant building inspections. Due to the growing number of vacant buildings in St. Paul and the city's push to register those buildings, DSI collected \$400,000 more in vacant building fees in the first 10 months of 2008 than in all of 2007. The city had anticipated \$165,000 in vacant building fees in 2008. The actual amount to date is \$521,000, with a projected \$795,188 by the end of the year.

The city topped the 2,000 mark in vacant buildings this year due in large part to foreclosures and to people simply walking away from homes they can no longer afford. The good news is that about 660 vacant buildings have been rehabilitated and reoccupied this year, Kessler said.

However, some of those buildings have required a significant amount of city inspection time. New city requirements were recently enacted to ensure that contractors who take on the more dilapidated vacant buildings have the financial capacity to get the work done. That has often required more city inspections.

Another budget buster are the summary abatements or cleanups that the city has to carry out for some vacant properties. Many vacant homes have been left with loads of garbage and the belongings of former occupants. The city has also had to address the exterior of

some properties.

The city's relatively new requirement for certificates of occupancy for all single-family and duplex rentals has also added to DSI's inspection load. And the owners of more than 150 of those properties have not paid the certificate of occupancy fees that are meant to cover the cost of the inspections. Some landlords have been in arrears to the city for more than two years.

The City Attorney's Office recently determined that DSI can cite property owners for non-payment of certificate of occupancy fees. Property owners who do not pay also could have the fees attached to their property tax bills.

What might help DSI and other city departments is recent federal action to address the housing and mortgage foreclosure crisis. More federal Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) are being made available to cities. St. Paul is receiving \$4.5 million through the CDBG program this year and could apply for more funds through the state.

Some City Council members have questioned whether much of that money should be directed to DSI, given the great needs for housing rehabilitation citywide. Kessler has argued that there has to be funding for city inspections. "If the city buys a property, we must keep it safe," he said. "We're DSI. Safety is our middle name."

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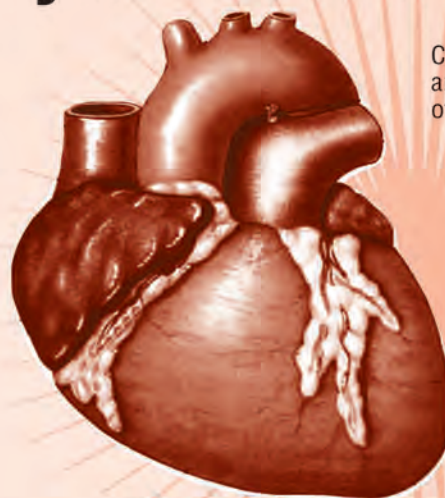


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# The bad, the ugly and the greater good

St. Paul police chief defends his officers' actions during RNC, saying the public safety threat warranted the measures taken

By JANE McCLURE

The St. Paul Police Department's Internal Affairs unit will investigate individual allegations of police misconduct during the Republican National Convention, though only one formal internal affairs complaint has been filed. That promise was made on October 22 by Police Chief John Harrington as part of his preliminary report on police activity during the September 1-4 event.

Harrington said he hopes the Police Department's formal report on its actions during and leading up to the convention will be ready by the end of the year.

Though Mayor Chris Coleman and others have declared the convention a success for St. Paul, city officials have been inundated by complaints about the conduct of law enforcement officers, including the alleged harassment, detaining and tear-gassing of peaceful demonstrators. During Harrington's presentation before the City Council, about 50 people gathered outside City Hall to denounce police brutality. Some of them said they had been unjustifiably arrested and detained during the convention and still planned to sue the city.

According to Harrington, 818 arrests were made during the convention. Property damage has been estimated at \$69,000, he said, although that could increase by \$10,000. Since the convention, the Police Department has received 40 requests for internal affairs complaint forms, he said, but only one complaint form

has been returned.

Harrington defended the actions of police during the RNC. The police, he said, were largely successful in preventing disruptions to the convention, deterring vandalism and avoiding serious injuries. However, the chief acknowledged, some things did not go as well as planned, and people who wanted to peacefully protest got swept up in the arrests and the detonation of tear gas, flash canisters and smoke grenades.

*The chief acknowledged that some things did not go as well as planned and people who wanted to peacefully protest got swept up in the arrests and the detonation of tear gas, flash canisters and smoke grenades.*

The Police Department, Harrington said, found itself having to constantly adjust tactics during the convention to meet the changing situations as forecasted by the intelligence it received. According to him, anarchists caused many of the problems that led to innocent people getting swept up in the arrests and chemical attacks. More than 100 police officers reported having urine or feces thrown on them, he said.

Another challenge for the St. Paul police was working with close to 3,700 law enforcement officers



On the first day of the Republican National Convention, mounted police were able to disperse this group of protesters with limited use of pepper spray. PHOTO BY LARRY ENGLUND

from hundreds of other agencies across the U.S. without the benefit of extensive pre-convention training. The officers were told to use what are called direct-and-deny tactics with protesters, informing them where they needed to be and then blocking them from entering areas that were off limits. If those methods did not work, Harrington said, chemical sprays were used to control the crowds, followed by tear gas, flash-bang canisters and smoke grenades. Harrington described the chemical irritants as the "primary tool" for moving people along.

One problem for law enforcement that could have been avoided was identifying who were and were not working journalists, Harrington said. Several media representatives got caught up in the arrests, although charges against them have since been dropped. Another innovation that Harrington would now recommend is the recruitment of volunteer peacekeepers to help defuse tense situations.

In his department's review of police conduct during the conven-

tion, Harrington said he will draw on video shot by the media and members of the public as well as the more than 7,000 hours of footage recorded by cameras that were installed downtown prior to the convention. The use of the cameras during the convention has generated more than two dozen requests for information under the Minnesota Data Practices Act, giving city officials another postconvention chore. People who believe they were videotaped are legally entitled to see those tapes.

Meanwhile, Mayor Coleman has announced the members of the commission that will carry out the city's investigation of police conduct during the RNC. Chaired by former federal prosecutors Andy Luger and Tom Heffelfinger, the RNC Public Safety Review Commission includes Barry Feld, professor of law at the University of Minnesota and a former assistant Hennepin County attorney; Robert Heinz, a former chief of police in Golden Valley and now the general manager of a law enforcement software development

company; Mary Ann Vukelich, a private investigator, former Woodbury police officer and former intelligence coordinator in the state Department of Public Safety; former St. Paul Mayor George Latimer; and Linda White, the director of finance and operations at the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center.

The RNC Public Safety Review Commission will hold a forum from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Thursday, November 6, at the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center, 270 N. Kent St. The public is invited to attend and to present two- to three-minute statements on their relevant experiences during the convention. People who cannot attend the forum may submit written comments to Lucie Passus at [lucie.passus@stpaul.gov](mailto:lucie.passus@stpaul.gov) by November 14.

Coleman has asked the RNC Public Safety Review Commission to complete its report by the end of the year. Federal officials are also working on their own report as one of the conditions of the agreement the city signed to host the convention.

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# New downtown retailers attracted by RNC will stay 'til Xmas anyway

BY LARRY ENGLUND

Last summer, while business people in and around downtown St. Paul were making plans that they hoped would allow them to capitalize on the September 1-4 Republican National Convention, city officials and several downtown organizations launched the Red Carpet Retail Project. The project offered flexible, reduced-rate leases to prospective tenants to fill, if only for a few months, the empty storefronts along the streets and skyways of downtown.

Though most of the RNC-related business promotions in St. Paul ultimately proved to be a bust, the Red Carpet program has been a success, according to its organizers. "We accomplished our task of filling as many spaces as we could," said Matt Anfang, president of the St. Paul Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA).

Though business generated by the convention itself was a disappointment for most of the new retailers, the flexibility of their leases allowed them to test the downtown market and some of them came away impressed, according to Michael Balean of the St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce. "Some of the businesses are still operating," he said. "But these days it's a tough market for anyone."

Roughly 30,000 of the 65,000 square feet of "viable" vacant retail space offered through the Red Carpet program was filled, according to Balean. A total of 38 retailers signed leases through the program, including about 21 small retailers who signed "micro-leases" to share two large commercial spaces in the Alliance Bank Center skyway.

"Everything worked in the beginning," said Shawn Wiski, manager of the Alliance Bank Center, "until the convention when we didn't have the visitors coming through the skyways and the downtown workers stayed home."

The new retailers' experiences since the convention have been mixed. Of the 38 who signed short-term leases, 12 or 13 are still operating downtown, according to Balean, including Velvet Brooke in Town Square, Fun Sisters in the U.S. Bank Center, the Spectacle Shoppe in the Lowry building, and Custom Chocolates and What's Hot Merchandise in the Alliance Bank Center.

"Every retailer in downtown St. Paul had challenges during the RNC," Anfang said. The new retailers have since learned that "downtown residents and downtown workers are a market unto themselves," he added.

"Our customers have all been downtown workers and people who live in St. Paul," said Patsy Skiba, owner of Fun Sisters, a women's accessories shop. "We had few conventioners stop by; they were so busy being bused in and out of downtown."

Skiba is planning to keep her shop open at least through the holiday shopping season, though only on the third week of each month. "We're still testing the market," she said. "So far we've seen that there is a need downtown.

Women have been telling us that we have to stay."

"The new retailers have found that business is best during the lunch hour when people are migrating through the skyways," Balean said.

Wiski agreed. "As soon as the downtown workers returned (following the RNC), the skyways had business," he said. "We noticed that on the Friday of convention week. It was the busiest day for most of the retailers in the Red Carpet program."

*"Every retailer in downtown St. Paul had challenges during the RNC," Anfang said. The new retailers have since learned that "downtown residents and downtown workers are a market unto themselves."*

The new Custom Chocolates shop will also stay open "at least through Christmas," said owner Paul Schmid. "We did poorly during the RNC, but we're holding our own now. Lunch is our prime time. We've found that after 4:00 p.m. people leave work and don't stick around."

Custom Chocolates sells chocolate in unusual shapes. In St. Paul, "our hottest items are Olympic-style gold medals," said Cherie Skildum, a clerk at the store. Skildum said she has been personally visiting businesses throughout downtown to let them know of Custom Chocolates' products and services. The shop's replica Oscar statues and its political chocolates have also been popular. "We have both suckers and squares of the major presidential and vice presidential candidates," she said.

The Spectacle Shoppe will be staying open for the foreseeable future, according to owner Ed Coleman, who also lives downtown. Though he didn't sell a thing during the RNC, Coleman said, "we've sold a few pairs of glasses since."

But Red Carpet Project organizers are not measuring the success of the program by the number of new retailers who remain downtown. "The biggest benefit of the program and of the RNC was that it put us on the map," Balean said.

The new relationships that have been forged among the various downtown groups that worked to coordinate the program also bodes well for the future, according to Anfang. "We had collaboration among the city, the Chamber of Commerce, the CapitolRiver Council, the Capital City Partnership and BOMA," he said. "At the end of the day, the relationships among us are improved."

"The lesson to be learned (from the Red Carpet program)," according to chamber vice president Susan Kimberly, "is that doing something beats the heck out of doing nothing."

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## Benefit set for La Patisserie pair

A spaghetti dinner, silent auction and raffle will be held on Sunday, November 9, to benefit Dan Sanford and Mari Plaster, employees at La Patisserie bakery on Randolph and Snelling avenues. The two were severely injured on August 27 when a motorist fleeing police at a high speed crashed into a parked car, pushing it into Sanford and Plaster as they stood behind another vehicle.

Plaster, who was celebrating her 21st birthday that day, lost her left leg below the knee, suffered a broken shoulder blade and dislocated her right ankle. Sanford suffered multiple fractures in both legs. Both have required multiple surgeries, including muscle transplants and skin grafts, and will undergo months of therapy.

The fundraiser will take place from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Rosetown Memorial American Legion Post 542, 700 W. County Road C, Roseville. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$5.00 for children.

For tickets, call Al Lewis at 651-353-7295 or Kim Lewis at 651-208-9358. Donations also may be made at any US Bank branch. Make checks payable to the Dan Sanford and Mari Plaster Benefit Fund.



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# Viewpoint

## Gifts to doctors are unhealthy

BY STATE SENATOR JOHN MARTY

Since the FDA first allowed direct-to-consumer drug advertising a decade ago, advertising spending by drug companies has grown to about \$100 million a year in Minnesota alone. However, drug companies spend even more to persuade doctors to prescribe their products. Drug company marketing to U.S. doctors now amounts to \$7 billion a year, much of it spent on meals, gifts, honoraria for speaking engagements, and compensation for consulting services. Manufacturers of medical devices also spend lavishly on gifts for doctors.

In 2006 a team of medical researchers led by Dr. Troyen Brennan of Harvard University wrote an article in the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)* stating that physicians' responsibility to put the interests of their patients first is undermined by these financial conflicts of interest.

Eliminating this conflict of interest is essential, not only for controlling costs but for protecting patients. The painkiller Vioxx, for example, was heavily marketed to physicians by drug companies that downplayed reports about the risk of heart problems. As a result of the aggressive promotion of the drug, doctors prescribed Vioxx to thousands of patients before it was pulled from the market for safety reasons.

Critics are not accusing doctors of intentional wrongdoing, but it's a reality that gifts have an impact on behavior.

Several years ago, Minnesota was the first state to pass a gift ban for drug manufacturers, but the law has loopholes. Fortunately, there is renewed interest in addressing the issue, much of it coming from doctors and medical students themselves who are troubled by this situation.

To its credit, the University of Minnesota Medical School is now in the process of adopting a code affecting all medical school faculty and students. St. Mary's Duluth Clinic Health System has already implemented a ban on all gifts. Last month, the Wisconsin Medical Society adopted a policy banning all gifts from drug manufacturers to doctors.

Doctors who prescribe drugs and use medical devices need to work with the manufacturers to provide advice and feedback, which can often lead to more effective medical products and treatments. However, these relationships need to be a lot more transparent than they are.

An investigative report in the *Star Tribune* last summer revealed that one physician had received \$344,375 in 2006 from a single medical device manufacturer, and that was on top of the physician's regular income. None of this was disclosed to patients or to other physicians who attended lectures presented by that doctor.

The pharmaceutical industry spends \$7 billion per year on marketing to doctors because they know it pays off. The *JAMA* article reported that the sale of prescription drugs increases substantially after a doctor meets with a drug company representative, attends a seminar sponsored by the manufacturer, or receives free drug samples.

Disclosure of such financial arrangements is a must, but it's not enough. The authors of the *JAMA* article described as a "myth" the idea that disclosure of financial conflicts is sufficient to protect the interest of patients.

Most drug company relationships with doctors involve far less money than the ones mentioned above, but the *JAMA* article noted that "social science research demonstrates that the impulse to reciprocate for even small gifts is a powerful influence on (doctors') behavior.

Last spring, I introduced legislation to close the loopholes in Minnesota's law banning gifts from drug companies to doctors. The proposal would ban all gifts, not just those over \$50. It would also include medical device manufacturers under the gift ban, prohibit excessive compensation to doctors for consulting services, and require doctors to disclose to their patients any financial arrangements they have with drug and medical device companies.

Passage of this legislation would be good not only for the consumer's pocketbook; it would ensure that the care the consumer gets is based on the doctor's unbiased judgment.

State Senator John Marty (DFL-District 54) is chair of the Senate's Health, Housing and Family Security Committee.



## St. Kate's takes nonpartisan policy too far

BY TREZA ROSADO

In light of the recent decision by the administration of the College of St. Catherine to disallow both Democratic U.S. Senator Hillary Clinton and conservative pundit Bay Buchanan from speaking on campus, the students of St. Kate's feel compelled to offer a response. It is our understanding that St. Kate's has pursued a path of neutrality during this election year in order to avoid the "appearance of partisanship during the volatile weeks preceding the election" (from St. Catherine president Sister Andrea Lee's recent letter to the college's board of trustees). This "neutrality" is both disheartening and disturbing.

As university students, we are expected to behave as adults in our academic studies, athletic competitions and other extracurricular pursuits. We have proven ourselves worthy of higher education and now stand at the vanguard of academia. How is it, then, that our own administration presumes that we are incapable of handling the volatility of this 2008 election season?

The St. Catherine administration has declared its intent to pursue "neutrality" throughout the election process while encouraging strong and active campus engagement. The students of St. Kate's would like to challenge the notion that there is such a thing as "neutrality" when it comes to the political world. Even if St. Catherine vice president of academic affairs Colleen Hegranes believes, as she stated in a recent *Star Tribune* article, that inviting three speakers of each party would bring neutrality, she would be incorrect. There is simply no such thing as an all-inclusive way to engage students of every political stripe.

Many students at St. Kate's and elsewhere would challenge the idea that they fall into either of the dominant political parties. Do we then need to invite an equal number of Socialist, Green and Independence party members to campus as well? And what of the anarchists? It is quite evident that a path of "neutrality" is, in actuality, more difficult to negotiate than a path of political engagement. And let there be no mistake: Political neutrality is not, in any way, political engagement.

The line between what is political and what is neutral is a thin, blurred line. For example, St. Kate's prides itself on the diverse artists and speakers it invites to campus each semester. We challenge the concept that art somehow exists outside of politics. How can we have the James Sewell Ballet or the Ananya Dance Theatre perform on campus and not invite their politics along with their art? When people in authority begin deciding what is neutral and what is political,

they are navigating dangerous territory. The Ananya Dance Theatre, a collective of women of color who use art to express social, political and economic concerns, is just as political as Senator Clinton or Ms. Buchanan.

The message we are sending to St. Kate's students—past, present and future—is an unfortunate one. It is more than unfortunate; it is frankly embarrassing. We are the nation's largest college for women. We were founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, sisters who believed in the education of women at a time when educating women was not the social norm. We pride ourselves, supposedly, on grooming leaders. How then can we choose political "neutrality" over active political engagement?

We recognize that St. Catherine administrators will challenge this point. However, it is quite clear to the students that political discourse cannot be properly expressed on campus unless our differences are given the appropriate forums for discussion.

How can we foster political engagement in a climate that does not allow either side of the aisle to speak on campus during a critical election year? How can any sort of resolution be arrived at among students of differing political beliefs when there is no encouragement from our administration to do so? Engagement and discourse cannot exist where neutrality is the dominant school of thought. Besides stifling student debate, we are stifling political identities. We are telling young women that it is acceptable to disenfranchise themselves in order to save face in the public eye or the financial realm.

For us, the students of St. Kate's, this is unacceptable. College students are more than ready to face the political disputes and volatility that accompany an election season. We believe, furthermore, that political neutrality is a figment of our administration's collective imagination. Our administration's decision to disallow both Ms. Buchanan and Senator Clinton is embarrassing and inappropriate. This college is rooted in stronger stuff.

The disconnect between our activist past and our neutral present seems nearly impossible to overcome at this point. However, we implore the community of the College of St. Catherine—soon to become St. Catherine University—to challenge the administrative norms just as the sisters did in founding this educational institution.

Treza Rosado, a sophomore at the College of St. Catherine, wrote this piece for a group of St. Catherine students who, after gathering the signatures of their classmates, planned to submit it to the college's administration.

# Inbox

## Where's the gratitude?

Dear editor,

I am so frustrated by the number of stories in the October 10 *Villager* about people who have been given an opportunity and are complaining because they weren't involved in the discussion. Whatever happened to "thank you" when someone gives you something?

The Palace Recreation Center was given something—a beautiful new ice rink that will be used extensively. I walk my dog past the center frequently, and it was rare in the winter not to see someone at the old ice rink. Whether it was a young person learning to skate or a pickup or an organized hockey game, it was almost always being used. I don't understand why they aren't saying "thank you" for giving us the beautiful new ice rink.

The neighborhood around 1278 Selby Ave. was given the opportunity to have someone purchase a building that needs repair and locate a small business there. From what I read, the owner of the building and business plans to live above the business, yet the neighbors hesitate because it wasn't discussed with them or they need more information about it. I don't get it. Why aren't these people saying, "thank you for buying this rundown building and improving our neighborhood?"

There were other stories: The gentleman who wants to put an auto repair shop on West 7th Street. Yes, the paperwork was incorrect, but fix it and let the man open his business, and thank him for wanting to start a business in St. Paul!

Don't get me started on the 24-hour exercise facilities. Mr. Thune, this is 2008, not the 1980s. It's time to get with it.

On one page of the *Villager* was an article about our taxes increasing 4 percent overall in 2009. Yet the St. Paul City Council, neighborhood groups and others attempt to stop any new business in the city or make it so difficult that eventually the entrepreneur gives up and goes to Minneapolis. And who can blame them?

*Laural Haessly  
West End*

## Give credit where credit is due

To the editor:

I was pleased to see that the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* did not endorse a candidate for president, giving their readers the opportunity to decide from hopefully fair and balanced reporting. Yet, I think it is interesting that the *Pioneer Press* chose to run a front-page story this past week on the \$150,000 wardrobe for Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin and, within a day, another article discussing her make-up.

Why is it that there was never a front-page story about Hillary Clinton's wardrobe when she was running in the primaries for president? Did anyone take time to delve deeply into that aspect of her life? Or Michelle Obama? More important, why don't we discuss what brands of suits, shirts, ties and shoes Barack Obama, Joe Biden or John McCain wear? Why is Palin's wardrobe front-page news?

Sarah Palin is good for women. She has kept the debate about women in government and feminism alive. She is helping us define a new brand of feminism that unites both Republican and Democratic women. She has a chance to put a sledge hammer to the ceiling that

Hillary Clinton put 18 million cracks in.

I have heard many people say they don't think Sarah Palin is ready to be one heartbeat away from the presidency since Alaska has only 750,000 people. Let's get this straight: Sarah Palin is one of only 50 governors in the entire country. If Alaska were a country, it would be the 20th largest country in the world. The unique topography, economy, population and climate of Alaska all make Alaska a challenging state to govern.

Please give credit where credit is due. Women and men alike should see the shallowness of discussing a candidate's clothing and makeup.

*Jane Juetten  
Mendota Heights*

## HDC resolves its tax problems

To the editor:

Given the media coverage and community interest that was generated when the Highland District Council (HDC) discovered its tax liability problems in May 2007, it seems appropriate that the HDC report back to the community as final payment is made on those liabilities.

During the last week of October 2008, the HDC submitted final payment on its offer in a compromise agreement with the Internal Revenue Service. With that payment, the HDC fulfilled its delinquent federal withholding and employment tax obligations dating back to 1998. Through the agreement, the HDC paid all actual tax and withholding amounts owed. The IRS agreed not to pursue collection of penalties and interest related to those delinquent amounts. With this final payment and compliance with federal tax requirements, the HDC is able to start over with a clean slate from the IRS.

