

# VILLAGER

DECEMBER 18, 2019 - JANUARY 7, 2020

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSPAPER SINCE 1953

57,500 COPIES

**COURSE OF ACTION**

**Parks & Rec lays out its preferred vision for repurposing the Highland 9-Hole ▶ 2**

**FAIR WAGE FROM FAIR ANITA**



**When women control the purse strings ▶ 11**

**CITY BEAT**

**Slim majority OKs St. Paul's \$636M budget for 2020 ▶ 4**

**ON THE TOWN**



**New take on Nutcracker ▶ 19**

**PREP BASKETBALL PREVIEW**

**Girls', boys' teams size up their prospects for the new season ▶ 23-24**

VIEWPOINT.....8  
 CRIME REPORT ..... 16  
 KIOSK..... 17  
 DISTRICT COUNCILS..... 18  
 ARTS LISTINGS ..... 20  
 CLASSIFIEDS ..... 25

## Agreement paves way for 3,800 new homes on Ford site

\$53.5M in TIF will help pay for streets and utilities, more TIF is expected for affordable housing

By JANE McCLURE

Twelve years after Ford Motor Company first announced its intention to abandon its assembly plant in Highland Park, the St. Paul City Council on December 4 approved an agreement with master developer Ryan Companies to transform the now-vacant 122-acre tract with new housing, retail stores, offices and parks with the help of a complex public financing package that relies heavily on tax increment financing (TIF).

"We're here tonight with a plan that works," said Tony Barranco, senior vice president for development at Ryan Companies. The public financing will not only pay for such infrastructure as sewers, streets, parks and trails, Barranco said, it will preserve two of the three Highland Ball diamonds and support affordable housing projects citywide.

"When Ford Motor Company opened a sprawling auto manufacturing plant on the banks of the Mississippi (in 1926), it laid the foundation for nearly a century of opportunity and growth in our city," said Ward 3 City Council member Chris Tolbert. "I believe that today we're embarking on another once-in-a-century opportunity that will reap benefits for generations to come."

FORD SITE REDEVELOPMENT ▶ 3



**Their eyes all aglow.**

Kids delight in meeting Bubba the Bear at the Grand Meander on December 7 as part of a new Gather Here pop-up art event in the vacant lot at 1659 Grand Ave. At left, Rene Meyer-Grimberg, Breanna Everson and Jon Dahl sing around a bonfire at the site.

PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

## Homeless families find a room at the Interfaith inn

### Interfaith Action's Project Home is now serving 24/7

By LESLIE WALTERS

Shay Wilson and her four children lost their apartment when the building was sold. "I looked and looked for a place to live, but I couldn't find anything affordable on my disability checks," Wilson said. "I couldn't find a one-bedroom for under \$1,000 a month. Besides that, you can't have more than three people in a one-bedroom apartment."

Most homeless shelters only accept adults, so Wilson and her children spent a year living in her car. Then Ramsey County referred her to Project Home, the only homeless shelter in St.

Paul specifically for families. Wilson was relieved to find a warm place for her and her children to sleep with three nutritious meals a day, showers, lockers and personal hygiene products.

Project Home is a program of Interfaith Action of Greater St. Paul, 1671 Summit Ave. Interfaith Action coordinates the services of thousands of volunteers to address the effects of poverty. It partners with churches, synagogues and schools to provide two overnight shelters each month with a total of 40 beds. The families spend the day at the Project Home Day Center at First Baptist Church in downtown St. Paul.

The day center had been operated by the Family Place since 2001, according to Sara Liegl, director of Project Home. However, the Family Place ceased operations in late August when it lost much of its funding, she said. With less than

two weeks' notice and a new school year about to start, Interfaith Action took over the Day Center through the end of 2019 with a \$175,000 grant from Ramsey County.

The Ramsey County Board recently awarded Interfaith Action another \$600,000 to operate Project Home Day Center through the end of 2020 with an option to renew the grant annually through 2024. "We saw a real need to help this underserved population," said Ramsey County commissioner Trista MatasCastillo. "We can't very well leave a mother and an 8-month-old baby out in the cold."

The Day Center shelters families in all their various forms. "We have traditional parents, single moms and dads, grandmothers and same-

PROJECT HOME ▶ 5

**— JANUARY 2020 ADMISSION EVENTS: PLEASE JOIN US! —**



ST. PAUL ACADEMY AND SUMMIT SCHOOL

**Lower School Open House (K-5)**

1150 Goodrich Avenue, St. Paul

Tuesday, January 14, 2020, 8:30-10:30 a.m.

**Middle and Upper School Open House (6-12)**

1712 Randolph Avenue, St. Paul

Thursday, January 16, 2020, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

For more information please visit [www.spa.edu/Admission](http://www.spa.edu/Admission) or call 651-698-2451.

# Parks & Rec lays out preferred plan for repurposing Highland 9

By JANE McCLURE

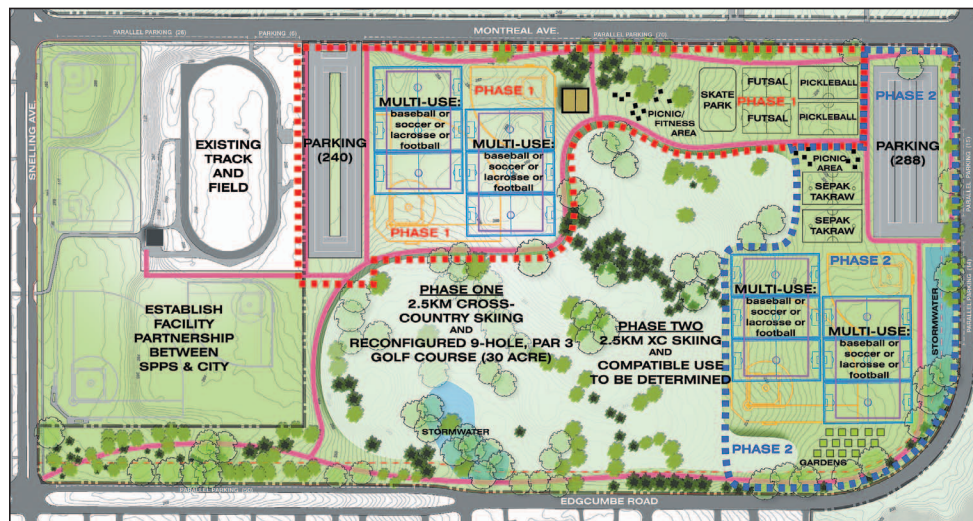
Four multipurpose fields; a skate park; futsal, pickleball and sepak takraw courts; and a reconfigured golf course and cross-country ski trails could be in the future for a repurposed Highland 9-Hole Golf Course. More than 80 people attended an open house on December 11 at the Charles M. Schulz-Highland Arena to view the preferred concept plan and weigh in on it.

Golfers can plan on playing the course as is at least through 2020. Brett Hussong, landscape architect for the St. Paul Department of Parks and Recreation, emphasized that the plan as drafted is part of a visioning process only. The city has no funding to make any changes to the course and no timeline for the project. The work has been estimated to cost between \$15 million and \$22 million.

The preferred concept calls for two multi-use fields with artificial turf for baseball, soccer, lacrosse and football as well as a 240-space parking lot along Montreal Avenue, just east of the Highland Park High School stadium and track. A picnic and fitness area, skate park and two futsal (mini-soccer) and two pickleball courts also would be located along Montreal as part of the first phase of construction.

The second phase would feature two more multiuse fields near Edgumbe Road, along with two sepak takraw (Asian kick volleyball) courts and 288 more parking spaces at the southwest corner of Montreal and Edgumbe. A stormwater feature and community gardens also are part of that phase.

About 30 acres would be set aside for a reconfigured par-3 golf course, and 2.5K of reconfigured cross-country skiing trails. Efforts



The city's preferred concept plan for adding multipurpose fields and other amenities to the Highland 9-Hole Golf Course property on Montreal Avenue and Edgumbe Road.

would be made to save as many trees as possible in the process. The entire site would have a 60-foot buffer around the perimeter.

The notion of possibly losing the approximately 55-acre 9-hole course roiled golfers and drew objections from cross-country skiers who use it in the winter. Other sports groups, especially those seeking more soccer fields in the city, have pushed for the changes.

While the Highland 9 has generally broken even in recent years, Hussong said the city has to weigh its costs and usage with everything else in the parks system.

"I know everyone is passionate about the Highland 9," he said, but added there is an ever-growing demand for field space in the city to accommodate other sports.

Ward 3 City Council member Chris Tolbert described the preferred concept, which is

a combination of four design ideas that were presented at meetings in late 2018, as a compromise. Tolbert said he often hears pleas for more field space. "We live in a built-out city that has limited park resources," he said.

Hussong said parks staff are proud of their efforts to develop a concept that addresses many disparate recreational needs and create amenities for a wider range of parks users. One of the few ideas suggested last year that is not included in the preferred plan is an off-leash dog area.

Reaction to the preferred concept was mixed. Golfers questioned what a smaller par-3 course would be like. Merriam Park resident Susan Neville said her entire family just learned to play golf and enjoyed using the Highland 9 this summer. She disputed claims that golf's popularity is waning.