This payment also marks the end of 17 months of work to resolve the problems. This work included preparing and submitting six years of annual federal returns and eight quarters of state and federal employer tax returns, payment of employer trust fund amounts, a review of 2006 HDC finances by an outside accounting firm, extensive review of several years of HDC reimbursement history with the city of St. Paul, and many meetings, letters and phone calls with IRS representatives.

With the resolution of these tax issues, we hope the HDC can move forward and focus on its mission of serving Highland Park residents without the distraction of past mistakes.

The HDC board is grateful to all those who were committed to making things right and who helped in the process. Special thanks are owed to the staff of the city of St. Paul's Department of Planning and Economic Development; City Council member Pat Harris and his staff; Highland Bank; Roger Maulik, who volunteered his accounting expertise in the early stages; the accounting firm of Sevenich Butler Gerlach and Brazil; other vendors and collaborators who were patient as the HDC sorted out its financial situation; and many past and present HDC board members, a good number of whom made personal financial contributions to help the HDC through a rough spot.

We are also pleased with the HDC's new community organizer, as well as its new payroll and bookkeeping services, all of whom are on

# VILLAGER

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*Maurice F. Mischke, 1920-1991*

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INBOX ► 10

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9◀ INBOX

the job and working to make sure that the HDC does not find itself in a similar situation again. Thanks to these efforts, the HDC was able to pay all taxes that it owed without tapping into additional public dollars.

*Bill Klein, President  
Joe McCabe, Vice President  
Steve Lentsch, Secretary  
Tim Puffer, Treasurer  
Highland District Council*

**St. Kate's policy trumps mission**

To the editor:

All right, I'll admit it: St. Kate's was supposed to be a stepping stone to some other school I'd transfer to. I went to Antioch College in Ohio for a fall term only to return at winter break looking at other options. One of the options was St. Kate's because the school admits students, new and transfers, for the spring term. It was perfect: I'd be able to continue my first year of college while looking around at other schools to apply to the next fall. Well, fall came around and I began my applications to transfer but soon realized that my education here at St. Kate's hadn't been so bad. I liked the professors, and I liked what I had learned about the ideological history of the college, the sisters and the students. So I stayed.

Granted, this was a time when *The Vagina Monologues* and the drag show were still allowed on campus. This was a time when, even if required to be a class project, discussing gender issues was allowed as an event on the campus.

How the times have changed. *The Vagina Monologues* has been cancelled on campus two years in a row, and folks trying to organize it for next year find themselves hitting a brick wall of bureaucracy. And drag show events on campus are a distant dream. Why? From what I've gathered over the years, it has little to do with current or even past students' discomfort with talk about vaginas and gender deviation. More and more, the censorship stems from pressures applied from outside, such as the Cardinal Newman Society, a group that scares our administration by threatening to notify more conservative interpreters of the Catholic tradition in an effort to stop the flow of hypothetical monies to the school.

It was disappointing to see the college ban *The Vagina Monologues* and the drag shows, but it is taking the trigger-happy banning hand a little too far when speakers are not allowed to come because someone misconstrued the intent of the nonpartisanship requirements for non-profits receiving federal monies. Hillary Clinton and Bay Buchanan are not candidates running for political office, so there is no need for the college to host a representative of a second and third political party in order to host these strong women who lead and influence. Having three representatives of each of the three major political parties is not a requirement of the non-partisanship guidelines.

So why is it that we can't have Bay Buchanan and Hillary Clinton on campus? Oh, I get it: If we students are exposed to their leadership and influence, our critical-thinking caps might break, right? Apparently, we won't be able to think for ourselves. We'll have Bay or Hillary's voice and thoughts running amok in our heads.

From this I must conclude that the administration does not believe the education here at St. Catherine is able to meet

one of its goals as a liberal arts institution: Giving students the ability to gather, analyze and critically evaluate information to develop reasonable arguments, sound judgments and effective solutions. Should the administration be allowed to use this apparent lack of faith in our critical thinking skills against our desire for intellectual inquiry? I don't think so. I think that if intellectual opportunities and experiences are repeatedly denied, I will not be getting my fair share of exposure to diverse opinions. It's from diverse opinions that I'm able to strengthen and develop my own.

I'm proud that I'm at a college where there are many other women who are unwilling to sit down and be treated like dunderheads year after year.

*Kennedy Willis, Student  
College of St. Catherine*

**College missed an opportunity**

Dear editor,

I have grown increasingly frustrated with the lack of communication on the College of St. Catherine campus. Why is it that we must see Hillary Clinton as a politician before seeing her as a strong woman—one who has truly led and influenced? I find it extremely disheartening to know that a woman who directly speaks to the mission of St. Kate's was not allowed to speak to students—students who also hope to lead and influence. Although I understand that the administration wants to prevent controversy, the college also encourages us to educate ourselves on various issues that affect us as women. This would have been a truly wonderful opportunity for the college, and it is unfortunate that the administration turned down this opportunity for students to engage and educate themselves.

*Erin Ring, Senior  
College of St. Catherine*

**St. Kate's leaves students in dark**

To the editor:

As a student who loves the College of St. Catherine but has grown tired and frustrated, I am writing in response to the decision made by the college to not allow U.S. Senator Hillary Clinton to speak on campus. I understand the college's obligation to remain nonpartisan. As a leader of a political group on campus, I have had to negotiate the boundary on a smaller scale. However, our college aims to teach women to lead and influence, much the way a sitting senator does. If the college was aiming to remain nonpartisan, they could have asked Senator Clinton to speak about her experiences as a senator or a former first lady or a graduate of an all-women's college. By saying that Senator Clinton could have a table in the atrium, they not only insulted the senator but every woman on campus. The message seems clear: If you are affiliated with a political party, you are relegated to a small space whether you are an on-campus group or a respected government figure.

I am not writing to attack the college. I love the college. It has made me the woman I am. I have just grown tired of being left in the dark. In my time here, I have heard cries for more transparency but have felt the institution moving in the opposite direction. Every one of us is political. Soon will we not be allowed to raise our voices?

The college has also turned down conservative political

figures. While I am not in agreement with conservative views, I am still enraged that they were not allowed on campus. Give us the catalysts for difficult dialogue! Allow us to think for ourselves and raise challenging questions! Let us see women who lead and influence regardless of who they are attempting to reach. Give us more credit. Give us a voice.

*Kelsey Huberty, Senior  
College of St. Catherine*

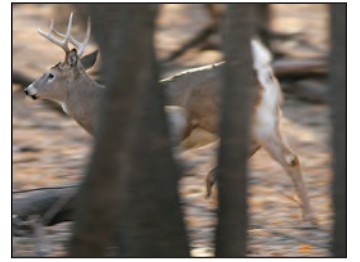
**The danger of deer**

To the editor:

One morning last week I nearly hit a very large deer on my way to work. I was traveling down Edgcombe Road just after it turns from Fairview Avenue. The deer leaped in front of my car. Two other deer shot behind me. I hit the brakes so hard, I thought I might have made contact with it. Any inattention on my part would have resulted in extreme injury for the both of us, as I drive a Mini Cooper.

Please alert your readers of this danger. A distracted mom or someone on the phone could be hurt or killed, as this is the main route to the south for many of us.

*Cathy Martin  
Highland Park*



A deer scampers through a local woods. PHOTO BY MARK PALAS

**Legislating via the Constitution**

To the editor:

As a Democrat and one of his constituents, I was profoundly disappointed by the letter to the editor in the October 22 *Villager* from Senator Richard Cohen (DFL-District 64) supporting the so-called Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment. Legislating by constitutional amendment is a confession of failure and an abnegation of responsibility. Make no mistake, I agree that investments in these and other areas are important and necessary. However, as Senator Cohen's colleague, Representative Michael Paymar (DFL-District 64B) rightly points out in his response to the questions in the October 22 *Villager's* "Voter's Guide," mandating spending via the Constitution is illogical and sets a bad precedent. If something is worth funding, it is worth funding by the Legislature. I, for one, will vote against this proposed amendment.

*Stephen Arnott  
Lexington-Hamline*

**Unions and the common good**

To the editor:

United Food and Commercial Workers Local 789's disagreement with Mississippi Market's request for city funds to open a store in the Victoria Park area (*Villager*, October 22) is a great example of organized labor pushing its agenda over benefits to the community. In these difficult economic times, we should celebrate the willingness of businesses

INBOX ▶ 11

**“What’s great about St. Paul?”**  
The *Villager* reader asks: “Any unusual facts?”

**Jim:** What local institution has 1.7 million artifacts-many from extinct civilizations-that was first created in 1907 with the goal of having a place for St. Paulites to hear free lectures on “hygiene and sanitation?”

It's the Science Museum of Minnesota-now overlooking the Mississippi River.The Museum's Omnitheatre has the largest permanently installed electronic cinema projector in the world. It is a leading producer of Omni films in the world, too, having originated 10 top films such as “Jane Goodall's Wild Chimpanzees,” “Genesis” and Living Planet.”

The museum has 70,000 sq. ft. of exhibition space, and has 600 employees and over 1,000 volunteers who help bring science and technology to learners of all ages-including teachers who receive training here.

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10 ◀ INBOX

small or large to invest in neighborhoods, allowing residents to decide where and how they wish to spend their money and feed their families. I suspect the union's concern isn't so much how public subsidies are allotted, but rather that store workers at Mississippi Market are nonunion and may choose to remain so.

*E. J. Becker  
Highland Park*

**Let's stop subsidizing the rich**

To the editor:

When did everybody begin to believe the great American lie that the poor don't pay taxes? The poor pay Social Security taxes, Medicare taxes, sales taxes, property taxes, gas taxes, electric taxes, telephone taxes and, yes, even tobacco and liquor taxes. The richest man in the world, Warren Buffett, says the woman who empties the wastebaskets in his office pays a greater percentage of her income in taxes than he does, and that is ridiculous. It is time to stop subsidizing the rich and make them pay at least the same percentage of tax as the rest of us.

*Thom Gmeinder  
Summit-University*

**Making a difference in Midway**

To the editor:

The St. Paul Midway Lions Club thanks the following businesses for their part in making the club's recent cell phone drive a success: Dunn Brothers Coffee Shop on Grand, Lund and Lange Florists, Anchor Bank on Snelling, Associated Hearing of St. Paul, Brewberry's Neighborhood Coffee Shop, the Midway Family YMCA, Korte's Super Market, Rainbow Foods on University, Norm's Tire, the West St. Paul Bingo Hall, Taggles, J.R. Mac's Bar and Grill, Cooper's Super Valu on West 7th, Edward Jones on Selby, Trotter's Cafe and Bakery, O'Gar's Bar and Grill, Rosetown Memorial American Legion Post 542 and Xcel Energy Center.

The Midway Lions also thanks all of the people who donated their nonactive cell phones to the drive. The funds from the sale of these phones will be used to support the many projects the Lions conduct throughout the year. A special thanks is also extended to the *Villager* for making its readers aware of the cell phone drive.

Your phone donations will truly make a difference. Thank you for helping us help others in the Midway community.

*Paul Smrekar  
St. Paul Midway Lions Club*

**End testing of unclaimed pets**

Dear editor:

Minnesota is one of only four states that still allow animals to be seized from shelters for testing at institutions. Oklahoma, Utah and Iowa are the other three. Why these states allow this depends on the state. In Minnesota, the University of Minnesota is the reason. It has one of the top veterinary schools. Minnesota also has the Animal Welfare Act, but it doesn't completely protect these animals from a life of torture and suffering.

Minnesota Statute 35.71 states that any animal that is impounded and unclaimed or unredeemed may be used for scientific purposes or other dispositions. There is a grace period of five business days when the owner may come and claim the animal. But after that, the animal may be bought for testing in the laboratory. Five days is not a very long time for an animal to be adopted or claimed by its owner. And many pet owners don't know that they have the option to request in advance that their pet not be used for scientific purposes.

This statute was created after World War II when animals used in research were on the rise and labs had a hard time finding animals for testing. Scientists see these animals as cheap and surplus since they may be unwanted and would be euthanized anyway. These animals are used to test pharmaceuticals, cosmetics and household products and for many other reasons. Scientists justify the biomedical research as essential to the progress of modern medicine. In other words, it's all right for these animals to suffer so that people can have safe drugs.

Studies have shown that testing on animals is not always done correctly, and lots of times it's for items that we don't need but want, like cosmetics or Botox. Many states and countries have shown that it's not necessary to test animals or to use them as practice subjects in veterinary schools or to put them through painful experiments like testing the effects of radiation.

Botox is a prime example. It's one of the most powerful toxins and has the potential to be used as an agent of

bioterrorism. Every batch is tested on mice, with each group of mice getting a different dose. The point is to see which group dies in three or four days. That indicates the right dosage for humans. Through this testing, the mice suffer from muscular paralysis, impaired vision and suffocation due to the paralysis of their diaphragm.

The Animal Welfare Act was supposed to eliminate this suffering, yet tests like this still go on because there are too many loopholes in the law. I urge readers to help get this statute repealed and prevent animals from living a life of torture and suffering.

*Angelina Fauskee  
Summit Hill*

**Enact the Right to Repair**

Dear editor,

Millions of car owners in Minnesota trust neighborhood automotive repair shops to provide affordable and competitive repair service. Unfortunately, car manufacturers are making it difficult for independent repair shops to obtain the technical information needed to repair today's vehicles. As technology becomes more sophisticated, the situation will become worse.

Thousands of small businesses in Minnesota that repair automobiles will be forced out of business without the technical and safety information available only from the car companies. Withholding information will eventually prevent both car owners and highly skilled technicians from being able to make the simplest repairs to vehicles, and that has the makings of a disaster for consumers unless something is done. Manufacturers use these tactics to prevent you from bringing your car to a repair shop of your choice, forcing you to patronize the manufacturer's dealers. Consumers will lose their choice to have repairs made more conveniently and less expensively.

Congress is now considering the Motor Vehicle Owner's Right to Repair Act (HR 2694). This legislation would make it illegal for vehicle manufacturers to withhold technical information from car owners and repair shops. After all, shouldn't car owners be able to choose where they have their vehicle repaired and not the manufacturers?

If Congress fails to pass the Right to Repair Act, then the owners of nearly 4 million cars on the road today in Minnesota will no longer be able to choose from the more than 5,000 independent repair shops in Minnesota, and will instead be forced to go to one of the 469 manufacturer car dealerships for repairs.

Readers, please ask your elected officials to support the Right to Repair Act. Visit [www.righttorepair.org](http://www.righttorepair.org) to send a letter to your congressional representatives, urging them to add their names to the growing list of cosponsors.

*Kathleen Schmatz, President and CEO  
Automotive Aftermarket Industry Association*

**Repeal vehicle donation limit**

To the editor:

The current economic crisis has hit everyone hard. With most Americans cutting back on spending, car sales and donations to charities have plummeted. At the same time, the demand for help from charities that assist low-income and homeless citizens has increased sharply.

The passage of the federal bill HR 6727 will help alleviate some of this strain by repealing the limitation to vehicle donations enacted by Congress in 2004. Under this bill, taxpayers would be allowed to deduct the fair market value of their car donation up to \$2,500 and the appraised value over \$2,500. Currently, taxpayers are only allowed to deduct \$500 or what their car sells for, whichever is greater.

Passing this bill would be the equivalent of an economic stimulus. It would provide a much needed incentive for taxpayers to donate their old car and purchase a newer one. The result would be a valuable tax deduction for taxpayers, increased car sales and more money to charities.

Write, call, e-mail or fax your U.S. representative and senators urging them to pass HR 6727 immediately. A sample letter can be found at [www.cars4charities.org/press.php](http://www.cars4charities.org/press.php).

*Karen Campese, President and CEO  
Cars4Charities Car Donation Center*

**Do write, won't you?**

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

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# Concerns over West End dog park site leave few tails wagging

By JANE McCLURE

Questions about property ownership, soil contamination and other unknowns frustrated many of the three dozen pet owners who turned out for a St. Paul Parks and Recreation meeting on October 20 at the Oxford Community Center to discuss creating an off-leash dog park on St. Paul's West End.

The dog owners had been asked to share their ideas for a 10-acre Mississippi riverfront site, but much of the meeting turned into frustrated venting about the lack of progress in establishing a dog park for residents of St. Paul's western neighborhoods. Some dog owners complained that the city is no closer to adding a second off-leash dog park than it was a decade ago when the Arlington-Arkwright Park's off-leash area opened on the East Side.

"This is just a waste of time," said St. Anthony Park resident Bill Anderson. He and other dog owners said city officials need to focus on creating smaller dog parks that people can walk to, instead of spending years trying to find a large site for a citywide park.

Parks and Recreation program manager Eric Thompson blamed the city's district councils for blocking other off-leash dog parks. Several years ago, a proposal to establish an off-leash

dog park in Crosby Park was challenged by the Highland District Council.

Thompson also criticized the Macalester-Groveland Community Council for putting the brakes on a proposal last year to allow dogs to run loose on ballfields at the Edgcombe and Groveland recreation centers. The council voted against the idea after hearing from park users who complained about dog feces. "Every kid on every team apparently slid through a pile of (dog waste)," Thompson said.

A city ordinance prohibits dogs from running loose in St. Paul except at designated dog parks. The city has just the one off-leash dog park of its own. The off-leash dog park at Battle Creek Regional Park is run by Ramsey County.

Thompson is currently preparing a report on two potential new dog parks, which will be reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Commission on November 13. One is the riverfront site near the intersection of Randolph Avenue and Old Shepard Road. The other is the small Bluff Park on the West Side.

The two locations were recommended last summer by a task force that spent several months trying to identify off-leash dog park sites.

The riverfront site is just upriver from the

former St. Paul Municipal Gas and Electric Plant. Two different plans to convert the former power plant and surrounding property into a housing development and marina have failed, and the property is once again for sale.

Xcel Energy owns the land immediately upriver from the former power plant. Upriver from that property is the area eyed for a dog park. One advantage of the site is that it is not in an existing park, so a dog park would not have to compete with ballfields, tot lots, walking trails and other park uses. It's also removed from homes and businesses.

Still, Thompson said the site has its disadvantages. One downside is its proximity to a railroad line, which poses a hazard for dogs running loose.

There is also a dispute over who owns the property. Some maps show the property is owned by Archer-Daniels-Midland. ADM officials said they were checking on the ownership and could not comment on the city's plans without knowing more about them.

Even if the city owns enough land in the area to establish a dog park, access may be a challenge. The site is landlocked from public streets, with the railroad tracks and land owned by ADM, the state, the St. Paul Port Authority and Xcel Energy on each side. Thompson said he believes access to the site

could be negotiated.

Soil contamination is also a concern because part of the site was used for many years as a junkyard. "It was a dump for as long as anyone can remember," said West End resident Tanya Johnson.

"The potential is there for some pretty serious heavy metals and acid," stated Anderson, who was an environmental supervisor for the city of Minneapolis for several years.

"In my estimation, it's remarkably clean of debris," said Summit-University resident Jan Carr. However, he conceded that the site should be tested.

The dog park proposal is scheduled to be reviewed by the West 7th/Fort Road Federation on November 10. Federation board members said they were not notified about the October 20 meeting and some questioned why it was not held in their neighborhood.

Meanwhile, the Parks and Recreation Commission wants to create an on-going committee to address off-leash dog parks. However, additional studies of the issue do not sit well with some pet owners.

"For lack of political will by our elected officials and their appointees, we're getting ready to have our third dog park task force in 10 years," Anderson said. "St. Paul is more prone to creating task forces than doing anything."

# Met Council plan puts faster buses on Snelling, West 7th

By JANE McCLURE

The Metropolitan Council's 2030 Transportation Policy Plan places a major focus on expanded public transit, including proposed bus rapid transit routes along Snelling Avenue and West 7th Street and more north-south bus routes connecting to the proposed Central Corridor light-rail line. The 200-page plan, which attempts to address the region's transportation needs by the year 2030, is expected to be adopted later this year. The public comment period on the plan closes on November 6.

The plan is noteworthy for its emphasis on public transit as well as bicycle and pedestrian routes. Previous Met Council transportation plans focused more on building roadways. Still, if comments at a public hearing on October 22 are any indication, some local officials want to see even more emphasis on transit improvements in the east metro area. They say the planning map prepared by the Met Council appears to be heavily skewed toward west metro area projects.

"That really grabbed our attention," said Merriam Park resident Dan Scott, chair-elect of the St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce. "The map says more than 1,000 words could. We believe that in the interest of the business community of the east metro, you need to reconsider those priorities."

Scott was one of more than a dozen local

elected officials, citizens and representatives of organizations who testified on the 2030 plan. Several transit and environmental advocacy groups spoke on issues ranging from making better connections between transit and land-use planning to stabilizing transit funding.

One thing that has pushed transit in the Twin Cities to the forefront is the 2008 Minnesota legislature's approval of the metropolitan area transit sales tax. The quarter-percent hike in the tax is expected to provide \$90 million a year for transit projects in the region.

Proposed new transitways are included in the 2030 plan, including light rail, commuter rail, dedicated busways and bus rapid transit routes. The plan also calls for more bus routes, bus and car pool lanes, bus routes on highway shoulders and toll roads.

One key proposal is a study by 2010 of ways to better move people through the area's ma-



The Metropolitan Council's 2030 Transportation Policy Plan includes proposed bus rapid transit routes on Snelling Avenue and West 7th Street.

routes, which run on arterial streets with faster and higher-frequency bus service. Bus rapid transit improvements can be implemented more quickly than light rail or dedicated busways, since little or no construction is needed.

Nine streets would be studied for bus rapid transit, including West 7th Street and Snelling Avenue. If the studies bear out, the plan would put one bus rapid transit route on Snelling Avenue from Rosedale Mall to Ford Parkway and then through Highland Village and over the Ford Bridge to the Hiawatha light-rail line. The West 7th bus rapid transit route would be part of a line between Maplewood Mall and I-494 and eventually to Eden Prairie.

Area district councils have yet to discuss either bus rapid transit proposal. One unknown is how bus rapid transit would affect a proposed landscaped median on Snelling Avenue between St. Clair and Grand avenues.

Several bus routes already operate on Snelling. West 7th Street already has limited-stop bus service to Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and the Mall of America. That was implemented after the ill-fated Riverview Corridor busway on West 7th was curbed.

For more information on the 2030 plan, visit [www.metrocouncil.org](http://www.metrocouncil.org).

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# St. Paul approves area plans for light-rail stops on University

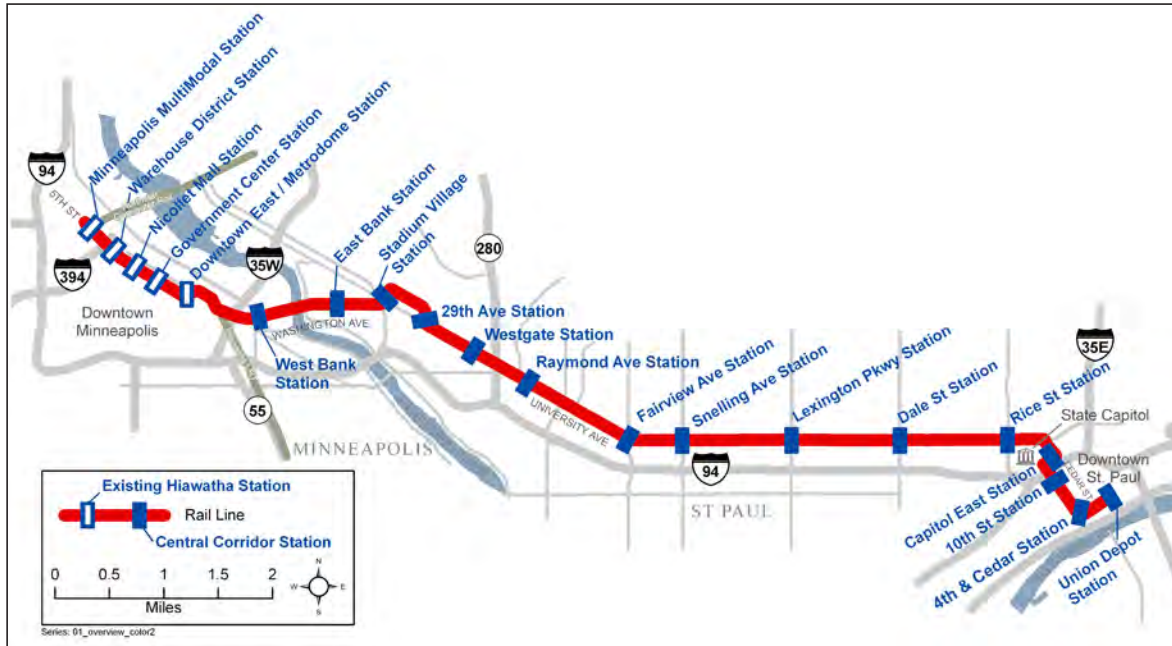
## Planning will now proceed for infill stations between Snelling and Rice

By JANE McCLURE

One planning process marked a milestone and another got a push on October 22 when the St. Paul City Council adopted two actions related to future land-use issues along the proposed Central Corridor light-rail line.

The council adopted station area plans for seven light-rail stops on University Avenue: at Westgate Drive; Raymond, Fairview and Snelling avenues; Lexington Parkway, and Dale and Rice streets. The plans address ideas for new development, parks, trails and other public amenities within a quarter mile of each station.

The council also adopted interim zoning regulations to limit development around proposed infill stations at Hamline Avenue, Victoria Street and Western Avenue. Detailed planning will now proceed for the three infill station areas. Those plans are expected to be completed



The proposed Central Corridor light-rail line features 20 stations along its 11 miles of track, including seven stops on University Avenue from Westgate Drive to Rice Street.

next year and be brought back to the St. Paul Planning Commission and City Council for approval.

The proposed \$914.8 million Central Corridor light-rail line is currently being reviewed at the federal level. Construction could start as early as 2010, with operations beginning in 2014. The Metropolitan Council is responsible for planning

and building the line. The city of St. Paul is responsible for land-use planning along the corridor.

As a result of the interim regulations for the areas around the infill stations, zoning regulations to promote transit-oriented development now extend along University from Prior Avenue to the state Capitol, making it the longest zoning over-

lay district in St. Paul. Only one small area—near University and Fry Street—falls outside of zoning restrictions, which govern building heights and setbacks, density, driveway placement and off-street parking for new developments. New auto-oriented businesses, such as vehicle sales and repairs, are banned from the district.

Last year, the City Council adopted the Central Corridor Development Strategy, a document that outlines ideas for future public and private investment along St. Paul's portion of the 11-mile light-rail line. Because much of the line is along University Avenue in St. Paul, that is where most of the efforts have been focused.

District councils and community development corporations along the Central Corridor have generally supported the station area plans as well as additional land-use planning around the three infill stations. However, a few objections and suggestions were still heard at a public hearing on October 15.

Gloria Massey and Veronica Burt, who are involved with the Aurora-St. Anthony Neighborhood Development Corporation, asked that the Dale Street station reflect the history as the area's predominantly black Rondo neighborhood, which was plowed under in the 1960s during the construction of I-94. The City Council agreed to their request to change the transit stop's name to the Dale Street/Historic Rondo Station to tie in with planned cultural initiatives there.

CENTRAL CORRIDOR ► 15



A rendering of the proposed Dale Street station on the Central Corridor light-rail line.

## Five artists chosen to adorn 15 stations on Central Corridor line

By JANE McCLURE

Metropolitan Council members may not know art, but they know what they like. And a recent vote suggests that not everyone on the council likes the notion of paying \$2.8 million for public art at transit stations along the proposed Central Corridor light-rail line.

The Met Council voted 9-6 on

October 22 to approve contracts with five artists to incorporate public art at 15 light-rail stations being planned along the 11-mile route between the downtowns of St. Paul and Minneapolis. The cost is only a fraction of the \$914.8 million Central Corridor line, but the split vote reflected ongoing debate over whether any money should

STATION ART ► 15



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14 ◀ CENTRAL CORRIDOR

However, the council did not make changes to the Snelling Avenue station area plan that had been sought by Midway Shopping Center representative Paula Maccabee. The shopping center would fall under regulations meant to promote denser, transit-oriented redevelopment.

Maccabee said the city should not adopt land-use plans that could be affected by the current economic downturn. "All of us who read the paper and watch the news on television know that these are difficult times," she said, adding that developers are "very worried" about what could play out over the next few years.

One part of that station area's plan suggests that private property owners and developers would be responsible for public infrastructure costs, Maccabee said. She questioned whether developers should have to pick up the tab for public amenities, such as park space. Other requirements would also be put on developers for streets or sidewalks. Asking developers to bear those additional costs "is going to make

it too hard to redevelop these properties," she said.

Council members Russ Stark and Melvin Carter III asked to lay over the vote on the station area plans on October 15 so they could look at the issues raised by Maccabee. However, Stark noted the following week that many of Maccabee's concerns had been raised during the Planning Commission's review of station area plans and that the City Attorney's Office had reviewed them as well.

"I'm pretty comfortable with the language we have," Stark said. Carter agreed and the station area plans were adopted with only minor language changes.

Adoption of the station area plans and the interim regulations around the infill stations will now be followed by efforts to clean up polluted sites along the Central Corridor. Last month, local district councils began reviewing a proposed funding request that targets pollution cleanup along University. The city is expected to apply for the funds by mid-November. It is unclear how many polluted sites there are along the corridor or how many of them may be slated for redevelopment.

14 ◀ STATION ART

be spent on public art as part of the project.

The light-rail plans approved by the Met Council in September include public art. According to Jim Alexander of the Central Corridor Project Office, most if not all current light-rail projects have a public art component. The Federal Transportation Administration recommends incorporating public art in transit projects and gives extra weight to projects that do so.

For the \$713 million Hiawatha light-rail line that runs between downtown Minneapolis and the Mall of America, \$3.5 million was spent on public art. For the Central Corridor, \$3.7 million has been budgeted for public art, including \$2.8 million for the stations.

Each of the five artists will design three stations. Each artist may spend up to \$560,000 for his or her work, or about \$187,000 per station. The artists are to complete their designs by May 2009. Construction of the light-rail line could begin as early as 2010, with the trains beginning to run in 2014.

Some Met Council members continue to be concerned about the cost of installing and maintaining public art. Some of the art installations along the Hiawatha line have been criticized by council members because their replacement pieces have been expensive to fabricate. "We have a very strong concern about maintenance," Alexander said.

Central Corridor project director Mark Fuhrmann, who also led the Hiawatha Corridor project, said he did not know how much it has cost to maintain the public art on the Hiawatha line, but he noted that Met Council staff had spent a "significant" amount of time repairing and replacing interactive art that has been repeatedly vandalized. No interactive art is planned along the Central Corridor.

How much money should be spent on public art was one issue; how the artists are assigned was another. On October 22, the Met Council rejected the notion of letting neighborhood groups decide which artists should design which stations along the Central Corridor. Instead, the artists have been assigned by a selection committee that included project staff and other artists.

The District Councils Collaborative, a group of St. Paul district councils and Minneapolis neighborhood associations along the light-rail line, had pushed for neighborhood groups to have a say in assigning the artists to the stations. Met Council member Kirsten Sersland Beach, who chairs the Central Corridor Citizens Advisory Committee, asked that the artists' assignments be provisional until there is time to do a public "visioning process" for each station.

However, other Met Council members said that could set the light-rail project back several months. They suggested instead that



A light-rail train leaves the station on the Hiawatha line in Minneapolis, which features \$3.5 million in public art. A total of \$3.7 million has been budgeted for public art on the Central Corridor.

*"We have a very strong concern about maintenance," Alexander said.*

neighborhood groups work closely with the artists. The requests for proposals and contracts call for the artists to hold at least three public meetings. Each station will also have a neighborhood task force that will be involved in its design.

Met Council chair Peter Bell said he will ensure that the public's voice is heard when art is designed for each station. "This will not be a hollow or toothless exercise," he said.

Eighty-seven artists from around the world sought the Central Corridor contracts. The five that were chosen include Frogtown resident Seitu Jones, who will design the Rice Street, Dale Street and Lexington Parkway stations; Minneapolis resident Janet Lofquist, who will design the 10th Street, Capitol East and 29th Avenue stations; New York resident Nancy Blum, who will design the Fairview Avenue, East Bank and West Bank stations; Wisconsin artists Andrea Myklebust and Stanton Sears, who will design the Union Depot, Raymond Avenue and Westgate stations; and Los Angeles resident Roberto Delgado, who will design the 4th & Cedar, Snelling Avenue and Stadium Village stations.

The artists were chosen because of their past public art work and their familiarity with using durable materials. Almost all of them have designed public art for other transit stations.

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# Crime Report

The following calls were gathered from recent Community Watch reports by the Ramsey County Sheriff's Department.

## Lilydale

**Theft**—A purse was stolen from a vehicle at Lilydale Park between 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Saturday, October 4.

## Highland Park

**Robbery**—A juvenile was assaulted and robbed at about 11:00 p.m. Thursday, October 2, at Scheffer and Snelling avenues. The victim was treated for minor injuries.

**Burglary**—A laptop computer was stolen from an apartment on the 2200 block of Pinehurst Avenue between 1:00 and 6:00 a.m. Tuesday, October 7.

—Burglaries were reported between 8:00 p.m. Tuesday and 7:30 a.m. Wednesday, October 7-8, at Homecroft Elementary School, 1845 Sheridan Ave.; Nova Classic Academy, 1668 Montreal Ave.; and St. Luke Lutheran Church, 1807 Field Ave. Entry was forced at all three buildings and cash was stolen from the first two.

—A home on the 1900 block of Morgan Avenue was burglarized between 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, October 14.

**Theft**—An elderly male was pickpocketed at Lunds grocery store in Highland Village at about 3:30 p.m. Saturday, October 4.

—A window was broken and several items were stolen from a car at Crosby Park between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Friday, October 10.

—A car was stolen at Crosby Park at about 2:00 p.m. Monday, October 20.

—A backpack containing a laptop computer, cell phone and books was stolen at the Highland Library between noon and 3:00 p.m. Saturday, October 18.

—Cast iron urns were stolen from the front entry of a home on the 2100 block of Hartford Avenue between 1:30 p.m. Monday and 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, October 20-21.

—Police arrested three men for auto theft after spotting a stolen car on West 7th Street and Montreal Avenue at about 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 22. The vehicle had been stolen from a rental company at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport.

**Miscellaneous**—Two Highland Park men were cited for operating a disorderly house on the 600 block of South Cleveland Avenue at about 12:30 a.m. Sunday, October 19. Police arrived at the house following reports of a

loud party. A Wisconsin man was arrested for disorderly conduct during another loud party at the same house later that day.

## Lexington-Hamline

**Assault**—A fight broke out at Central High School during a football game at about 9:30 p.m. Thursday, October 2. A 20-year-old Summit-University man and an 18-year-old Midway man were arrested for disorderly conduct, obstructing traffic and failure to cross at a crosswalk. Two male juveniles were also arrested for attempting to flee the police.

## Macalester-Groveland

**Homicide**—A 57-year-old man was killed on the 1800 block of St. Clair Avenue at about 6:00 p.m. Sunday, October 12. The victim suffered a fatal head injury while fighting with a 46-year-old man and died later at Regions Hospital. The suspect was arrested on October 21 for homicide.

**Robbery**—The Subway shop at 1820 Grand Ave. was robbed at gunpoint at about 9:00 p.m. Monday, October 6.

—Two couples were robbed at gunpoint at Grand and Hamline avenues between 11:45 p.m. and midnight on Friday, October 17. The suspects in the second robbery, who fled on foot, were described as two black males, 19-23 years old, wearing dark hooded sweatshirts and blue jeans.

**Burglary**—A home on the 1300 block of Sargent Avenue was burglarized between 9:00 a.m. and noon Wednesday, October 15.

—A home on the 1900 block of Wellesley Avenue was burglarized at about 2:30 a.m. Thursday, October 16. The suspect walked in through an unlocked back door, but fled after the homeowner confronted him.

—A home on the 1000 block of Palace Avenue was burglarized around 4:30 a.m. Saturday, October 18. The resident was home at the time.

**Theft**—The driver's window was broken and several items were taken from a vehicle around 1:00 p.m. Friday, October 10, at Summit Avenue and Mississippi River Boulevard. Another theft from auto occurred there between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. Thursday, October 16.

**Miscellaneous**—A 35-year-old Highland Park man was arrested for disorderly conduct at about 1:00 p.m. Sunday, October 5, at Snelling and Summit avenues. The man had driven around barricades set up to divert traffic

during the Twin Cities Marathon. He swore at police and said he had guns in his pickup. He admitted to officers later that he was off his medication. Police recovered two rifles in the truck and transported the man to jail.

## Merriam Park

**Robbery**—Three males robbed a boy at knife-point at Fry Street and University Avenue at about 9:30 p.m. Tuesday, October 7. One of the suspects, an 18-year-old Summit-University man, was arrested about two hours later on the 1500 block of Thomas Avenue.

—A man and two women robbed a man at the bus stop at University and Snelling avenues at about 10:30 p.m. Thursday, October 9. The victim was hit on the head, but was not injured. Nothing of value was stolen.

**Burglary**—A home was broken into on the 300 block of Herschel Street between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 8.

—A home on the 2100 block of Roblyn Avenue was burglarized between 5:30 and 6:00 a.m. Friday, October 10. The resident was home at the time.

—A home on the 1800 block of Portland Avenue was broken into between 8:30 p.m. Friday and 10:00 a.m. Saturday, October 17-18.

**Sex crime**—A peeping Tom was reported on the 400 block of North Fairview Avenue at about 4:30 p.m. Thursday, October 2. Police arrested a male juvenile for lewd behavior, fleeing police and underage consumption soon after.

**Weapons**—Police received a report of people shooting a BB gun in Aldine Park on Carroll Avenue and Aldine Street at about 2:00 a.m. Sunday, October 19. Two males fled when police arrived, and a woman was arrested for underage consumption.

**Miscellaneous**—Police investigated a homeless camp at about 8:00 a.m. Thursday, October 9, on the 300 block of Pierce Street and arrested a 34-year-old man on a warrant for aggressive solicitation.

—A man was cited for fifth-degree assault and disorderly conduct at 3:00 a.m. Saturday, October 18, at the University of St. Thomas. Police also cited a man for underage consumption and possession of marijuana at 2:00 a.m. Sunday, October 19, at the university.

## Snelling-Hamline

**Burglary**—A home on the 1500 block of Iglehart Avenue was burglarized between

midnight and 8:00 a.m. Thursday, October 16, while the residents slept.

**Theft**—Copper cable was stolen from a fenced yard on the 1500 block of Iglehart Avenue at about 3:30 a.m. Tuesday, October 7.

—Shingles were stolen from the 1300 block of Portland Avenue between 9:00 p.m. Tuesday and 7:30 a.m. Wednesday, October 7-8.

## Summit Hill

**Robbery**—Police arrested two male juveniles for trying to snatch a woman's purse at Grand Avenue and Victoria Street at about 11:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 15. The woman and a female acquaintance struggled with one suspect, and the other suspect knocked one of the women to the ground, causing minor injuries.

—A man was robbed outside Dixie's on Grand, 695 Grand Ave., at about 10:30 p.m. Monday, October 6.

**Burglary**—A home on the 700 block of Linwood Avenue was burglarized between 2:00 and 9:00 a.m. Sunday, October 5. The resident was home at the time.

—A guitar and \$200 in cash were stolen from an apartment on St. Albans Street and Summit Avenue between 8:00 p.m. Friday and 2:30 a.m. Saturday, October 11.

**Arson**—A car was set on fire on the 800 block of Lincoln Avenue at 11:30 p.m. Friday, October 17. Damage was estimated at \$15,000.

## Summit-University

**Robbery**—A woman said a man jumped into her rental car, pushed out her 5-year-old daughter and stole the vehicle on the 800 block of Hague Avenue at about 9:30 p.m. Sunday, October 19.

—Police arrested a Summit-University man shortly after he robbed a man at Ravoux Street and St. Anthony Avenue at about 10:30 p.m. Tuesday, October 21. A second suspect is still at large.

**Burglary**—A computer and jewelry were stolen from an apartment on the 900 block of Dayton Avenue between 12:30 and 8:00 p.m. Monday, October 6.

—A home on the 400 block of Carroll Avenue was burglarized between 7:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 8.

—St. John's Episcopal Church, 60 Kent St., was broken into between 7:30 p.m. Thursday

CRIME REPORT ► 17

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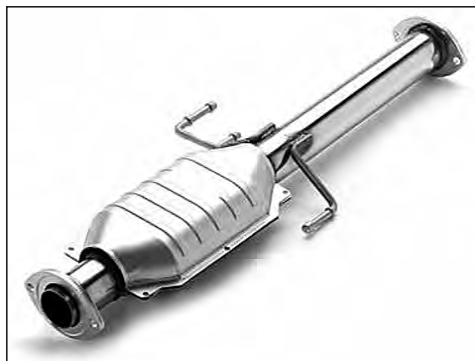
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# Thieves stoop to new low, stealing parts off underside of automobiles

BY KEVIN DRISCOLL

Don Fiebiger of Highland Park woke up one Saturday morning in late August, showered, ate breakfast and set out to do some errands. "I started up my truck and it sounded really loud," he said. "It was fine the night before." Fiebiger got down on his hands and knees and peered under the vehicle. "There was a 2-foot piece missing from the exhaust system," he said. "During the night, somebody had gone under my truck and stolen the catalytic converter."



A catalytic converter for a small truck.

Though they have been required on all U.S. cars manufactured since 1975, many people may not know what a catalytic converter is, much less what it does. However, it seems a growing number of thieves are aware of their value. Catalytic converters contain small amounts of three precious metals—palladium, rhodium and platinum—that serve to "scrub" a vehicle's exhaust of pollutants. Several weeks ago, platinum hit a record high value of more than \$2,300 an ounce, close to three times the value of gold.

Installing a new catalytic converter can cost several hundred dollars, as Fiebiger found out. "I wanted to use my insurance to get a new one, but the deductible was too high, so I decided to buy one myself," he said. He checked with a Toyota dealership, but they wanted \$900 to fix his truck with company-approved parts. So he bought a universal catalytic converter from an auto parts store and had Midas install it. "The whole thing was \$200, including installation," he said, adding that Midas "does a couple of these a month, I guess."

A total of 15 catalytic converters were stolen in St. Paul between September 27 and October 27, according to Commander Colleen Luna of the St. Paul Police Department's Western District. That is down from 20 catalytic converter thefts the month before and about 25 the month before that, she said. However, Luna's numbers for October did not include the 15 catalytic converters that were stolen during the weekend of October 25-26 from the Walsler Auto Outlet used car lot at 740 S. Concord St.

"The biggest problem is that catalytic converters don't have any ID numbers on them," Luna said, "so it's difficult to figure out just which vehicle any one might belong to. They're virtually untraceable. When a catalytic converter is stolen, we check with scrap yards to see if any have been turned in recently and we send out all-points bulletins to other police departments, but that's about all we can do."

Until the recent economic downturn, a

thief could get anywhere from \$50 to \$500 from a junk yard or scrap metal dealer for a single catalytic converter, depending on its size. "They used to be worth a lot," said Mark Leder, owner of Leder Bros. Metal Co., a scrap dealer at 3240 Snelling Ave. S. in Minneapolis. "But lately, their value is down to about half of what they were worth."

Catalytic converters "are worth less now than they were just 30 days ago," agreed Don Kloek, manager of Ace Auto Parts on Rice Street in St. Paul. "You used to be able to get about \$250 for a big one."

However, Kloek added, used auto parts stores and junkyard dealers "don't take catalytic converters by themselves. It's illegal to put a used catalytic converter on another car. But we sometimes get them stolen from our cars in the yard. It only takes about 30 seconds to get under there and cut it out."

Since August 2007, it has been more difficult for thieves to cash in on a catalytic converter or other stolen metals at scrap yards in Minnesota, according to Leder. That is when a new state law went into effect requiring scrap dealers to take a photo or video of the seller and the vehicle he or she used to deliver the metal. The seller must present a photo ID to the dealer, and any payment received must be by check in the name of the holder of that ID. Records of the transaction must be kept on site for three years and made available to law enforcement agencies.

Leder said he is happy to follow the law to the letter. However, he said, if the metal he receives has been stolen, rarely does anything come from it. "While the police do a good job checking the records," Leder said, "if someone is actually caught, they often don't get any jail time."

"The thing is, there are hundreds of catalytic converters available on eBay, and virtually all of them could be stolen," Leder said. "So thieves don't even bother trying to sell them at scrap yards anymore."

## 16◀ CRIME REPORT

and 8:00 a.m. Friday, October 2-3.

—A purse was stolen and the car keys were used to steal a white 1995 Volvo from the garage of a home on the 1000 block of Portland Avenue between 11:00 p.m. Thursday and 4:30 a.m. Friday, October 16-17.

—A woman was arrested for burglarizing a home on the 800 block of Hague Avenue at about 1:45 p.m. Saturday, October 18.

**Theft**—A laptop computer was stolen from an office at William Mitchell College of Law around 4:00 p.m. Friday, October 10.

**Assault**—A man was stabbed at about 8:00 p.m. Saturday, October 4, at Arundel Street and Aurora Avenue and was hospitalized.

**Weapons**—Three loaded handguns were recovered under the stairs in the backyard of a home on the 500 block of Portland Avenue at about 3:30 p.m. Thursday, October 2.

## West End

**Robbery**—Four males on bikes knocked a woman to the ground and stole her purse on Western Avenue near I-35E at about 8:00 p.m. Thursday, October 16.

—A juvenile was robbed on West 7th Street and Goodrich Avenue at about 10:00 p.m. Sunday, October 19.

**Burglary**—St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 550 W. 7th St., was burglarized between 5:30 p.m. Thursday and 9:30 a.m. Friday, October 2-3.

—A home on the 500 block of Jefferson Avenue was broken into between 6:30 p.m. Friday and 5:30 p.m. Sunday, October 17-19.

—Someone tried to steal the cash machine from the Holiday station, 1445 W. 7th St., at about 3:30 a.m. Monday, October 20.

**Theft**—Counterfeit bills were passed at the Mobile station, 236 Grand Ave., between 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Monday, October 6.

—Halloween decorations were stolen from a yard on the 200 block of Erie Street between 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. Saturday, October 11. The decorations were replaced, but were vandalized on Friday, October 17.

**Miscellaneous**—Suspects were reported spraying graffiti on a wall at I-35E and St. Clair Avenue at about 3:00 a.m. Monday, October 6. Police did not find the suspects, but they impounded their car, which contained spray cans and other painting equipment.

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# Summit Avenue institute bids *Willkommen* to those interested in German culture

Anyone who has ever strolled or driven along Summit Avenue is likely to have noticed a building with the words Volksfest Kulturhaus atop the entryway. The building has been a single-family house, a priory, and for the past 43 years the home of an organization that promotes German culture in Minnesota. Those familiar words over the entry were removed this past summer, but German culture is still alive and well there.

The Georgian stone mansion at 301 Summit is actually the second structure that was built on the site. In 1882, A.F. Gauger designed a frame house for Dr. Alexander Stone. That structure was moved around the corner in 1903 and still stands at 107 Farrington St.

George Washington Gardner, a prominent Hastings banker and later president of a St. Paul mortgage firm, bought the vacant property in 1905 and built a Beaux Arts-inspired mansion, according to documents pro-



## Close to Home By Lisa Heinrich

vided by the current occupants. Designed by Thomas Holyoke, the building has 14 rooms, a striking staircase with a balcony mezzanine, six parlors with fireplaces, and a third-floor ballroom. It cost \$28,000 to build, and was called "a landmark of architectural beauty" upon its completion.

The Gardners lived there for many years. After George's death in 1934, his widow Claribel lived there until her own death four years later. Their son Truman then lived there for a time.

It may have served as a boarding house for several years after Truman left, and in 1948 the sisters of St. Benedict bought it for \$39,000 for a priory. The Benedictines came to Minnesota in the middle of the 19th century to teach the children of German immigrants, said Prioress Sister Marie Fujan in a 1998 *Pioneer Press* article. She reminisced about life in the Summit Avenue location, noting that the only place 200 or so sisters could gather was in the main hallway and up the sweeping staircase.

Margie Deutsch, the historian of the Germanic-American Institute that now owns the building, tells of how the nuns could only use the main staircase on Sundays. On other days, it was reserved for guests—mostly the city's poor coming to ask for help.

The space was never enough. The sisters renovated the carriage house for \$23,333 and called it St. Peter's Hall. They then purchased the house next door, which they named Mary Hall, and later bought a house at the corner of Summit Avenue and Farrington, which became St. Wilhelmina Hall.

In 1965, the order moved to a modern, six-



The Germanic-American Institute, 301 Summit Ave. PHOTO BY ANNE BRANDRUD



Young dancers perform at the German haus on Summit Avenue. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

story structure in Maplewood and sold the house to the Volksfest Association of Minnesota for \$57,000. The group intended to make it a center for German culture along the lines of the Swedish-American Institute in Minneapolis.

In 1957, Al Grossman had founded the Central Committee of German American Clubs, which became the German American Minnesota Centennial Committee during the state's 100-year anniversary in 1958. Later that same year it became the Volksfest Association. According to an undated brochure, its purpose was "to provide a vehicle for re-creating the *gemütlichkeit* (friendliness) of the past and for focusing attention on the cultural, historic and social contributions of Germany to America."

The Volksfest Kulturhaus was renamed the Germanic-American Institute in 1992 to reflect a broader mission. Today it not only promotes *gemütlichkeit* for its more than 1,000

members, but is expanding as a nonprofit cultural and educational institution.

The GAI provides German language classes, operates two German-language immersion preschools, sponsors the Twin Cities German Immersion School, and offers programs from the Germany-based Goethe Institut, current affairs and arts programs, summer camps and social events.

Earlier this year, the GAI also became the home for the St. Paul-Neuss Sister City Partnership. The house is also available to rent for meetings, weddings, performances, parties and lectures. Various areas of the three floors may be used, including the lower-level rathskeller.

The institute also hosts German celebrations throughout the year, most of which are open to the public. Upcoming events include a beer-tasting event co-hosted by the August

GERMAN HAUS ► 19

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# Religious Notes

**The Temple of Aaron Synagogue**, 616 S. Mississippi River Blvd., will offer the following activities in the next few weeks: a "Fundamentals of Judaism" course from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, November 5-March 4 (no class on November 26, December 24 and December 31, \$100 for materials); a trip for Jewish adults 55 and older to see the Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company's *Chaim's Love Song* at 8:00 p.m. Saturday, November 15, at the Hillcrest Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. (\$23); an "Exotic Jewish Communities" course from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Wednesdays, November 5-December 17 (\$60); a "Pondering Selected Jewish-Christian Entanglements" course from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. on Wednesdays, November 5-12 and December 3-10, and Tuesdays, November 18 and December 16 (\$60); and five mini-courses ranging from bioethics to underground Judaism from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. on Wednesdays, November 5-December 17 (no class November 26, \$15 each or \$60 for the series). Call 651-698-8874.

**Spirit of Hope Catholic Community**, 2035 Charlton Road in Sunfish Lake, is screening films at 7:00 p.m. on the first Friday of each month. Next up is *The Power of Forgiveness* on November 7. An informal discussion will follow the movie. Call 651 328-7723.

**The Loyola Spirituality Center** is offering an overnight retreat, "A Time to Remember: A Retreat for Women Whose Mothers Have Died," on Friday evening through Saturday afternoon, November 7-8, at the Benedictine Center in Maplewood. The cost is \$185, or \$135 for commuters. Visit [www.loyolaspiritualitycenter.org](http://www.loyolaspiritualitycenter.org) or call 651-641-0008.

**The Institute of the Himalayan Tradition**, 1317 Summit Ave., will offer "Yoga, Forgiveness, and Enlightenment" at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, November 8 (\$25); and "The Life of Buddha" at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, November 22 (\$20). Call 651-645-1291.

**House of Hope Presbyterian Church**, 797 Summit Ave., will hold its fifth annual Recovery Sunday on November 9. Author Karen Casey will speak on "The Pathway to Peace: Building a Relationship with God, Ourselves and One Another" at both the 8:15 and 10:00 a.m. services. Gospel music will be led by Thelma Buckner and her family at the services. An adult enrichment program will follow the later service and will welcome a panel of friends and family helped by 12-step programs. Call 651-227-6311.

**Francis Beckwith**, a professor at Baylor University, will give a free lecture on "Bioethics and the Religious Citizen in a Liberal Democracy" at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, November 13, in the O'Shaughnessy Educational Center at the University of St. Thomas. Call 651-962-5700.

**The Christian Community Fair** will take place on Friday and Saturday, November 14-15, at St. Paul's RiverCentre. More than 150 exhibitors will offer information ranging from ministries and camps to businesses and sports organizations. Highlights include music by Phil Joel, former member of the Newsboys, and an appearance by Larry and Bob from *Veggie Tales*. Worship concerts, a 25-foot climbing wall, a teen zone, an arts and crafts area, a monster truck and NASCAR vehicle, a petting zoo, inflatables, prayer area, food and games will also be featured. Admission is

free, but attendees are asked to bring a canned good for the Union Gospel Mission. For more information or to volunteer, visit [www.christianfair.com](http://www.christianfair.com).

**Lutheran Church of the Redeemer**, 285 N. Dale St., will feature the music of Martin Luther, presented by classical guitarist Randall Ferguson, as part of a Compline and Concert series at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, November 16. Refreshments will follow.

**The Greater St. Paul Prayer Breakfast** will be held from 7:00 to 9:00 a.m. Thursday, November 20, at the Crowne Plaza St. Paul Riverfront Hotel, 11 E. Kellogg Blve. St. Paul Assistant Police Chief Matt Bostrom will speak on "Why Character Counts." Phil Thompson, who composed "Final Ride Home" in response to the I-35 Bridge collapse, will provide music. Food donations also will be collected for Second Harvest Heartland. To order tickets at \$20, call 651-488-1000 or visit [www.stpaulprayerbreakfast.com](http://www.stpaulprayerbreakfast.com).

**A full, hearty breakfast for men** is served on the fourth Saturday of each month following the 8:00 a.m. Mass at the Church of St. Helena, 3204 E. 43rd St. in Minneapolis. John F. Boyle, Ph.D. will deliver a talk on St. Thomas More and courage during the breakfast on November 22. Tickets for the 8:30 a.m. meal are \$5.00, and reservations are due by noon on the day before. Call 612-729-7321. Complimentary tickets are also available.

**An ecumenical Thanksgiving service** will be offered at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 26, at St. Anne's Episcopal Church, 2035 Charlton Road in Sunfish Lake. A collection will be taken for Neighbors Inc., an emergency food shelf in South St. Paul. Coffee, cider and pie will be served at the reception that follows. Call 651-454-1311.

**An Advent procession** will be led by the Gregorian Singers at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, November 30, at St. Paul's Church on the Hill, 1524 Summit Ave. The choir will sing Advent carols and motets as it walks the stations of the cross. Call 612-823-1688.

**A Christmas vespers service** will be presented at 7:30 p.m. Monday, December 15, in the Graebner Memorial Chapel at Concordia University-St. Paul, 1259 Carroll Ave. Admission is free.

**A Jewish-Christian dialogue** on the "Theologies of Aging" will be led by Rabbi Amy Eilberg from the St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity and professor Janet Ramsey from Luther Seminary from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Thursday, November 13, in Northwestern Hall at Luther Seminary, 1501 Fulham Ave. The free program is co-sponsored by the Jay Phillips Center for Jewish-Christian Learning of the universities of St. John's and St. Thomas. Call 651-962-5780.

**WomenSpirit**, an ecumenical collaboration of 11 Twin Cities organizations supporting women on their spiritual journey, will continue its Speak Out series with "Hearing Women's Stories of War and Creating Initiatives for Peace" from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. November 16, at McNeely Hall at the University of St. Thomas. A panel of women who have experienced war in their countries will share their stories. The cost is \$5.00-\$10. Call 651-962-6118 or 612-823-5901.

making, entertainment and treats during St. Nikolaus Tag from noon to 3:00 p.m. Sunday, December 7 (\$8.00-\$12); and a Christmas open house from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., followed by a Christmas program and dinner on Saturday, December 13 (\$10-\$27).

Details of these events and more information about the GAI are available at [www.gai-mn.org](http://www.gai-mn.org) or by calling 651-222-7027.

## 18◀ GERMAN HAUS

Schell Brewing Company at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, November 8 (\$15-\$20); lantern-making, entertainment, refreshments and a parade in celebration of St. Martin's Day from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Sunday, November 9, at Landmark Center (donations are being asked for the benefit of Joseph's Coat); Christmas craft-



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# District Council News

## Highland Park

www.highlanddistrictcouncil.org • 651-695-4005

**Transportation update**—A meeting on the proposed Highland Parkway bicycle boulevard was held on October 27, with around 150 people attending. The Highland District Council gave a brief presentation on its findings from a neighborhood survey. A total of 142 people responded to the survey, with 65 in favor of the boulevard and 77 opposed. Those in opposition stated concerns regarding the safety of bicyclists, the cost of the boulevard, the width of the street and the lower speed limit. Those in favor said St. Paul should be providing more opportunities to bike because it promotes a healthier lifestyle and greener living, and slowing down traffic would benefit residents. The HDC's Transportation Committee is expected to make its recommendation on the bike boulevard at its meeting on November 24.

**Community Development update**—The Highland District Council's Community Development Committee voted on October 20 to support Umbria restaurant's request for a parking variance in order to open at 2073 Ford Pkwy. The recommendation included the conditions that one trash hauler be retained for all tenants at the corner, the alley deliveries be coordinated, that adequate ventilation equipment be installed, and that employees park on nonresidential streets. Committee members said Umbria and landlord Lunieski Properties seem willing to work with the neighbors and have cooperated by doing everything that was asked of them.

**Neighborhood honor roll**—Nominations are now being sought for the St. Paul Neighborhood Honor Roll. Local nominees should be people who have given of their time and talents to make Highland Park a better place. The nomination deadline is November 15. Inductees will be honored at a ceremony on January 16 at the University of St. Thomas.

**Recycling bins**—Highland residents may pick up a free recycling bin at the front desk of the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy., during regular hours.

**Crime report**—To receive the St. Paul Police Department's weekly crime report, crime alerts and other information about what's going on in the neighborhood, send your name and e-mail address to the HDC office at [hdc@visi.com](mailto:hdc@visi.com).

**Mark your calendar**—HDC board meeting, 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 5; Community Services Committee meeting, 7:00 p.m. Monday, November 10; Community Development Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m. Monday, November 17; Transportation Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m. Monday, November 24. All meeting will be held at Hillcrest.

## Macalester-Groveland

www.macgrove.org • 651-695-4000

**Board vacancies**—There are currently two openings on the Macalester-Groveland Community Council's board of directors. One is for Grid 7, which is bounded by Pascal Street and Summit, Hamline and St. Clair avenues. The other is an at-large business representative. Any business owner or rep-



Jake Sundberg and Kelsey Luedtke raked leaves for area seniors on November 1 as a free service offered by the Macalester-Groveland Job Connection. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

resentative of a business in Macalester-Groveland is eligible to run for the at-large seat. Elections to fill the vacant seats will be held at the next board meeting, which begins at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, November 13, at the Edgcumbe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St. For information about running for the board, contact Melissa Martinez-Sones at 651-695-4000 or [melissa@macgrove.org](mailto:melissa@macgrove.org).

**Check out KidsPark**—KidsPark, the community council's drop-in child-care program, is now open from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on weekdays for children ages 18 months to 5 years, with infant care offered on Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings. The professionally staffed parent cooperative is located in the Groveland Park warming house at 1961 St. Clair Ave. Call 651-695-4008 or visit [www.kidsparkedropin.org](http://www.kidsparkedropin.org).

**Beautification Committee**—Residents who like gardening are being asked to consider joining the community council's Beautification Committee. The committee holds spring and fall plant shares and organizes the annual Alley Garden Awards, in addition to managing other projects. Meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month from March through October. For information, contact Afton Martens at 651-695-4000 or [afton@macgrove.org](mailto:afton@macgrove.org).

**Electronic updates**—Those who are interested in receiving e-mailed updates regarding crime in the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood should contact Afton Martens at 651-695-4000 or [afton@macgrove.org](mailto:afton@macgrove.org).

## Summit Hill

www.summithillassociation.org • 651-222-1222

**Board members elected**—The Summit Hill Association held its annual meeting and board elections in October. New board members include Ken Bayliss, Lisa Erickson, Matt Hill, Grace Linder, Colin McFadden and Jenn Schall. Current board members Lisa McGann and Dann Dobson were re-elected. Two board seats remain open. Anyone who lives in, owns property or a business in, or serves as the designated representative of a business in the neighborhood is eligible to apply for the two spots on the 21-member board. Renters are especially encouraged to run. For information or an application, contact the SHA office.

**Renters wanted**—The SHA invites area apartment dwellers to contact the office to learn about the opportunities and resources that the association has available. More than half of Summit Hill's residents are renters.

**Fall yard waste**—Leaves, grass and other soft-bodied plant material may be dropped off at Ramsey County compost sites from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturdays; and from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sundays. The Summit Hill compost site on Pleasant and St. Clair avenues accepts yard waste only. Brush may be brought to the Midway site on Pierce Butler Route and Prior Avenue. The sites will be open through November 30. Call 651-633-EASY or visit [www.GreenGuardian.org](http://www.GreenGuardian.org).

**Upcoming meetings**—Pedestrian Safety and Traffic Calming Committee, 7:00 p.m. Monday, November 10, Linwood Recreation Center, 860 St. Clair Ave.; SHA board meeting, 7:00 p.m. Thursday, November 13, Linwood.

## Union Park

www.unionparkdc.org • 651-645-6887

**Board meeting set**—The Union Park District Council's board of directors will hold its next meeting at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 5, at the Merriam Park Recreation Center, 2000 St. Anthony Ave. For information or to be included on the agenda for the meeting, call the council office or e-mail [info@unionparkdc.org](mailto:info@unionparkdc.org).

**Land Use Committee**—The Union Park District Council's Land Use Committee will meet at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 19, in the Lakes and Plains Building at 842 Raymond Ave.

**Recycling bins**—Free recycling bins are handed out from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at the Merriam Park Recreation Center, 2000 St. Anthony Ave. The next pickup dates are November 5 and 19.

**Stay informed**—The Union Park District Council publishes a monthly electronic newsletter that updates neighborhood residents on upcoming events, meetings and programs. Weekly crime notifications are also sent to subscribing residents. To subscribe, e-mail [info@unionparkdc.org](mailto:info@unionparkdc.org) with "subscribe to e-news" or "subscribe to crime notification" in the subject line.

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**Ritter named  
"Super Agent 2008"**

Lynn O. Ritter, Realtor with RE/MAX Results, has been named a "Super Real Estate Agent for 2008" by Mpls-St. Paul Magazine in their Nov. 2008 issue.

Ritter was one of a small percentage of agents selected for the award. To receive the award an agent had to have been strongly recommended by their past clients, been free from disciplinary action and screened by a panel of real estate industry experts.

Agents were nominated based on eight criteria: communication, integrity, market knowledge, negotiation, finding the right home, marketing of home, closing preparation, and overall satisfaction.

Ritter, who has sold real estate for 23 years in St. Paul is also a member of the RE/MAX Hall of Fame.

She can be reached at:  
(651) 696-0846  
[www.stpaul-girl.com](http://www.stpaul-girl.com)

# Volunteers

**Big Brothers Big Sisters** needs volunteers for its school-based program. Volunteers meet with students ages 7-13 for an hour once a week at one of more than 35 participating schools, including Highland Park Junior High. Volunteers and students engage in activities based on their interests, including reading, playing educational games or sports or working on art projects. Call 651-789-2400 or visit [www.bigstwincities.org](http://www.bigstwincities.org).

**The Summit Hill Association** needs volunteers to help with various office tasks, such as copying, data entry and mailings, from time to time as work load dictates. Call Diane Hilden or Jeff Roy at 651-222-1222.

**Community Action Partnership** of Ramsey and Washington Counties, 450 N. Syndicate St., needs volunteers to register voters, write grants, deliver meals, serve as office assistants and more. Volunteers receive free classes, discounts and other perks. Call 651-603-5886 or visit [www.capr.org](http://www.capr.org).

**Adult literacy volunteers** are needed to teach English to adult refugees and immigrants. Previous teaching experience or knowledge of a foreign language is not necessary. Training and support are provided by the Minnesota Literacy Council. Contact Allison at [volunteer@themlc.org](mailto:volunteer@themlc.org) or 651-645-2277, extension 219.

**Little Brothers-Friends of the Elderly** is seeking volunteer companions for senior citizens. Call Nichole Salaam at 612-746-0753 or visit [www.littlebrothersmn.org](http://www.littlebrothersmn.org).

**The Minnesota Cleaners Association** is sponsoring its annual blanket drive to benefit Sharing and Caring Hands, a Minneapolis nonprofit that serves more than 20,000 people in need each month. Customers are encouraged to drop off new or gently used blankets, comforters, bedspreads and throws at MCA dry cleaners, which will process the items before delivering them to Sharing and Caring Hands. For a list of participating cleaners, visit [www.minnesotadrycleaners.org](http://www.minnesotadrycleaners.org).

**Keystone Community Services**, 2000 St. Anthony Ave., is co-sponsoring the Walk to End Hunger from 7:00 to 11:00 a.m. on Thanksgiving day, November 27, at the Mall of America. Proceeds will provide emergency food support for needy families. Register at [www.walktoendhunger.org](http://www.walktoendhunger.org).

**The Minneapolis & St. Paul Home Tour** is looking for homeowners interested in opening their homes for the 22nd annual tour on April 25-26, 2009. Applications are due by January 23. Minneapolis' Neighborhood Revitalization Program manages the tour, which celebrates city living and promotes home improvements. Contractors also may nominate homes they have worked on. For information, visit [www.MSPHomeTour.com](http://www.MSPHomeTour.com) or contact Margo Ashmore at 612-673-5103.

**The city of St. Paul** is now accepting applications from area residents and employees interested in serving as Second Shift commissioners. The St. Paul Second Shift Commission was created in 2006 to provide recommendations regarding after-school youth learning activities in the city. Commissioners serve for three years. Letters of interest are due by November 20. Contact Second Shift coordinator Kari Denissen at [kari.denissen@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:kari.denissen@ci.stpaul.mn.us) or 651-266-6426.

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Scholarship aid has allowed St. Thomas to open doors for Laura and other students. With your support, we can increase our ability to help.

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**370 MARSHALL AVENUE, UNIT 301**  
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651-282-9621 • \$895,000

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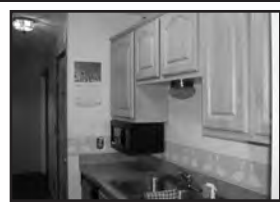
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1856 Bohland: Meticulously maintained 1 1/2-story in the heart of Highland Park! Walking distance to Hillcrest and two grade schools. 4 BRs, 2 baths. For info call Dick. [www.DickAndTomDistad.com](http://www.DickAndTomDistad.com)

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2-story with 4 BRs, 2 FP's, 3 baths, stunning hardwood on both levels, 2-car attached garage. Main floor addition in 2000 with ramp. \$46,000 price change.

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**1669 JULIET**

Impeccably maintained Craftsman in the heart of Mac-Groveland. 3 spacious BRs, 2 baths, many new improvements blended with '20s charm. Worth comparing value. Call Lolly to see.

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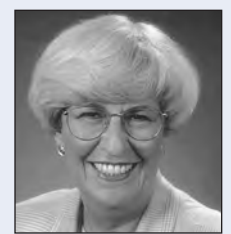
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# Truth be told

## Author taps her imagination for a remarkable fiction rooted in fact

BY BOB GILBERT

For Heather Bouwman, good fiction is almost invariably more interesting than fact. The Macalester-Groveland mother and University of St. Thomas English professor recently published her first book, a novel for children age 10 and older titled, *The Remarkable and Very True Story of Lucy and Snowcap*.

The fantasy adventure is set in the 1770s on a fictional island chain off the east coast of America. Tathenland has long been inhabited by the Colay people. However, three ships of English convicts, bound for Virginia to work as indentured servants, were shipwrecked there several years earlier and settled on the islands.

The story's protagonists are two strong-willed 12-year-old girls. Snowcap is the daughter of the English governor of the island who has just been murdered, presumably by the Colay. When Snowcap uncovers a plot hatched by the servants on her estate to kidnap her, she escapes and in her flight meets up with Lucy.

Lucy, a Colay girl, is also running away from home. A responsible older sister, she is traveling with her newborn brother, Rob, whom she is trying to save

from a mysterious affliction that has befallen the men of her tribe. For some unknown reason, Colay males have all been turning to stone.

"Both girls have prickly personalities," Bouwman said, "and despite their innate dislike of each other, they try to work together to save themselves. As the novel progresses, we find that their problems stem from the same source."

*The Remarkable and Very True Story of Lucy and Snowcap* is not allegorical, Bouwman said. However, she added, "a truly good story is going to have a piece of truth in it. Maybe not historical truth, but emotional truth. Something about it has to ring true. If it doesn't, it's not a good story."

Though the islands and the events that take place on them are a product of

Bouwman's imagination, she did draw on her extensive knowledge of American colonial history. According to her, 40,000 English convicts were exiled to the Americas during the colonial period.

Bouwman has a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois and, as part of her study of colonial and early American literature, she read many sermons, political tracts and what she calls "captivity narratives"—the memoirs written by colonists who were captured by American Indian tribes. As might be expected, many of the 300-year-old captivity narratives contain racist overtones, and the conflict between Lucy and Snowcap reflects the ethnocentrism of the era, Bouwman said.

"Many captivity narratives go through the same motions as romance novels," she said. "Many of them are really ugly, but others are fascinating. Many of the colonists who were captured ended up having conflicted feelings about their captors. Often, they attempted to be honest about what they saw and who the native Americans really were."

Bouwman grew up in Holland, Michigan, a town on Lake Michigan. She earned her undergraduate degree in English about 30 miles away, at Calvin College in Grand Rapids.

After earning her Ph.D., she moved to St. Paul in 2001 to work at St. Thomas, where she teaches literature, writing and the history of colonial women writers.

Bouwman suspects there is no such thing as objective history. However, some versions are closer to the truth than others, she said. That is one of the themes in her novel. The character Phillip, who is the headmaster of the colonial school in Tathenland, writes a history of the island:

*A group of brave English explorers, 137 men and 99 female consorts, valiantly settled the island of Tathenn in the year 1775. They claimed the land as a colony of England and set up a model government, the first governor being the stately Robert O'Kelly, the youngest*



Author Heather Bouwman. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

*offspring of a prominent member of the Irish gentry.*

Phillip's history is a fabrication, of course, since the colony's founders were actually convicts who had been helped out of their chains by the Colay people who paddled out to rescue them when their ships were dashed against the islands' rocks.

"Often we dress up our national and personal history to make it look better than it really is," Bouwman said. "Eventually we start believing it, and it really affects the way we act."

"Those falsehoods are an important barrier separating Lucy and Snowcap, who have both been told lies about their past.

Being honest about our past is an important factor in fashioning a good and generous future."

Bouwman will join fellow children's authors Mary Logue, Lynne Jonell and Pete Hauptman in a free reading from their books beginning at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, November 8, at the Loft Literary Center, 1011 Washington Ave. S. in Minneapolis.

She will also read from the novel during a free presentation for adults on "Becoming a (re)Writer: What I Learned from Writing a Children's Novel" at 3:30 p.m. Friday, November 14, in the O'Shaughnessy-Frey Library at St. Thomas.

For more information, visit [www.hmbouwman.com](http://www.hmbouwman.com).

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# School Notes

## St. Paul schools to discuss major changes

The St. Paul Public Schools has scheduled six neighborhood meetings in the coming weeks to discuss the need for large-scale changes in the district. Those attending the meetings will learn why business as usual is not a sustainable option in the St. Paul Public Schools. All district sites and programs will be affected, whether it be through changes related to transportation, programming or professional development.

Among the topics to be discussed at the meetings are academics, enrollment, school choice, budget and consolidation. The public also will be given an opportunity to help staff identify the district's future needs.

The meetings will be held from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. on the following dates:

- Monday, November 10, at the Neighbor-

hood House, 179 E. Robie St. (Presentation in Spanish and English.)

- Thursday, November 13, at the Jimmy Lee Recreation Center, 270 N. Lexington Pkwy.

- Monday, November 17, at Como Park Senior High School, 740 W. Rose Ave.

- Wednesday, December 3, at Phalen Lake Elementary School, 1089 Cypress St. (Presentation in Hmong and English.)

- Thursday, December 4, at Gloria Dei Church, 700 S. Snelling Ave.

- Friday, December 12, at Highwood Hills Elementary School, 2188 Londin Lane. (Somali Parent Advisory Council)

A light dinner and refreshments will be provided. For more information, visit [www.spps.org/System\\_Changes.html](http://www.spps.org/System_Changes.html).

**Macalester College** has announced a \$150 million capital campaign, the largest in the college's history. "Step Forward: The Campaign for Macalester" is raising funds for scholarships, endowed professorships, other student learning, improvements to the fine arts programs, and the building of the college's new sports complex and Institute for Global Citizenship now under construction at Grand and Snelling avenues. More than \$100 million has been raised through the quiet phase of the campaign, which began in May 2006. The public phase will run through May 2011. Macalester's last capital campaign in the late 1990s raised \$55.3 million.

**Superintendent Meria Carstarphen** will present an address on the state of the St. Paul Public Schools at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, November 6, at Monroe School, 810 Palace Ave. A reception and student entertainment will precede the address at 6:30 p.m. An abbreviated version of the address will also be broadcast on cable channel 16 and at [www.spps.org](http://www.spps.org) beginning that evening.

**Cretin-Derham Hall** will hold open houses for prospective students at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, November 6, and Monday, November 10. Visitors are asked to use the main entrance of the high school at 550 S. Albert St. Call 651-690-2443.

**Personal computer training** is being offered by St. Paul College Continuing Education. The instructor will make a home or office call, or meet students at the computer lab at the UAW-Ford-MnSCU Training Center in Highland Village. Topics include Beginning Computer, Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, Access), using the Internet and e-mail, digital photos and more. Call 651-846-1783.

**The University of St. Thomas** will celebrate homecoming and reunion weekend on November 7-9. The homecoming parade will begin at 10:30 a.m. Saturday on Summit Avenue between Fry Street and Cretin Avenue, followed by the annual Taste of Saints food fest from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the campus quadrangle and the homecoming football game against Bethel at 1:00 p.m. in O'Shaughnessy Stadium. Game tickets are \$3.00-\$6.00. A homecoming/reunion Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. Sunday in the chapel. Call 651-962-6430 or visit [www.stthomas.edu/alumni](http://www.stthomas.edu/alumni).

**Yinghua Academy**, a Chinese immersion charter school for grades K-5 at 1355 Pierce Butler Route, will hold informational sessions for prospective students and their parents from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. Saturdays, November 8 and December 6. Visit [www.yinghuacademy.org](http://www.yinghuacademy.org) or call 651-379-4112.

**A free civic engagement forum** focusing on environmental sustainability will be held from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. Monday, November

10, in the student center at the College of St. Catherine. College students from Bethel, Concordia, Macalester, St. Catherine and St. Thomas will give presentations on sustainability projects on their campuses. Small group discussions on the future of environmental civic engagement will follow. Polar explorer Will Steger also will speak on his most recent trip to the Arctic Circle. Visit [www.mncampuscompact.org](http://www.mncampuscompact.org).

**Jeanne Sedgwick** of Highland Park was honored as Minnesota's School Nurse of the Year on October 16. Sedgwick has served as a nurse in the St. Paul Public Schools for 30 years and currently practices at Bridgeview School, where she works with children with special needs. As a result of the award, the Harvard Club of Minnesota Foundation has provided Sedgwick with a scholarship of up to \$4,000 to attend an executive education program at Harvard University.



**St. Thomas Academy** will honor all those who served in the military during a Veterans' Day program from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. Tuesday, November 11, at the school, 949 Mendota Heights Road in Mendota Heights. Call 651-454-4570.

**Holy Spirit**, a K-8 Catholic school at 515 S. Albert St., will hold a Kindergarten Open House from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, November 11. Prospective students and their parents are invited to attend. Call 651-698-7233.

**St. Paul College and Education2Go** have teamed up to provide on-line continuing education classes beginning Wednesday, November 12. The top three courses from Education2Go's more than 400 classes are Creating Web Pages, Accounting Fundamentals and Speed Spanish. They cost \$89 each. Call 651-846-1783.

"**The People's Law School**" is being offered by St. Paul College and the Moss & Barnett law firm from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Tuesdays this fall at the UAW-Ford-MnSCU Training Center on Ford Parkway and Mount Curve Boulevard. Topics include employment law on November 11 and business law on November 18. The cost is \$15 per session. Call 651-846-1783.

**Nova Classical Academy**, 1668 Montreal Ave., will host an enrollment event from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Thursday, November 20. Visitors will learn more about the K-8 charter school and its classical curriculum, meet the faculty, and tour the school. Nova will be adding 9th grade in the fall of 2009 as it continues its expansion to a full K-12 school. Visit [www.novaclassical.org](http://www.novaclassical.org) or call 651-227-8622.



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**Cretin-Derham Hall, in conjunction with the Cretin Alumni Association and the Derham Hall Alumnae Association, is pleased to announce our 2008 alumni/ae award winners.**



William J. Saul '54  
Bishop Cretin Award



Br. Michael Rivers, FSC  
St. De La Salle Award



Janet Scapanski-Viktora '68  
Carondelet Award



Mary Donovan Quigley '48  
Hugh Derham Award



Kristina Thalhammer '76  
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# Names in the News

Sarah Butler and Alexandra Edwards, both sophomores at the University of Minnesota and students at Highland Park-based Circus Juventas, earned the Director's Award for their aerial act on double cloud swing at the City of Latina International Circus Festival last month in Italy. Butler and Edwards were the only performers from the United States competing in the 10-day festival, which drew competitors age 25 and younger from around the globe. Butler has performed with Circus Juventas since 1994 and was a high school gymnast at Cretin-Derham Hall. Edwards has performed with Circus Juventas since 2002. They met at Highland Gymnastics and have been performing on double cloud swing together for three years. This is the third straight year that performers from Circus Juventas have been invited to the international festival, according to Dan Butler, who co-founded the youth circus school 15 years ago with his wife, Betty.



Alexandra Edwards (top) and Sarah Butler. PHOTO BY COREY GORDON AND LORI ULM

Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper, a 1980 graduate of Derham Hall High School, is one of seven astronauts set to blast off from the Kennedy Space Center aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavour on November 14. Their mission is to deliver equipment to the international space station that will enable larger crews to reside in the orbiting complex. In 2006, Stefanyshyn-Piper was a mission specialist aboard the Space Shuttle Atlantis and logged more than 12 days in space, including two space walks. Cretin-Derham Hall students and staff will observe launch day with festivities at the school, including a space-inspired cake that will be served over the lunch hour.

Rhoda Gilman, 81, of the West End and Betsy Raasch-Gilman, 56, of Summit-University will be honored on November 16 by the Vincent L. Hawkinson Foundation



Jake Carruth, left, Carl Pearson and Christopher Bentley, all seniors at Cretin-Derham Hall, received their Eagle Scout awards on October 14 at Lumen Christi Catholic Church. They belong to Troop 245, which is sponsored by Highland Catholic School.

for Peace & Justice. The mother-and-daughter duo were selected to receive the Hawkinson Honorary Award for their outstanding contributions in the areas of peacemaking and social justice. Gilman is a historian and former Green Party candidate for lieutenant governor of Minnesota. Raasch-Gilman is a social activist, grassroots organizer and trainer in strategic nonviolence. Call 612-331-8125.

Joan Velasquez of Mendota Heights was recently awarded the 2008 Sargent Shriver Award for Distinguished Humanitarian Service from the National Peace Corps Association. Velasquez and her husband Segundo are the founders of Mano a Mano, a nonprofit organization that has improved the lives of hundreds of thousands of Bolivians since 1994 by providing them with surplus medical equipment and supplies.

Rob Hahn of Macalester-Groveland has published his first novel, a mystery entitled *The Funeral Home Murders*. Publisher of the magazines *Minnesota Prep Sports* and *The Midwest Wine Connection*, Hahn will be introducing his book at book signings/wine tastings from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. on November 11 at the Groveland Tap, November 18 at the Black Dog Cafe, November 19 at the Glockenspiel and November 25 at W.A. Frost. Admission is \$20 to \$25 and includes a copy of the book.

~ Advertisement

## Low Vision Doctors Help Legally Blind to See

Members of the *International Academy of Low Vision Specialists* help those with macular degeneration to keep reading and driving.

By Elena Lombardi  
Freelance Writer

Jackson, New Jersey Donald Paquette, 72, a former assessor from Anaheim, California thought that his driving days were over. "I could not read the street signs soon enough and I couldn't pass the vision test at the DMV office."

Gonzalo Garcia, 74, Albuquerque, New Mexico, wanted to be able to read and write more easily. He wanted to see the nails and screws when he tried to use them in home repairs. He wanted see his grandchildren singing in the church choir. But he thought those days were over when he was diagnosed with Macular Degeneration.

Neither Donald nor Gonzalo knew that a low vision optometrist could help with some of those issues.

"In New Jersey, Biotopic Telescopic Glasses can be used to pass the vision test for driving", says Dr. Chris Palmer,

optometrist in Minneapolis, Mn. "This can allow some with conditions like macular degeneration to continue driving".

"Amazing!" says Donald. "I can read the street signs twice as far as I did before and even see the television better!" Mr. Paquette received biopic telescopic glasses and also special prismatic reading glasses for easier newspaper reading.

People don't know that there are doctors who are very experienced in low vision care. "Not many doctors like to work with people who are often upset and anxious" says Dr. Palmer, who traveled to California for special training recently. "I love to see their faces light up when they see again."

Macular Degeneration is the most common eye disease among the senior population. As many as 25% of those over 65 have some degree of degeneration. The macula is one small part of the entire retina, but it is the most sensitive

and gives us sharp images.

When it degenerates, ARMD leaves a blind spot right in the center of vision making it impossible to recognize faces, read a book, or pass the driver's vision test.

The experts do not know what causes macular degeneration. But major factors include UV light from the sun, smoking, aging, and improper nutrition.

Vitamins can help. The results of two studies, AREDS and LAST demonstrated a lowered risk of progression by about 25% when treated with a high-dose combination of vitamins.

A new, proprietary supplement based on the scientific studies is available from these doctors. A very powerful formulation, Macula Therapy Formula is available from Dr. Palmer's office.

Nine out of ten people who have macular degeneration have the dry type. There is no medical treatment ex-

cept for vitamins. The wet type is more aggressive and results in more dramatic vision loss. It involves leaky blood vessels that sometimes can be sealed with hot or cold laser. Newer treatments, such as Macugen, Lucentis and Avastin are injections to prevent leakage.

"Our job is to figure out everything and anything possible to keep a person functioning," says Dr. Palmer. "Whether it's driving, reading, watching television, seeing faces, playing bridge...we work with whatever is on the persons "wish list".

"Telescopic glasses usually cost over \$2000", says Dr. Palmer, "especially if we build them with an automatic sunglass". Reading glasses start at \$500 and hand magnifiers under \$100. Every case is different because people have different levels of vision and different desires.



### RICHARD DOUGHERTY WITH TELESCOPE GLASSES

Richard Dougherty, 89, of Palmdale, California came to Dr. Shuldiner in June, 2003. He has returned every two years to have the DMV vision report form filled out to keep driving. Dr. Shuldiner prescribed biopic telescopic glasses to read signs and see traffic lights farther away in June, 2003.

At his visit on March 3, 2007, Mr. Dougherty said "The telescopic glasses keep getting better and better!". "They are actually better, by far, than the day I got them. The doctor is a genius! Definitely worth the \$2300 I paid for them". On his visit this past March, Mr. Dougherty reported that the special prismatic reading glasses were still working fine.

The following are some of the very experienced doctors working with low vision patients. They are members of the International Academy of Low Vision Specialists and are happy to speak with you:

<b>Chris Palmer, OD</b> Minnesota	888 882 2040	Brian Saunders, OD Georgia	877 948 7784
Yanna Nachtigal, OD Pennsylvania	877 523 2020	Marc Gannon, OD, FFAO Florida	866 942 2020
Randolph Kinkade, OD Connecticut	800 756 0766	Ross Cusic, OD Washington	877 823 2020
Richard Shuldiner, OD, FFAO Southern California	888 610 2020	Sheldon Smith, OD Michigan	877 677 2020
David Armstrong, OD Virginia	866 321 2030	Larry Chism, OD Texas	888 243 2020

# Food



## Home Fires By Jo Marshall

### You've come a long way, turkey

Never mind the hours your turkey will spend in the oven. The bird you enjoy on Thanksgiving Day has spent several millennia traveling thousands of miles from the Americas to Europe and back again before ever reaching your table.

The turkey is native to the Americas. The Aztecs of Mexico had domesticated it by 2000 B.C., and when the Spanish arrived some 3,500 years later, they found great flocks of turkeys maintained for consumption by Aztec nobility. The turkey was "fat and savory," wrote Spaniard Bernardo de Sahagún in 1529 A.D. Bernardo enjoyed turkey tamales, and turkey molé was soon on its way to becoming Mexico's unofficial national dish. The Spanish took the turkey back home with them, and unlike other New World imports that were initially treated with suspicion (notably the potato and the tomato), Europeans were quick to gobble up the bird.

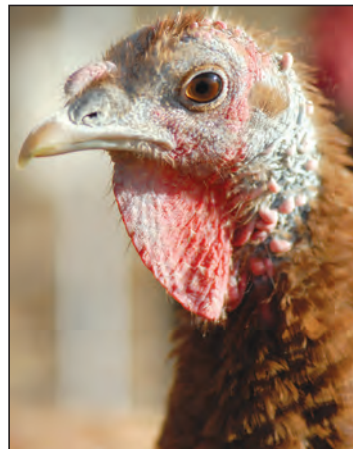
By 1534, Queen Marguerite of France was raising turkeys, and 66 of the birds were featured at a banquet for Italian-born Catherine de' Medici in 1549, the year she was crowned queen consort of France. Meanwhile, chefs in Italy were devising elaborate recipes in which turkeys were stuck with cloves, enclosed in a crust, and baked with their heads exposed.

How the turkey got its English name is a matter of sheer confusion. In the English mind, turkeys were confused with peacocks (from India) and guinea fowl (from Africa). Since they likely came to British ports by way of eastern Mediterranean traders, the English apparently thought the turkey came from Turkey.

So much for British befuddlement. If English linguists were confused, English farmers certainly weren't. Breeders there quickly took the bird to new heights—or, at the very least, new weights. According to early observers, British turkeys achieved a remarkable size. Great numbers of the birds were driven into London on foot, and the turkey displaced the goose as the elite choice for holiday feasting. (Remember Bob Cratchit? He was planning to spend half a week's wages on a goose before Scrooge upgraded him to turkey.)

Two favorite British breeds, the Norfolk Black and the Cambridge Bronze, were brought back across the Atlantic by early English colonists. Here, they were crossbred with the North American wild turkey, further complicating the family tree. The North American wild turkey is a breed apart from the Mexican one from which the colonists' European stock was derived. The resulting creature became known as the American Mammoth Bronze.

Enough already? Well, no. The turkey's sojourn was far from over. Through selective breeding with other European strains, notably the White Holland, the turkey eventually developed into what today comprises 99.9 percent of U.S. turkeys—a fast-growing, broad-breasted white variety that would be hard-pressed to recognize its distant cousins in the wild.



Two American Bronze turkeys (above), a Bourbon Red tom turkey (far left) and a Bourbon Red turkey hen strutted their stuff last week on a farm near Hugo. They are among the heritage breeds of domestic turkey that are making a comeback across the United States.

PHOTOS BY JANET HOSTETTER

ly extinct in the U.S. in the 1990s, but by 2004 they numbered more than 20,000, and the flocks continue to swell. Heritage turkeys are pricey. They're bred naturally and take much longer to achieve a marketable weight. But those who can afford them are rewarded with a highly flavorful meal.

Whatever bird you choose, you won't be alone. Here in the U.S., we consume 500 million pounds of turkey at Thanksgiving, 22 million pounds at Christmas and about 20 million pounds at Easter. And we're not even the world's biggest per capita consumer of turkey. That honor goes to Israel.

It is unclear whether the Pilgrims of Plymouth Rock—or as they called it, Plimoth Plantation—ate turkey at that fabled first Thanksgiving. We know that Indian King Massasoit and the 80 Wampanoag braves who joined the three-day celebration contributed eight deer to the feast. The colonial hunting party dispatched for fowl probably brought back geese and ducks. And the Thanksgiving side dishes we enjoy today were unknown in colonial times. The sweet potato had yet to make its way north from the Caribbean, and while there were pumpkins around, the Pilgrims lacked the flour, sugar and ovens required to bake a pie.

What we can be certain of is that the turkey that comes to our table today is the product of many cultures in many places. It's an expansive, dynamic bird and an appropriate way to say thanks at a time when we long to gather.

Wild turkeys are lean and streamlined. They aren't much for long-distance flight, but they're darn good runners, capable of reaching ground speeds of 25 mph. I know. I've seen them scamper through my yard.

The broad-breasted white turkey towers over its wild progenitor. The turkey we commonly eat can weigh as much as 70 pounds, although most go to market before they get past 20 pounds. These turkeys can't fly. In fact, they're too fat to breed on their own. The farmers who supply our supermarkets depend on artificial insemination to propagate their flocks.

In recent years, a return to the earlier, so-called heritage breeds of turkey has gained traction. Heritage breeds are defined as those identified in the American Poultry Association's 1874 "Turkey Standard of Perfection." These breeds were near-

to 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 19 (\$16-\$18). To register, call 651-310-9499.

**An Annie's Kitchen class** on preparing the perfect pie will be offered from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, November 8, at the Alexander Ramsey House 265 S. Exchange St. Participants will learn Victorian pastry techniques, hear how Thanksgiving was celebrated more than a century ago, enjoy fresh-baked pie and coffee, and take home a ready-to-bake apple pie. The cost is \$28 and includes a tour. Call 651-296-8760.

**Cooks of Crocus Hill**, 877 Grand Ave., will host culinary celebrities Christopher Kimball and Lynne Rossetto Kasper and Sally Swift on

Monday, November 10. At 6:00 p.m., Kimball will sign *The America's Test Kitchen Family Baking Book* and *The Cook's Country Cookbook*, and Rossetto Kasper and Swift will sign their book, *How to Eat Supper*. Then from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., they will hold "A Conversation with Lynn and Christopher." The cost of the class is \$45. Call 651-228-3333.

**The Big Top Wine Club** will meet at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 12, at the Lexington Restaurant, 1096 Grand Ave. The sit-down tasting will explore wines from Greece, South Africa and Austria. Complimentary appetizers will be paired with the wines. The cost is \$20. Call Nancy at 651-644-4501.

**Wings of Eagles**, a fundraiser for an I-35W Bridge remembrance garden, will be held from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, November 18, at Spill the Wine Restaurant, 1101 Washington Ave., Minneapolis. Appetizers will be provided and there will be a cash bar. The suggested donation is \$10, with all proceeds going to the 35W Remembrance Garden Fund. Call 612-339-3388 or visit [www.35wremembrancegarden.org](http://www.35wremembrancegarden.org).

**Holiday cookie baking classes** will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturdays, December 6 and 13, at St. Paul College, 235 Marshall Ave. The fee is \$44. To register or for more information, call 651-846-1783.

## Tidbits

**Mississippi Market** is offering the following classes at its natural food co-op at 622 Selby Ave: "Gluten-Free Baking" from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 5 (\$25); "Flatbreads" from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Saturday, November 8 (\$15-\$18); "Managing Blood Sugar Levels Naturally" from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Thursday, November 13 (free); "Cooking 101: Soup Making & Knife Skills" from 2:00 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, November 15 (\$22-\$25); and "Thanksgiving-Minus the Turkey" from 6:00

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# Business Briefs

**Mississippi Market Natural Foods Co-op** will hold a groundbreaking ceremony at 11:00 a.m. Friday, November 7, at the site of its new store on West 7th and Perlman streets. The new store, which will eventually replace Mississippi Market's store at Fairview and Randolph avenues, is scheduled for completion next summer. Mississippi Market, a consumer-owned grocery with more than 8,000 members, also has a store at Selby Avenue and Dale Street.

**Lund and Lange Florist**, 272 S. Snelling Ave., will hold its seventh annual holiday open house on November 7 and 8. Refreshments, door prizes and holiday decorating ideas will be available between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Friday and 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Saturday. Santa Claus will stop by from noon to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday.

**The Sweatshop**, 167 N. Snelling Ave., will offer a Zumba class with instructor Marty Pirela at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, November 8. Zumba is a fitness program that combines Latin rhythms with cardiovascular exercise. The cost of the class is a \$10 donation to Second Harvest Heartland. Call 651-646-8418.

**"Get Your Sparkle On,"** a holiday craft fair featuring one-of-a-kind jewelry, mosaics and hand-knit and crocheted scarves and other clothing, will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 8, in the atrium of Victoria Crossing West, 867 Grand Ave.

**"What's Your Story?,"** a workshop for women in business who want to polish their communication skills, will be offered by the College of St. Catherine Institute for Women Entrepreneurs from 3:00 to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 12, in the college's student center. The cost is \$10-\$50. Visit [www.stkate.edu/iuwe](http://www.stkate.edu/iuwe) or call 651-690-6819.

**The Twin Cities Nights Rotary Club**, which meets weekly in Highland Park, will host a fundraiser from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Thursday, November 13, at Ten Thousand Villages, 867 Grand Ave. Twenty percent of the sales from all items purchased at the store that evening will benefit the club's international development projects. Call Megan at 651-644-7417.

**The Lake Street Council's** 12th annual fundraiser, featuring live music, wine and beer tasting and a silent auction, will be held from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. Thursday, November 13, at El Nuevo Rodeo, 3003 27th Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Tickets are \$25 for non-members. For tickets, more information or to donate items to the silent auction, call Joyce Wisdom at 612-822-0232.

**Sincerely Yours**, a stationary and gift shop at 2140 Ford Pkwy., was recently purchased by Kathy Honey, president of Lavish Inc., a retail store that has been operating in Maple Grove for the past three years. The former owner of Kathy's Gingerbread House in Robbinsdale, Honey is planning to expand the Highland Village store's inventory of greeting cards, printed stationery and special-order invitations and add new lines of clothing, jewelry, accessories and other gifts.

**A seminar on creating effective websites** will be offered by SCORE small-business counselors from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, November 25, at University Bank, 200 University Ave. The cost is \$40. Call 651-632-8937.

**The Highland Business Association** is looking for volunteers to sell bingo sheets from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Thursdays at Tiffany's Sports Lounge, 2051 Ford Pkwy. Volunteers are welcome to wear their company's apparel. All proceeds from Thursday night bingo the HBA. Call 651-699-9042.

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# The Kiosk

## Wednesday/November 5

**DAHLIA MOGAHED**, a senior analyst and executive director of the Gallup Center for Muslim Studies, will discuss "Who Speaks for Islam? What a Billion Muslims Really Think" at 7:00 this evening in the Owens Science Hall at the University of St. Thomas. Call 651-962-5650.

**DAVID FEINBERG**, director of the Voice of Vision project, will speak at noon today in the Buenger Education Center at Concordia University-St. Paul, 200 N. Syndicate St. The Voice of Vision project helps Holocaust and genocide survivors share their experiences through art. Admission is free.

## Thursday/November 6

**A PUBLIC HEARING** on the Historic Preservation chapter of St. Paul's comprehensive plan will be held at 5:45 this evening in Room 40 at City Hall, 15 W. Kellogg Blvd. Written comments on the plan may be submitted until November 10. Call Lucy Thompson at 651-266-6578 or visit [www.stpaul.gov/compplan](http://www.stpaul.gov/compplan).

**AN ANXIETY AND PANIC** support group will be offered by the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Minnesota at 6:30 this evening, and on the first and third Thursdays of each month, at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 S. Snelling Ave. Call 763-772-2379 or visit [www.namimn.org](http://www.namimn.org).

## Friday/November 7

**A VETERAN'S DAY SERVICE** will be held by the Jewish War Veterans Posts 354 and 162 at 8:00 this evening at the Temple of Aaron Synagogue, 616 S. Mississippi River Blvd. Lieutenant Colonel John Morris, chaplain for the Minnesota National Guard, will be the guest speaker. All veterans, their families and the public are invited to attend.

## Saturday/November 8

**LITTLE RED BALL**, a family-friendly event to benefit Children's Home Society & Family Services, will be held from 5:30 to 9:00 this evening at Circus Juventas, 1270 Montreal Ave. The evening will include entertainment, dinner, and silent and live auctions. Tickets are \$75 for adults and \$25 for children. Visit [chsfs.org/events](http://chsfs.org/events) or call 651-255-2319.

**AN ARTS, CRAFTS AND HOME** festival will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. today at Minnehaha United Church of Christ, 4001 38th Ave. S, Minneapolis. The festival will feature 25 vendors offering jewelry, pottery, home decorating and cooking items, candles, lotions and Mexican imports. Lunch will be sold and door prizes will be awarded. Call 612-729-7556.

**A CRAFT FAIR AND BAKE SALE** will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. today in the community room of the Osceola Place Apartments, 260 S. Osceola Ave. There will be handcrafted items, jewelry, a bake sale, a dollar craft, a quilt raffle and a white elephant sale.

**BLACK BEARS OF MINNESOTA** will be the topic of a program at 1:00 this afternoon at the Dodge Nature Center in West St. Paul. Participants will learn what black bears eat, how they behave, where they live and what to do if one crosses their path. The cost is



The young and young in spirit gathered for the lighting of the Pumpkin Tower on October 25 at Ramsey Junior High School during the Grand Avenue Business Association's Boo Bash. Winners of \$25 gift cards in the Boo Bash coloring contest were Ian Iosso, age 4; Madeline Simon, 5; and Sam Olson, 9. PHOTO BY ANNE BRANDRUD

\$5.00-\$7.00, or \$15 for families. Call 651-455-4531.

**A KIDSHOP** for children ages 7-17 who have a sibling or parent with mental illness will be held by the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Minnesota from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. today at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 S. Snelling Ave. Kidshops include games, team-building activities and fun. The workshop is free and lunch is provided. To register, call Mary Jean at 651-645-2948, ext. 107.

**A HOLIDAY BAZAAR** will be held by the Virkelyst Society from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. today at Danebo, 3030 W. River Pkwy., Minneapolis. Handmade items and baked goods will be sold, and a light lunch of homemade soups and bread will be sold. Proceeds will benefit local charities.

**A SCANDINAVIAN MEATBALL** dinner and silent auction will be held from 4:30 to 7:00 this evening at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, 1575 Charlton St., West St. Paul. Tickets are \$3.00-\$10. Call 651-457-6541.

**A LAKE NOKOMIS CRAFT CRAWL** will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. today at four locations in South Minneapolis. The crawl will include holiday bazaars, bake sales and more at Minnehaha United Methodist Church, 3701 E. 50th St. (call 612-721-6231); at Nokomis Square Cooperative, 5015 35th Ave. S. (612-721-5077); at Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, 3430 E. 51st St. (612-729-5463); and at St. Helena's Catholic School, 3200 E. 44th St. (612-729-7344).

**AN ANNIE'S KITCHEN CLASS** on preparing the perfect pie will be offered from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. today at the

Alexander Ramsey House 265 S. Exchange St. Participants will learn Victorian pastry techniques, hear how Thanksgiving was celebrated more than a century ago, enjoy fresh-baked pie and coffee, and take home a ready-to-bake apple pie. The cost is \$28 and includes a tour. Call 651-296-8760.

**PAUL MACCABEE**, author of the crime history book *John Dillinger Slept Here*, will speak on "Ma Barker, John Dillinger and Me: Gangster, Gun Molls and G-Men" at 10:45 this morning in Courtroom 326 at Landmark Center. The free lecture is one in a series related to the newly installed exhibit "Uncle Sam Worked Here." A tour of the building will begin at 9:30 a.m. Call 651-292-3276.

**A JEWELRY SALE** will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. today at St. Peter's Church in Mendota. All jewelry is donated and gently used. Proceeds will benefit charity. Call 651-452-4550.

## Monday/November 10

**"GETSET! FOR TRANSITION & Guardianship,"** a workshop for parents of children with special needs, will be offered from 6:30 to 8:30 this evening at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. The workshop is being offered in partnership with Arc Greater Twin Cities to help families prepare for their child's transition from education to adulthood. Admission is free for Arc and JCC members, and \$25 for others. Call 651-698-0751.

## Tuesday/November 11

**THE COMO-MIDWAY LA LECHE** League will meet at 7:00 this evening to discuss "The Art of Breastfeeding and

Avoiding Difficulties." Expectant and nursing mothers are invited to attend with their babies and toddlers. Call Heidi at 651-659-9527.

**MINNESOTA'S CHANGING CLIMATE** will be discussed by Mark Seeley of the University of Minnesota Department of Soil, Water and Climate at 7:30 this evening at the Dodge Nature Center in West St. Paul. Call 651-455-4531.

**THE MAD HATTER'S TEA HOUSE**, 943 W. 7th St., will hold a conversational salon from 6:30 to 8:30 this evening. Larry Olds will speak on the popular education movement. The salon is free, but donations are encouraged for the program and treats. Call 651-227-3228.

**THE CASS GILBERT SOCIETY** will meet at 7:00 this evening at the University Club, 420 Summit Ave. Katherine Solomonson of the University of Minnesota will speak on "Cass Gilbert: Re-Imagining the Western Landscape." Admission is free for society members and students with ID, and \$5.00 for others. Visit [www.cassgilbertsociety.org](http://www.cassgilbertsociety.org).

## Wednesday/November 12

**THE LONGFELLOW GARDEN CLUB** will hold a potluck dinner from 7:00 to 9:00 this evening at Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37th Ave. S., Minneapolis. Beverages will be provided. Attendees are asked to bring their own dishes and utensils and to share photos, stories or something from their garden. Club meetings are free and open to the public.

**A RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE** will be held from 2:30 to 7:30 this evening at Mount Zion Temple, 1300 Summit Ave. Call 1-800-448-3543.

**DR. DONNY YOUKHANNA**, former director general of the Iraqi National Museum, will speak on "Mesopotamia: The Beginning of Civilization" at 11:30 this morning in Sundin Music Hall at Hamline University, 1531 Hewitt Ave. The lecture will focus on the archaeology and cultural history of Iraq. He also will speak on "Looting of the Iraq Museum: The Loss of a Nation's Memory," followed by a panel discussion, from 6:00 to 8:30 this evening at the Weisman Art Museum, 333 E. River Road, Minneapolis. Both lectures are free. Call Phyllis Messenger of the Maya Society of Minnesota at 952-475-9149.

**A HOPE FOR RECOVERY** workshop geared for African-Americans will be offered by the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Minnesota from 5:00 to 8:00 this evening at the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center, 270 Kent St. To register, call Matthea Little Smith at 651-645-2948, ext. 108.

**"TRANSPORTATION: What does \$6.6 billion get you?"** is the topic of a public forum on the 2008 Minnesota transportation bill that will be held by Community Shares of Minnesota from 10:30 a.m. to noon today at Wilder Center, 451 N. Lexington Pkwy. Panelists will include Sarah Mullins of ISIAH, Tim Mungavan of the West Bank Community Development Corp. and Vic Rosenthal of Jewish Community Action. Ramsey County commissioner Toni Carter also has been invited. The forum is free, but space is limited. Register by November

**29◀ THE KIOSK**

10 by calling Cynthia Breslauer at 651-647-0440, ext. 210.

**Thursday/November 13**

**A WORLD WAR II HISTORY** Round Table discussion on "Interrogating the Nazi Leaders at Mondorf Luxembourg" will take place at 7:00 this evening at Fort Snelling. Ken Hechler, author of *Working With Truman* and *The Bridge at Remagen*, will discuss his personal experiences in gathering information from the Nazi leaders at Mondorf, Luxembourg, after V-E Day, as the war crimes trials were being planned at Nuremberg and Dachau. The cost is \$5.00. Call 612-726-1171

**Friday/November 14**

**TURKEY BINGO** will be played at 7:00 this evening in St. Mark's School, 983 Dayton Ave. Prizes will include turkeys, pies and rugby apparel. Proceeds will benefit St. Mark's athletics. Call 651-644-3380.

**Saturday/November 15**

**A BOOK AND MULTIMEDIA SALE** will be conducted by Boy Scout Troop 45 from noon to 5:00 p.m. today and from 9:00 a.m. to noon tomorrow in the auditorium of St. Thomas More School, 1065 Summit Ave.,. Proceeds will help pay for summer camp.

**CREATE A KISSING BALL** during a program from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and again from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. today at the Alexander Ramsey House, 265 S. Exchange St. Floral designer Ardith Beveridge will lead students on creating a kissing ball using evergreens, accents and ribbon. Bring a pair of gloves, clippers, two yards of ribbon

and decorative items to add to the ball. Hot cider, cookies and a short house tour are included. The cost is \$50. Call 651-296-8760

**A CIVIL WAR TOUR** will be offered from 1:00 to 2:30 this afternoon at the state Capitol. Tour-goers will meet a history player dressed as a new Union Army recruit and see tattered regimental flags, statues of famous officers from the state, a reproduction cavalry shell jacket worn by Governor Knute Nelson and vivid paintings commemorating Minnesota regiments. The cost is \$4.00-\$7.00. Call 651-296-2881.

**PAUL LARSON**, a historian and author, will speak on "Indelible Imagery: The Federal Building in its St. Paul Setting," at 10:45 this morning in Courtroom 326 at Landmark Center. The free lecture is one in a series related to the newly installed exhibit "Uncle Sam Worked Here." A tour of the building will begin at 9:30 a.m. Call 651-292-3276.

**A WEST END HARVEST FESTIVAL** will be held at 7:00 this evening at the CSPS Hall, 383 Michigan St. The festival will toast all of the anniversaries, events, developments, renovations and new businesses in the West End. There will be music by the Rhinestone Diplomats and comedy by Three Guys Minus One, along with a cash bar and harvest treats. Admission is \$10. Call 651-297-9000.

**A WREATH-MAKING WORKSHOP** will be offered at 1:00 this afternoon at the Dodge Nature Center in West St. Paul. The history of wreath making will be discussed as grapevine and other natural materials are gathered from around the center and woven into wreaths for the holiday season. Attendees should bring their own hand pruner and hot glue gun if they have them.

The cost is \$25-\$30. Call 651-455-4531.

**A HOLIDAY CRAFT BAZAAR** will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. today at the Edgumbe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St. Lunch and concessions will be sold. Call 651-695-3711.

**A FALL FESTIVAL** will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. today at St. Peder's Lutheran Church, 4600 E. 42nd St., Minneapolis. The festival will include bakery and Sweet Shoppe treats, a leaf-making lady, fiber art, handmade creations, a games corner, book nook, raffles and lunch featuring homemade pie.

**AN ARTS AND CRAFTS FESTIVAL** will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. today at St. Paul's United Church of Christ, 900 Summit Ave. The festival will feature craft items from local vendors, a Granny's Attic, bake sale and silent auction. Lunch will be served featuring bratwurst. Call 651-224-5809.

**Sunday/November 16**

**A FUNFEST AND SILENT AUCTION** will be held by the St. Francis de Sales Rosary Society from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. today at Twin Cities Academy, 426 S. Osceola Ave. The event will feature food, games, a country store, crafts, Santa and more. Call 651-442-5357.

**THE ST. PAUL HIKING CLUB** will meet at 2:30 this afternoon at the Fort Snelling Visitors Center for a hike to the river. Call 651-646-6421.

**Monday/November 17**

**A WORM COMPOSTING WORKSHOP** will be offered by Eureka Recycling at 6:30

this evening at the Edgumbe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St. The cost is \$5.00. Call Eureka Recycling at 651-222-7678.

**Tuesday/November 18**

**THE CHURCH RECORDS** available at the Minnesota Historical Society will be discussed by Ruth Bauer Anderson during a program from 6:00 to 7:30 this evening at the society's library, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. The cost is \$10. Call 651-259-3300

**LARRY MILLETT**, an author and retired architecture critic, will present a free armchair tour of Twin Cities religious landmarks at 7:00 this evening at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. Call 651-259-3000.

**THE ST. PAUL HIKING CLUB** will meet at 7:30 this evening at Summit and Western avenues for a residential hike. Call 651-646-6421.

**THE MAD HATTER'S TEA HOUSE**, 943 W. 7th St., will hold an open discussion during the conversational salon from 6:30 to 8:30 this evening. The salon is free, but donations are encouraged for the program and treats. Call 651-227-3228.

**Wednesday/November 19**

**CHRISTMAS AT THE RAMSEY HOUSE**, 265 S. Exchange St., will be celebrated from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. today and continue on Wednesdays through Saturdays and noon to 3:00 p.m. on Sundays through November. The mansion will be decorated with original Ramsey family heirlooms, glass ornaments, and a Christmas dinner table circa 1875. Warm cookies will be served and the gift shop will be open. The cost is \$6.00-\$9.00. Call 651-296-8760.

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# On the Town

## Beauty and the dead beast Valfer explores aesthetics of roadkill

BY BILL STIEGER

A visit to Pamela Valfer's corner studio on University Avenue can be eye-popping. Hanging on one wall is a "quilt" made of patches of animal fur. Mounted on another wall is a trophy buck shrouded in rabbit fur. Stretched out next to the buck's head are a complete goatskin and the pelts of two foxes. And curled around the neck of the artist herself, with its tail clasped in its mouth, is a mink stole.

"It keeps me warm," Valfer says. Recent works by the Macalester-Groveland artist will be featured in "Local Fauna," an exhibit that opens with a public reception from 8:00 to 11:00 p.m. Saturday, November 15, at Umber Studios, 4109 E. 42nd St. in Minneapolis.

But be forewarned: Valfer's art can be unsettling. One of her works, "Roadkill Quilt," stitches together scores of mink pelts lying mouth to tail in squares that radiate from the center, their lifeless eyes staring out at the viewer. The piece can be both horrifying and fascinating at the same time.

Valfer's ultimate goal in her art is "to start a dialogue with my viewers over the nature of beauty," she says. "First of all, I had no hand in the

*Valfer's roadkill pictures are drawn from photographs she takes on her many road trips—images of dead birds, raccoons, deer, etc. "I feel I'm honoring them through my work," she says. "The pictures are morbid and grotesque. But one can find beauty in that."*

killing of these animals. All of the furs come from estate sales, antique stores, thrift shops. All of them are either reclaimed or recycled.

"Many of my drawings are of animals that have been killed by cars and trucks," Valfer says. "The work has something to do with the interaction of roadkill with the landscape, or of roadkill as landscape. And then, of course, there is death. I admit to an interest in the darker side of things. I'm fascinated by the psychological landscape, which is where this work is coming from. I think of myself as a modern archaeologist."

Valfer, who teaches painting and drawing at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, the College of Visual Arts and Metropolitan State University, works conceptually in many media. "I studied photography when I began college at MCAD," she says. "But one medium never seemed quite enough." Among her influences are painter Lucien Freud and sculptor Tom Friedman.

A native of Red Bank, New Jersey, Valfer grew up in Wayzata and after graduating from MCAD went on to earn a master's degree at the University of Minnesota. Her work has been exhibited throughout the U.S., Japan and Australia, and in 2005 she was awarded a Bush Foundation Fellowship.

"Pamela is trying to get people to think about what is beautiful," says Allen Brewer, an artist who shares the studio with Valfer. "She's an obsessive artist who's bringing attention to that which some deem ugly. She's bringing the concept to a higher level of thought. Her work is not just about the pictures. Pamela is driven by a deeper need."

Valfer differs from other conceptual artists in part because of the range of her artistic skills. Put in simpler terms, she's got craft. Her



Artist Pamela Valfer and her "Roadkill Quilt." PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER



Macalester-Groveland artist Pamela Valfer adjusts the rabbit-fur shroud on her work in progress, a one-time trophy buck entitled "Camouflage."

drawings are superb.

In one of her drawings, "What Is & What Will Be," a pronghorn antelope stands guard over four quizzical does along a stretch of western highway. The antelopes are penciled in color, but the cars and landscape are rendered in black and white.

The drawing seems to be asking, Which is more real? It is reminiscent of the work of Andrew Wyeth, but the concept is modern, in keeping with what John Szarkowski, the former curator of photography at the Museum of Modern Art, called "socially altered landscapes."

"At first I started doing the images as paintings," Valfer says. "But they somehow weren't enough. So I began to move the idea through different media, and that's when the work took on the various dimensions that will make up the 'Local Fauna' show."

"Pamela is a very skilled artist who's always pushing herself and

widening the range of her work," says Emma Berg, a Minneapolis curator who operates the website [www.mplsart.com](http://www.mplsart.com). "The newer work is very much in your face. It's edgy, challenging. You see the impact of humanity on wildlife, which can often be terrible."

Valfer's roadkill pictures are drawn from photographs she takes on her many road trips—images of dead birds, raccoons, deer, etc. "I feel I'm honoring them through my work," she says. "The pictures are morbid and grotesque. But one can find beauty in that, much in the way that tragedy can be beautiful in a play or movie. I want viewers to confront the opposition within themselves. It's shock and awe, but beauty at the same time."

"Local Fauna" will remain on view through December 7. The gallery at Umber Studios is open to the public free of charge from noon to 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. For more information, visit [www.umberstudios.com](http://www.umberstudios.com).

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# On the Town Briefly

## Theater

**Cat on a Hot Tin Roof**, Tennessee Williams' play about a powerful Southern family who gather to celebrate the birthday of their patriarch, is being performed through November 8 by the Macalester College Theater and Dance Department. The curtain rises at 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday on the Main Stage of Mac's Fine Arts Center. Tickets are \$7.00, \$5.00 for seniors. Call 651-696-6359.

**A young Algerian American** woman travels to North Africa in search of her roots and discovers her own heart in *Tizi Ouzou*. The one-woman show by Taous Khazem will be performed November 7-16 at Dreamland Arts, 677 N. Hamline Ave. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 3:00 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$15. Call 651-645-5506.

**The musical Fiddler on the Roof** will be performed November 7-22 by the Morris Park Players. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday, November 16, at Folwell Middle School, 3611 20th Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Tickets are \$15, \$12 for students and seniors. For reservations, call 612-724-8373.

**Paula Vogel's wildly funny** yet harrowing tale of sexual abuse, *How I Learned to Drive* will be staged November 7-23 by Theatre Unbound. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Monday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday in the theater at the Wellstone Center, 179 E. Robie St. Tickets are priced from \$10-\$25. Call 612-721-1186.

**Director Richard Cook** and actor Jim Lichtscheidl will discuss Park Square Theatre's upcoming production of *Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol* in a free program at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 12, at the Hamline-Midway Library, 1558 Minnehaha Ave.

**Highland Park High School's** Thespian Society will present three one-act plays—*The Salesman*, *The Seizure* and *The Festivities*—at 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, November 13 and 14, in the school, 1015 S. Snelling Ave. Tickets are \$7.00, \$5.00 for students and seniors. Call 612-293-8940.

**Lex-Ham Community Theater's** Pulitzer-Prize Winner Reading Series will continue on Friday, November 14, with *August: Osage County* by Tracy Letts. The free program begins at 6:30 p.m. with a potluck supper at 1184 Portland Ave. The reading follows at 7:00 with parts reassigned at the start of each scene. No registration is necessary. Just bring some food to share and a copy of the play if possible. Call 651-644-3366.

**You Can't Take It With You**, the Depression-era comedy about an eccentric family whose "normal" daughter is in love with the boss' son, will be performed November 14-22 in the Fine Arts Theatre at Inver Hills College, Highway 52 and 80th Street in Inver Grove Heights. The curtain rises at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Admission is \$7.00, \$5.00 for seniors and students. For reservations, call 651-450-8593.

**The heartfelt and witty musical** about the beloved "Peanuts" gang, *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* will be performed November 14-23 by students from Visitation School and St. Thomas Academy. The curtain rises at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 4:00 p.m. Sunday in De Sales Auditorium at Visitation in Mendota Heights. Tickets are \$10, \$5.00 for students and seniors. Call 651-683-1750.

## Exhibits

**"Vanishing: The Wonderland of Aging,"** a visual discourse ON the disquieting experience of growing old by senior artists Bette Globus



Marshall Hambro plays Chaim Shotsky and Alayne Hopkins is Kelly Burke in the Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company's production of *Chaim's Love Song*. Marvin Chernoff's heartwarming comedy about the friendship between a 74-year-old Brooklyn man and a newly married teacher from Iowa, is being performed through November 16. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, 8:00 p.m. Saturday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday in the theater of the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. Tickets are \$18-\$25, \$12 for student rush. Call 651-647-4315. PHOTO BY SARAH WHITING

Goodman, Lucy Rose Fischer, Karen Searle and Jody Stadler, is being displayed through December 19 in the Catherine G. Murphy Gallery at the College of St. Catherine. Call 651-690-6644.

**"I'm Holding on for That Teenage Feeling,"** installation art, sculpture, painting, photography and video focusing on the experimental aspects of adolescence, is being

displayed through November 22 in the College of Visual Arts Gallery, 173 N. Western Ave. A roundtable discussion with the six participating artists will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Thursday, November 6. Call 651-757-4080.

**"Inside Out: Releasing the Creative Spirit Through Facilitated Art,"** an exhibit of more than 60 works of pottery, woodworking, weaving,

painting, drawing and photography by artists with disabilities, is on view through January 2 in the Lobby Gallery of the O'Shaughnessy Educational Center at the University of St. Thomas. Call 651-962-5560.

**"Behind Barbed Wire,"** an exhibit on the history of Midwestern prisoners of war in the European Theater during World War II, will be displayed on Friday, November 7, in a converted school bus outside the Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy. A project of the Traces organization, the bus will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For information, call 651-695-3700.

**The Lake Nokomis Fine Art, Jewelry and Craft Crawl** will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 8, in South Minneapolis. Maps for the crawl may be picked any one of the following locations where holiday boutiques and bazaars will be held in conjunction with the crawl: Minnehaha United Methodist Church, 3701 E. 50th St.; Nokomis Square Cooperative, 5015 35th Ave. S.; Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, 3430 E. 51st St.; St. Helena's School, 3200 E. 44th St.

**"Waterborne,"** paintings by some of the finest watercolor artists in the region, will be displayed from November 11 through December 11 at the Katherine E. Nash Gallery located in the Regis Center for Art, 405 21st Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Displayed alongside it will be a variety of watercolors from the collection of the Weisman Art Museum, including works by Katherine E. Nash, Alfred Maurer, Max Weber and Malcolm Myers. A free public reception will be held from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, November 14.

**A Fiber Fair show and sale** by more than 50 regional artists will be held November 14-16 at the Weavers Guild of Minnesota, 3000 University Ave. SE. in Minneapolis. Decorative textiles, rugs, clothing

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**"Common Ground,"** an exhibit of paintings by American Indian artists Julie Buffalohead and Jim Denomie, will open with a reception from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. Thursday, November 13, in the third floor gallery of the Metropolitan State University library, 645 E. 7th St. Denomie will present a slide lecture at 11:30 a.m. Monday, November 17, in Room 302 of the library. Lunch will be served. For reservations, call Lupe Sanchez at 651-793-1270. Call 651-793-1631.

## Music

**Russian violinist Vadim Repin** and pianist Nikolai Lugansky will perform at 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, November 11, at the Ordway. Their Schubert Club program will feature Sonata for Violin and Piano in G minor by Debussy, Divertimento for Violin and Piano by Stravinsky, and Sonata No. 9 in A major by Beethoven. Tickets are \$45, \$37, \$30 and \$22, or \$12 student rush with valid ID. Call 651-292-3268.

**The jazz sextet Story City,** aficionados of the music of Pat Metheny and Michael Brecker, will perform on Wednesday, November 12, in the auditorium of McNally Smith College of Music, 19 E. Exchange St. Their concert, which is free, will begin at 7:00 p.m. and be followed by a reception. Call 651-291-0177.

**Latin jazz man Poncho Sanchez** and his ensemble will pay homage to the 50-year marriage of Afro-Cuban rhythms with bebop in concert on Wednesday, November 12, at the Ordway. Tickets for the 8:00 p.m. show are \$30 and \$25. Call 651-224-4222.

**The Minnesota Orchestra** and cellist Steven Isserlis will perform Taverer's "The Protecting Veil" and Bruckner's Symphony No. 4 in concerts on November 13 and 14. The music will begin at 11:00 a.m. Thursday in Orchestra Hall and at 8:00 p.m. Friday in the Cathedral of St. Paul. Tickets are \$24-\$83. Call 612-371-5656.

**Vibrant music of the Americas** will be performed November 14-16 by the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra under the baton of Miguel Harth-Bedoya. Pianist Terrence Wilson will join the ensemble in a program that includes Compañón's "Colección de Música Virreinal," López's "Fiesta," Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue," Ives' Symphony No. 3 "The Camp Meeting," Frank's "Elegía Andina" and Villa-Lobos' "New York Skyline." The music begins at 10:30 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Friday and 8:00 p.m. Saturday at the Ordway and at 2:00 p.m. Sunday at the Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 S. 4th St. in Minneapolis. Friday evening's "jazzed-up" show will also offer the option of hearing Davina and the Vagabonds in the foyer. Tickets are \$5-\$59. Call 651-291-1144.

**"Kaddish: Music of Remembrance and Hope,"** a new work by Lawrence Siegel that draws on the personal testimony of 15 World War II Holocaust survivors, will be performed on Saturday, November 15, by the VocalEssence Chorus and soloists Maria Jette, Krista J. Palmquist, Jason Collins and James Bohn. Philip Brunelle will conduct the program, which also includes highlights from Leonard Bernstein's Mass. The music begins at 8:00 p.m. at the Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 S. 4th St. in Minneapolis. A pre-concert conversation with Siegel and Holocaust survivor Sabina Zimering will begin at 7:00. For tickets, call 612-371-5656.

**Jewish and Christian sacred music** from Italy, Eastern Europe, Africa and Asia will be performed on Sunday, November 16, by the Shir Tikvah Synagogue Choir and

the Basilica of St. Mary's Mundus Choir. The concert will begin at 2:00 p.m. at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. It is free with museum admission, which is \$10 for adults, \$8.00 for seniors and students, and \$5.00 for children ages 6-17. Call 651-259-3000.

**The St. Catherine Choral Society** will perform Bach's "Magnificat" at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, November 16, at Holy Spirit Catholic Church, 512 S. Albert St. The 85-voice ensemble will be accompanied by a professional orchestra and soloists Kristie Tigges, Angela Keeton, Andrew Barrett and Seth Keeton. Admission is \$10, \$5.00 for children, \$30 per family. Call 651-690-6690.

**Brooklyn pianist Simone Dinnerstein** will perform the music of Schubert, Bach, Lasser and Beethoven in recital on Sunday, November 16. Sponsored by the Frederic Chopin Society, the program will begin at 3:00 p.m. in the Concert Hall of the Fine Arts Center at Macalester College. Tickets are \$20, \$12 for students with ID. Call 612-822-0123.

**The Minnesota Boychoir** will present the program "O Colored Earth" in a free program at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, November 16, in the Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas at the University of St. Thomas.

**St. Paul Chamber Orchestra violinist** Michal Sobieski and Cathedral of St. Paul organist James Biery will perform the music of Josef Rheinberger, Arcangelo Corelli, Cesar Franck and David Evan Thomas at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, November 16, at the Cathedral. Admission is free, but a \$10 donation is suggested. Call 651-228-1766.

## Dance


**Pipaashaa (Extreme Thirst),** Ananya Dance Theatre's response to the ongoing contamination of the earth, will be presented at 8:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday, November 6 and 7, in O'Shaughnessy Auditorium at the College of St. Catherine. Tickets are \$25 and \$16. Call 651-690-6700.

**Canada's premier ballet company,** the Royal Winnipeg Ballet will perform at 8:00 p.m. Saturday, November 8, in Northrop Auditorium. This program will feature Mauricio Wainrot's much-loved version of "Carmina Burana" and other traditional and contemporary works. Call 612-624-2345.

## Books

**Renowned storytellers** Richard Rousseau and Jack Zipes will take part in two programs for adults. Rousseau will entertain at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 5, at the Hamline-Midway Library, 1558 W. Minnehaha Ave. Zipes, a professor of German and comparative literature at the University of Minnesota, will discuss *The Collected Sicilian Folk and Fairy Tales of Giuseppe Pitre* at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, November 16, at the Central Library, 90 W. 4th St. Call 651-266-7000.


**Common Good Books,** 165 N. Western Ave., will present readings by authors Todd Boss from *Yellowrocket* at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 5, upstairs at Nina's Coffee Cafe; Michael Greenberg from *Hurry Down Sunshine* at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 5, at the Virginia Street Swedenborgian Church, 170 N. Virginia St.; Dale Mulfinger from *Cabinology*, with Bill Holm and John Henriksson, at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, November 11; Jim Heynen, Gary Deason and Tom Dean from *The Grace of Grass and Water* at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, November 13; Robert Clark from *Dark Water: Flood and Redemption in the City of Masterpieces*, with special guest Patricia Hampl, at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, November 18, at the Virginia Street Swedenborgian Church. All events are free and at Common Good Books unless otherwise indicated. Call 651-225-8989.



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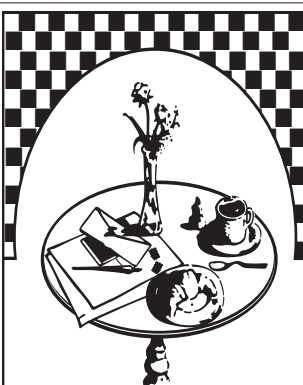
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## PAPER PATISSERIE

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Olivier Philipponnat will introduce his biography of Irene Nemirovsky in a free program at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, November 6, at Macalester College. Nemirovsky, who died at Auschwitz in 1942, is the author of the 2004 best-seller *Suite Française*. The presentation, which will be in French with an English translation, will be held in Room H401 of Mac's Fine Arts Center.

Fiber artist Karen Searle will discuss her book, *Knitting Art: 150 Innovative Works for 18 Contemporary Artists*, in a free program at 6:30 p.m. Friday, November 7, at the Yarnery, 840 Grand Ave. Call 651-222-5793.

Wildlife photographer Steven Kazlowski, author of *The Last Polar Bear: Facing the Truth of a Warming World*, will share images, observations and stories from his life in the arctic at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, November 13, in the auditorium of the Bell Museum, 17th and University avenues in Southeast Minneapolis. A reception and book signing will follow. Admission is \$7.00.

Mystery author Susan Runholt will discuss her new teen novel, *The Mystery of the Third Lucretia*, at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, November 15, at St. Paul's Central Library, 90 W. 4th St. Admission is free. Call 651-266-7034.

Contributors to the 2008 anthology *Riding Shotgun: Women Write About Their Mothers* will read at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, November 18, at the University Club, 420 Summit Ave. The free program will feature poet Kathryn Kysar, memoirist Elizabeth Jarrett Andrew, poet Sun Yung Shin, poet Susan Steger Welsh and author Morgan Grayce Willow.

Wildlife biologist and nature photographer Carrol Henderson will discuss his new book, *Birds in Flight: The Art and Science of How Birds Fly*, at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, November 13, at Preferred Adventure, 1 W. Water St., and at 1:00 p.m. Sunday, November 16, at the University of Minnesota Raptor Center, 1920 Fitch Ave. Admission is free:

Writing Up A Storm, a group for teenage writers, will meet at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, November 15, at the Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy. Young writers are invited to share what they've written in a fun and relaxed atmosphere.

Award-winning book artist Jody Williams will speak at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, November 18, at the Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave. She will also offer a sneak peek at her latest book, *Still Sense*, comprising hinged slipcases with prairie etchings and maps. Admission is free. Call 651-222-3242.

## Film

"Music & Memories," three short documentaries produced as part of the Minnesota Historical Society's Greatest Generation project, will be shown at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, November 9, at St. Paul's Central Library, 90 W. 4th St. Screened in the free program will be Mary Ahmann's *Bluebirds of Dover*, about two musicians who enlisted in the Minnesota National Guard; Bick Smith's *Charles Beasley: Integrating the Band*; and Steve Date's *Gratefulness: Madeleine Titus*, about the longtime Macalester College piano instructor. Call 651-266-7000.

*Don't Look Back*, D.A. Pennebaker's 1968 documentary about Bob Dylan's 1965 British tour, will be shown at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, November 11, in Room 126 of the John R. Roach Center at the University of St. Thomas. Admission is free.

*Baraka: A World Beyond Words*, Ron Fricke and Mark Magidson's 1992 epic that without script or actors tells of the diversity, interconnection and impact of humanity on the planet, will be shown at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, November 13, in Room 126 of the John R. Roach Center at the University of St. Thomas. Admission is free.

*Iron Ladies of Liberia*, the story of Liberian president Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, the first freely elected female head of state in Africa, and her efforts to lift her country out of debt and devastation, will be shown at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 19, at the St. Anthony Park Library, 2245 Como Ave. The film is a testament to the power of women's leadership and diplomacy. A discussion with attorney and Liberian expatriate Harriette Badio will follow. Admission is free. Call 651-222-3242.

## Family

*Rainbow Crow*, a new drama by Rhiana Yazzie based on a Lenape American Indian story, is playing through November 9 at SteppingStone Theater, 55 N. Victoria St. It tells of how the inky black bird with the noisy caw once had a beautiful voice and colorful feathers, but sacrificed them to save her friends. Tickets are \$7.00 to \$11. Call 651-225-9265.

Explore the beauty and diversity of birds, handle various feathers, listen to exotic and familiar bird calls and create a feathery craft in "Feathery Friends" on Thursday, November 6. The interactive program for preschoolers and their families will run from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. at the Bell Museum, 17th and University avenues in Southeast Minneapolis. The cost is \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for seniors and children ages 3-16. Registration is required. Call 612-624-9050.

"Saturday Live!" free entertainment for children at 11:15 a.m. Saturdays at St. Paul's Central Library, 90 W. 4th St., will continue with Chef Roberto's cooking magic show on November 8; Tricia and the Toonies musical nod to "America Recycles Day," November 15; a modern retelling of the Gingerbread Man tale by the Loki Players, November 22; and magician Matt Dunn, November 29.


Hunt through wolf, fox and coyote habitats, handle wolf pelts and coyote skulls and make a wolf mask to take home in Nature Play. The drop-in program will run from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Saturday, November 8, at the Bell Museum, 17th and University avenues in Southeast Minneapolis. The cost is \$5.00 for adults, \$3.00 for seniors and children ages 3-16. Call 612-624-7083.

"Black Bears of Minnesota," a family program on what the furry mammals eat, how they behave, where they live and what to do if one crosses your path, will be offered at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, November 8, at the Dodge Nature Center, 365 W. Marie Ave. in West St. Paul. The cost is \$7.00 each or \$15 for the whole family. Call 651-455-4531.

St. Martin's Day, a traditional German festival, will be presented from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Sunday November 9, at Landmark Center. Families can make traditional paper lanterns while listening to festive music and learning traditional songs. Students from the Twin Cities German Immersion School will reenact the story of St. Martin. With lanterns in hand, all are invited to join "St. Martin" and his horse in a parade around Rice Park. Live music complimentary cocoa and coffee and German treats will be served. Admission is free, but participants are asked to bring a donation for Joseph's Coat, a free clothing store for the needy. Call 651-292-3276.

## Et cetera

"The Sacred Landscape of the Twin Cities," a slide-illustrated lecture about the religious landmarks that have shaped St. Paul's and Minneapolis' cultural landscape for the past 150 years, will be presented by architectural critic Larry Millett at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, November 18, at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. Admission is free, but reservations are recommended. Call 651-259-3015.



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# Sports



Andy Nelson included his own image (shown at right signing his name) on his mural at Midway Stadium.



## The Wright Call By Dave Wright

### Farewell to the muse

Few people knew his name and even fewer knew his face, but Andy Nelson, who passed away recently at the age of 52, created masterpieces that will last as long as Midway Stadium does.

Nelson was the guy who created most of the art that adorns the stadium. His most notable work was one of his first efforts at Midway—the mural on the wall just outside of the stadium. The mural, which took almost a year to complete, was inspired by the St. Paul Saints' first midweek day game in 1993. (The guy at the plate is ex-Dodger Pedro Guerrero, who was making his debut with Sioux Falls that day.)

The mural depicts just about everything that went on, as well as the people who were involved, in the Midway Stadium that first year. (Yes, this writer, who worked for the Saints at the time, is in there—multiple chins and all.)

"Andy Nelson was our muse," wrote Saints president Mike Veeck in a press release following Nelson's death. "From the beginning he set the tone for what the Saints would be. My fondest memory is Andy painting the long mural outside the gate and fans wanting to be included. Of course he included them, because that was his nature. Fans were ecstatic to come back during the following homestands and see themselves immortalized in that mural."

One year, Nelson oversaw a contest that invited kids to draw their baseball inspirations in chalk on the sidewalk outside the park. None of the drawings were destined for the Louvre, but that wasn't the point. There was Nelson, encouraging their thoughts and creativity. It was art for art's sake and nothing made him happier.

In later years, Nelson's work was expanded to the cover of the team's pocket schedules and many of the team's frequent giveaways, including lunch boxes and the like. Nelson's art is also on display in all of the ballparks under the Goldklang Group's control. If you go to a Minnesota Twins spring training game at Hammond Stadium in Fort Myers, you'll find Nelson's work in an unlikely place. He created the artistic themes for each of the restrooms. Nothing seemed to please him more than to work his magic in places where people didn't expect to see it.

Perhaps even more important was this: Nelson had an

WRIGHT CALL ▶ 38

## Raiders return to state in style Back at full strength, CDH sprints to Section 4 title

BY BILL WAGNER

The Cretin-Derham Hall football team, runner-up in the state in 2007, appeared to be vulnerable early this season. Injuries to key players, including senior running back Marcus Binns, had taken a toll. But since Binns' return, CDH has been on a roll, and last Friday the top-seeded Raiders (11-0) earned a return trip to the state tournament with a convincing 33-14 win over second-seeded Woodbury.

The Royals (9-2) were ranked fourth in the metro area, and they had lost a close one to third-ranked CDH in September, 22-16. They opened the Section 4AAAAA final with an impressive eight-play, 71-yard scoring drive. But that was as close to competitive as the game would get. The Raiders scored the next 33 points, making the Royals' final touchdown late in the fourth quarter all but meaningless.

Binns, showing no signs of the knee injury that sidelined him for four games this season, rambled for 167 yards on 34 carries and three touchdowns against Woodbury. CDH quarterback Mark Alt was 9 for 14 through the air for 127 yards and one touchdown. The junior signal-caller also ran for 72 yards on 12 carries. The Raiders punted only twice all evening, and were a perfect 4 for 4 on fourth-down conversions.

The Raiders will now advance to the state Class AAAAA quarterfinals where they will play Lakeville South, a 24-17 victor over Lakeville North, at 7:00 p.m. Friday, November 7, at Central High School's Griffin Stadium, 275 N. Lexington Pkwy.

"The last time we played Woodbury,



CDH quarterback Mark Alt escapes the clutches of a Woodbury defender during the Raiders' 33-14 win over the Royals on October 31. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

we were barely able to hold on to win," said CDH coach Mike Scanlan. "It's always hard to beat somebody twice in the same season. But we didn't have Marcus Binns in that first game. He really got it done for us tonight. He deserved every yard he got. Marcus Binns definitely makes us a different team. And I thought we played very well up front."

Binns agreed with his coach's last statement. "I give credit to my O-line for the way they blocked," he said. "I felt great tonight. That's the most times I've ever carried the ball in a game—by a lot.

It was a good night for us."

The Raiders' defense has improved by leaps and bounds over the second half of the season, and it was stellar against Woodbury, shutting down the Royals in all but the opening and closing minutes. CDH junior Seantrel Henderson, everybody's all-stater at offensive tackle, has helped out recently with two-way play on the defensive line, and Harry Pitera, Mark Gums and Willie Roller have turned in steady performances at line-

CDH FOOTBALL ▶ 36

## STA gets payback, state trip with win over Simley

BY BRIAN JOHNSON

The St. Thomas Academy football team had no reason to be scared on Halloween night. Hobgoblins were nowhere in sight for the top-ranked Cadets as they ripped through Simley 49-13 in the Section 3AAAAA championship game at home.

With the win, STA (10-1) avenged its only loss, a 20-14 setback to the Spartans in the second game of the season. More important, the victory qualified the Cadets for the Class AAAA state tour-

namment, where they will face Mankato West (10-1) at 6:00 p.m. Saturday, November 8, at Lakeville North.

Fleet-footed senior quarterback Mike Ratelle rushed for 136 yards, ran for two touchdowns and passed for three more for the Cadets, who scored on their first drive, marched to a 27-7 halftime lead, and never looked back. Junior running back Danny Abbott had two touchdowns, and junior tight end Luke Hvidlyld, senior running back Tom Caturia and junior quarterback John Garry also reached the end zone in a balanced at-

tack. Senior fullback Danny Traeger collected 109 yards on the ground on 13 carries.

Meanwhile, STA also played solid defense throughout and capitalized on Simley's miscues, including a pass interference call and a personal foul penalty, both of which led to Cadet touchdowns.

"This was by far our best game of the year," said STA coach Dave Ziebarth, still dripping from a Gatorade bath after the game. "They're a very good team and a

STA FOOTBALL ▶ 36

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Matt Kortz, dressed in a tribute to CDH coach Mike Scanlan, joins fellow students in cheering for the Raiders during the Section 4AAAAA final on Halloween night. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

35 ◀ CDH FOOTBALL

backer for the Raiders. "I think we're better (at linebacker) than we were last year," said Scanlan, whose team's only loss in 2007 came against Eden Prairie in the state title game. The Raiders' defense has posted some impressive numbers late in the season, including a 33-0 conference pasting of a good Mounds View team. Pitera logged nine tackles against Woodbury, including two for losses, and also blocked his fifth punt of the season. CDH senior cornerback/safety Jon Kinsel has had four interceptions this season. The Raiders' offense seemed to have its way with Woodbury, whose defensive coaching staff was clearly frustrated. Though they appeared to have the Raider offensive game plan smelled out, the Royals were still giving up sustained offensive drives. As Woodbury coach Beau Labore

said, "You still have to stop them. The Raiders converted on third down, and we didn't. I think Binns is a great player, but they really throw a good team effort at you. And the quarterback (Alt) is the latest in a string of great quarterbacks for that school." CDH kept its offensive drives alive with key third- and fourth-down conversions, scoring on drives of 81, 55, 59, 72 and 51 yards. Never was that offensive precision more in evidence than on the Raiders' third touchdown, a beautifully executed, 33-yard screen pass from Alt to junior wideout Clay Horne. Alt drew the Royal pass rush to him before lofting the ball to the 6-foot-6 Horne, who had an almost clear path to paydirt. This will be the Raiders' 18th trip to the state high school football tournament in the past 19 years. Since 1990, they have won the state title once and have been state runners-up four times.

35 ◀ STA FOOTBALL

very worthy opponent. We wanted to see how we were going to stand up to a team that was a lot bigger and was going to try to overpower us. They came out and they ran right at us. We made a couple of adjustments on defense to shut that down and the kids really responded. I couldn't be more pleased." Ratelle was pleased with the effort from his teammates, including an offensive line that created some gaping holes against a solid Simley defense. "We thought they were going to come out and challenge us, but we played tougher than they did," Ratelle said. "We thought it was going to be a dog fight, but the first half we just took it right to them and they backed down." The Cadets were especially motivated to avenge their only previous loss. "It was great to get payback," Ratelle said. A swarming St. Thomas defense set the stage for that payback by stuffing Simley on a fourth-and-two play, laying the groundwork for a 73-yard drive that culminated with Abbott's 27-yard sprint around the left end. Moments later, senior defensive back Drew Ayotte intercepted a long pass from Simley quarterback Muresuk Mena, setting up an electrifying 85-yard touchdown run by Ratelle. "Ratelle is fast. He has a good arm, is really gutsy, and tougher than nails," Ziebarth said. "I told him once that he reminded me of (former Vikings quarterback) Joe Kapp. Of course, he had no clue who Joe Kapp was. He's a lot faster than Joe Kapp was. He's a real weapon."

Simley quarterback Mena showed some speed of his own when he opened the second quarter with a long touchdown run, but the Cadets responded with a 79-yard scoring drive. A Simley pass interference penalty on fourth-and-11 set up a 10-yard touchdown pass from Ratelle to Abbott, increasing the lead to 21-7. STA closed out the half with a 23-yard touchdown scamper by Ratelle after a Simley personal foul penalty. The penalty kept the drive alive after Simley appeared to have stopped the Cadets on a third-and-10 play. "When we played them the first time, we made mistakes and they didn't and we wanted to turn that around," Ziebarth said. "That worked tonight in our favor." The second half was more of the same. In the third quarter, Ratelle connected on scoring strikes to Hvidlyld and Caturia, and back-up quarterback Garry closed out the Cadets' scoring with a 5-yard touchdown run. With 22 seconds remaining, Simley got a consolation touchdown on a 30-yard pass from Mena to Kyle Horsch. While STA's offense sizzled, it was also a big night for an energetic Cadet defense. Cadet defenders zigged and zagged like water bugs on a pond before the ball was snapped, creating confusion and unsettling the Spartans. "Our defensive coordinator, Billy Owens, has done an awesome job this year and we started that (movement) in the fourth or fifth game -of the season)," Ziebarth said. "We thought we needed to use our speed more and create an atmosphere among our own kids of getting them excited."



STA senior running back Tom Caturia fights off Simley's Ryan Ness during the Cadets' 49-13 win over the Spartans on October 31 for the Section 3AAAA title. PHOTO BY TERRY FAUST

Now the Cadets look with excitement to the state tournament. Following quarterfinal action at various locations, the Class AAAA semifinals and finals will be held on November 15 and 29, respectively, at the Metrodome. "We were there two years ago (the Cadets lost to Totino-Grace in the final) and we're very happy to get back," Ziebarth said. "We

want to get back to the Dome. That's the goal of the kids and the coaches. We're going to work real hard to get there." Ziebarth figures they will have their hands full against Mankato West (10-1) on Saturday. "That's OK," he said. "If we want to be state champs, we have to beat the best team. I think we're a good team. They're going to have their hands full, too."

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# Scrappy CDH volleyballers topple top two seeds to earn trip to state

BY DAVE WRIGHT

After 199 points, two hours and four games of frenetic play, the Cretin-Derham Hall volleyball season came down to this: Did senior hitter Danielle Gibbemeyer have one more kill left in her arm?

Did she ever. Gibbemeyer's 18th kill of the night—and team-high 273rd of the season—closed out the Raiders' five-game victory over Stillwater in the Section 4AAA title match on October 30 at Arlington High School. The victory set off a wild celebration quite proper for a school that will be making its first appearance in the state volleyball tournament since 1998.

"I've never been on a team that wanted it so bad," Gibbemeyer said. "We never lost confidence that we could win this thing."

Raider coach Rick Kuehlwein, who took over the program the year after the last trip to state, agreed. He had already seen his fifth-seeded team defeat fourth-seeded Tartan and top-seeded Woodbury to advance to the title match.

"We've been finding a way to win these things lately," he said. "I was worried we might have been on an emotional low tonight, but we hung tough. That's the way it's been all season."

CDH (20-10) certainly started slowly this fall. Seven teams in the Raiders' section had fewer losses, but few played as tough a schedule as the Raiders. In the end, Kuehlwein felt that made a huge difference against the second-seeded Ponies.

"Early in the year, we wanted to find out who could play," he said. "I wasn't real worried about our record (7-7 at one point). Our defense came together in the second half of the season, and that made a big difference."

As a result, the Raiders, who were fourth in the Suburban East during the regular season, entered the postseason feeling good about their chances. One day before the section tournament began, CDH climbed a mountain with a 3-2 win over Classic Lake power Wayzata, which is also headed to the state tournament.

"That was a huge win for us," Gibbemeyer said. "Things were really starting to click then."

When section play began on October 22, nobody paid much attention when CDH blitzed 12th-seeded Como Park in three straight games. But when the Raiders swept

Tartan two days later, a few people took notice. The rest of the section got the message when the Raiders earned a modicum of revenge with a tense 25-22, 14-25, 27-25, 14-25, 15-12 win over Woodbury in the semifinals on October 28.

"The Woodbury win was satisfying because we had very few lapses against a very good team," Kuehlwein said. Earlier in the season the Royals had defeated the Raiders three games to one.

That left Stillwater, a team that had also defeated the Raiders earlier in the year. CDH broke away from a 19-all tie with four points in a row and held on for a 25-23 win in the first game of the title round. The Ponies took charge early in game two and rolled to a 25-16 decision. The Raiders then reversed direction, gaining the final three points for a 25-21 win in game three. The Ponies, led by senior middle hitter Taylor Stippel, pulled away at the end of game four for a 25-14 decision.

That left one final game for the section championship. The CDH front wall of seniors Sarah Hendricks and Madeline Howard (who had 72 and 56 solo blocks, respectively, for the season) and junior Maria Harrington were slowly wearing down the Ponies at the net. Still, the season was up for grabs with the deciding game tied at 8.

At that point, Kuehlwein had one fervent wish: Just get the ball to Gibbemeyer, a powerful 5-foot-10 hitter.

Wish granted. Gibbemeyer recorded four straight kills to gain a 12-8 margin and the Raiders never lost the lead thereafter. When Gibbemeyer slammed the team's 50th kill of the night to clinch the 15-11 verdict, the entire Raider rooting section seemed to parachute from the stands to the court.

"She (Gibbemeyer) really wanted the ball at that stage of the game," Kuehlwein said. "(Senior setter) Lizzy Henry got her some great feeds and she did the rest."

CDH will play third-seeded St. Michael-Albertville in the opening round of the state Class AAA volleyball tournament at 11:00 a.m. Thursday, November 6, at the Xcel Energy Center. The semifinals will be played on Friday, November 7, with the title game set for 5:00 p.m. Saturday, November 8.

"We're scrappy and we're athletic," said Kuehlwein, as he looked ahead to state. "And we're also playing very good defense right now."

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# Sports Shorts

**St. Paul's Southwest Area** parks and recreation centers are now hosting a variety of monthly activities for young people ages 12-16. Upcoming programs will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Fridays, November 7 and December 5, at the Merriam Park Recreation Center, 2000 St. Anthony Ave. All teens in the neighborhoods that are served by the Edgcombe, Griggs, Groveland, Hancock, Hillcrest, Langford, Merriam Park, Palace and South St. Anthony recreation centers are invited. For information, call 651-298-5766.

**The Minnesota Ski and Snowboard Expo** will be held from Friday through Sunday, November 14-16 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. The event is expected to draw more than 20,000 skiers and snowboarders and nearly 100 exhibitors. There will also be a trampoline show featuring Olympic athletes and an indoor rail jam competition featuring local snowboarders and freestyle skiers. The Ski and Snowboard Expo will run from noon to 10:00 p.m. on Friday, from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Saturday and from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is \$12 and free for children age 12 and younger accompanied by a paying adult. Visit [www.onthesnow.com](http://www.onthesnow.com).

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**Pat Auran, Bob Byer, Mike Hickey and Bob Wokasch** beat a field of 17 foursomes to take top honors in the 19th annual Wally World Classic golf tournament at Highland National on October 12. The winners shot 12 under par, one off the tournament record, according to Joe Delaney of Highland Park, founder and organizer of the four-person scramble. Receiving special recognition this year were Tom Egan and Chris Colvy, both of whose foursomes recorded eagles on the 13th hole, a 360-yard par 4. Egan and Colvy sunk their approach shots from 100 and 119 yards out, respectively.

**A Phenology and Fitness Walk** will be offered at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, November 22, at Fort Snelling State Park, Highway 5 and Post Road. The free program will focus on the deer in the park and what the rutting season will bring. A state park sticker is required on all motorized vehicles entering the park. Call 612-725-2724.



For the first time in history, Holy Spirit School's 8th-grade girls' volleyball team has won the CAA St. Paul city championship. According to coach Erin Kimlinger, it was a team effort all the way. Pictured left to right are (back row) Hannah Mendenhall, Rainey Lecher, Madelyn Voigt, Lexi Quicksell, Michelle Doody and Kimlinger; and (front row) Mary Kate Tschida, Delainey Monson, Maren Dick and Maddie Gergen.

## 35◀ WRIGHT CALL

artist's soul without an artist's temperament to go with it. Come to think of it, that's a legacy unto itself.

### The longest season

If it seems like the high school football season is longer than usual this year, that's because it is. The games began on August 28 and won't end until the last play of the Prep Bowl at the Metrodome on November 29, making it the longest prep gridiron season possible.

"It was a bit of fluke in the calendar, but the season started on the earliest date possible," explained Kevin Merkle, who handles the football playoffs for the Minnesota State High School League.

A late Thanksgiving this year means that the Prep Bowl won't be played until a full two weeks after the semifinals at the Dome on November 14-15. The state quarterfinals will be played at various sites—including two at Macalester College and three at Griffin Stadium—on November 7-9.

"Generally, we like to play right after Thanksgiving," Merkle said, "but even if we did want to move the (Prep Bowl) games up a week, we couldn't because the Gophers play Iowa at the Metrodome on November 21. And playing it on these days is the only way we could match up with television."

The two-week break has happened a couple of times before, but Merkle doesn't see it as a problem. "I remember this happening when I was the athletic director at Northfield in 1997," he said. "Everybody was worried about it in advance, but it ended up not being a very big deal."

However, that could depend on how many athletes who make it to the Prep Bowl also play for their high school hockey teams. For example, if the Cretin-Derham Hall football team returns to the state title game on November 28, CDH boys' hockey coach Jim O'Neill could be facing some big holes in his roster. The Raider pucksters are scheduled to open their season on November 28-29 with games against Duluth Denfeld and Hibbing at the Coliseum.

### Ex-Twins stayed busy last week

Much has been made of Tampa Bay riding the talents of ex-Twins Matt Garza and Jason Bartlett to win their first American League pennant ever. But there are two other former Twins who have also been playing on the national stage lately, proving just how inexact a science baseball can be.

Though he'd been a 21st-round draft choice, J.C. Romero made it onto the Twins' roster in just two years. He appeared in 307 games for Minnesota, most of them in relief. However, he never seemed to be much of a fan favorite and nobody seemed too upset when he was traded before the start of the 2006 season. Romero then kicked around with a couple of

other American League teams, compiling a modest career 4.57 ERA before joining Philadelphia in the middle of the 2007 season.

With the Phillies, Romero has been averaging nearly a strikeout an inning and has an ERA of 2.46. Recently, he made an appearance in relief on national TV. His team had rallied for a lead in the eighth inning. Two batters and two outs later, he left the game in favor of the team's closer. The Phillies went on to a 7-5 win and two nights later clinched their first league pennant in 15 years.

While Romero pitched for the Twins, he was a teammate of Grant Balfour, who had been signed as a free agent in 1997. Balfour eventually worked his way to the big league team, getting used mainly in short relief. His ERA of nearly 5.00 didn't excite a lot of people and when the Twins let him go in the 2005 offseason, hardly anyone noticed. He hung around with a couple of National League teams before landing in Tampa Bay midway through the 2007 season. There, Balfour didn't fare much better than the rest of his team (6.14 ERA in 22 games). However, 2008 was another story altogether as he recorded a nasty 1.54 ERA with six wins and four saves. It's hard to imagine the Rays making it to the World Series without him.

So it is that Romero and Balfour—two fellows who left town with no fanfare a few years ago—were playing against each other in the World Series last week.

(Dave Wright can be reached at [dwright53@msn.com](mailto:dwright53@msn.com).)

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Minnehaha junior hitter Emilia Kronschnabel reaches for the ball during the Redhawks' loss to Concordia Academy in the Section 4AA final on November 1. PHOTO BY ANNE BRANDRUD

## High-flying Redhawks stall in section final versus Concordia

BY BILL WAGNER

Everything was going fine for the Minnehaha Academy volleyball team in its Section 4AA final at home against Concordia Academy on November 1. The Redhawks had jumped to an 11-7 lead in the first game against the Beacons and seemed to be on their way to their first appearance in the state volleyball tournament.

However, top-ranked Minnehaha won only 39 of the next 107 points and was upset 25-21, 25-13, 25-16 by Concordia. It was a dramatic and disheartening letdown for the Redhawks, who had posted their first undefeated season in the Tri-Metro Conference, including a victory over the Beacons earlier this fall.

"We picked the worst possible time to have our worst game of the year," said Minnehaha coach Tom Kivel.

The Beacons (15-12) served notice that were not a team to be taken lightly after they bested their division's top seed, Visitation, in the semifinals two days earlier. Concordia simply passed better, hit better and defended better than the Redhawks (22-5).

"They took us out of our system," Kivel said. "This was our Super Bowl. We missed four serves in the first game, and that was it."

The Redhawks looked in good form early in the first game before Concordia stepped up its game. The teams traded points and were tied until a service error by Minnehaha and a service ace by Concordia gave the Beacons a 24-22 lead. A nice block on the next point gave Concordia the first game.

Games two and three were never close. Kivel called timeouts, both with him in charge of the Minnehaha huddle and then with an assistant coach talking to the players, but nothing worked.

"We didn't mind being underdogs since we had lost to them the last time," said Concordia coach Kristin Fink. "However, since that game

our middles have improved drastically. Good volleyball comes down to good passing, and our passers got the better of their passers."

The Beacons got especially big kills from the left side of the floor. One of the Redhawks' concerns this season was a lack of size to accompany their athleticism and quickness, and that shortcoming was demonstrated in spades during the final.

Nonetheless, several of the Redhawks turned in outstanding performances this season. Outside sophomore hitter Sarah Winter led the team in kills and earned the plaudits of Kivel. "She's a competitor who wants to win," he said.

Freshman setter Brigid Kelly led the club in assists and senior defensive specialist Sarah Lucht put together an outstanding season in leading the club in digs. Kivel also saluted senior outside hitter Allison Yaeger for fashioning a solid year.

"If there was a bright spot (in the section final), it had to be (8th-grade setter) Natalie Welsh," Kivel said. "She had a good game."

Kivel noted that the Redhawks will have most of their 2008 players back next year and that several younger players had fine seasons despite having to learn on the job. "This was supposed to be a rebuilding year," he said.

The Redhawks got to the section final by shutting out Roosevelt and North in three straight and then putting away a stubborn DeLaSalle team in the semis. The Islanders won the first game 25-19 and looked to have had some momentum, but Minnehaha got its game together to win the next three 25-11, 25-13 and 25-11.

"DeLaSalle was a middle-of-the-pack team," Kivel said, "but they jumped on us a little bit and took us out of our game. I think the best thing to happen to us was to have lost that first game."

Unfortunately for the Redhawks, that wasn't to be the case against Concordia.

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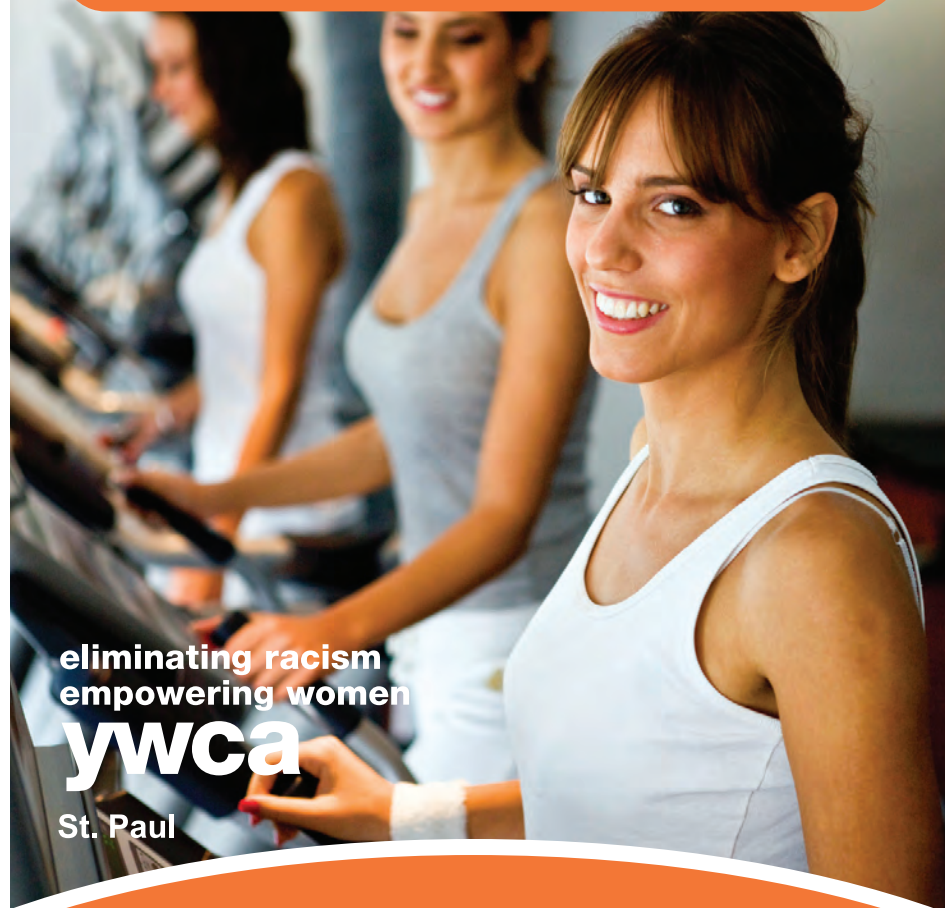
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