## Committee supports coffee shop drive-thru at Sibley Plaza

By JANE McCLURE

A proposed coffee shop with drive-through service at Sibley Plaza shopping center received a 3-2 recommendation of approval for a conditional use permit from the St. Paul Planning Commission's Zoning Committee on December 12. The full commission is expected to review the issue on December 20. Its decision would be final unless it is appealed to the City Council.

The committee was deadlocked 3-3 last month on approving the permit for what is

anticipated to be a new Starbucks and instead asked for more traffic data. Looming over the project is the specter of traffic tie-ups and accidents that have become common at the Starbucks on Snelling and Marshall avenues.

Sibley Plaza owner Paster Properties wants to tear down the gas station at the northeast corner of West Seventh and Davern streets and replace it with a 2,200-square-foot coffee shop. The gas station's curb cuts would be removed and vehicles would access the coffee shop through the shopping center's parking lot. Plans also call for landscaping, an orna-

mental fence, inside seating and a patio.

The permit was recommended with conditions, including that vehicles queuing up for the drive-through do not back up into any public right-of-way. The plans show enough room for 14 vehicles to line up for window service, with another 23 spots in the shopping center parking lot for queuing if needed.

City planner Emma Siegworth said it is reasonable to expect that the line of motorists waiting to get coffee would never be that long.

The committee also added a condition giving the city more power to modify or revoke

the conditional use permit for the Sibley Plaza coffee shop if problems arise. That includes a one-year review of the permit to see how the drive-through service is performing.

"Had we had this kind of condition added to the Snelling-Marshall permit, it could have addressed problems there," said Planning Commissioner Luis Rangel-Morales.

Commissioner Bill Lindeke said the condition should give city staff more tools to work with the property owners. "With Snelling and Marshall, the city felt like it couldn't do much," he said.

## Affordable housing complex proposed at University-Fairview

By JANE McCLURE

Two seven-story apartment buildings could soon rise at the northwest corner of University and Fairview avenues. Minneapolis-based Reuter Walton Development presented plans for the 279-unit project on December 12 to the Hamline-Midway Coalition's Development Committee. The project is expected to go through the city approval process in 2020.

The complex will be one of the first new affordable housing projects on University west of Snelling Avenue. The property, which is now occupied by commercial buildings and a parking lot, is owned by Goodwill/Easter Seals of Minnesota. Reuter Walton has a purchase agreement for the property.

Paul Keenan, vice president of development at Reuter Walton, said the University-Fairview complex would be its first affordable housing project, with a mix of apartments for tenants earning 30-80 percent of the area median income, or AMI. Rents could be as low as \$71 per month for a studio unit at 30 percent of the AMI.

One of the buildings would have 157 units and the other 122 units. The buildings would



A rendering of the proposed seven-story apartment buildings that would provide an affordable housing option on the northwest corner of University and Fairview avenues.

have a mix of apartment sizes, including about 70 three-bedroom and 65 two-bedroom options to meet the high demand for larger affordable units.

The buildings would share a 150-space parking lot on Charles Avenue with Goodwill/Easter Seals and would have 127 stalls of underground parking. Each building would have a plaza fronting University.

Keenan said one goal is to improve the pedestrian experience in the area, with wider sidewalks, public art and the preservation of the walkway between Goodwill/Easter Seals

and the Fairview light-rail station.

The site's current TN4 zoning allows building heights of up to 75 feet. It also is in an area with no minimum off-street parking requirements. It is not clear yet whether the project will need any conditional use permits or variances.

Committee members liked the idea of affordable housing, but questioned why the project as proposed has no first-floor retail. Keenan said retail space can be challenging to fill. "We've had a lot of retail sit vacant in our developments," he said.

Some committee members also wanted to see more details on the building, which is being designed by DJR Architecture.

The site has been in transition for more than a decade. The buildings where the parking lot is located were torn down several years ago. One high-profile commercial departure was the Finn Sisu ski and sauna shop, which moved to Lauderdale in 2009 after raising red flags about light rail, the loss of on-street parking and development pressures.

Finn Sisu's old building, which most recently was a place of worship, would be torn down, along with another larger commercial building and a former service station that previously housed the Andy's Garage restaurant and, later, a Goodwill store. The other building housed a tire shop, restaurant, barber shop and other businesses over the years.

Committee member Bernie Hesse asked about the possibility of lingering pollution from the old service station. Keenan said the developers plan to excavate the property so that underground parking can be built.

Reuter Walton was also involved in building The Grove at Snelling and St. Clair avenues, a project in Lowertown by the Union Depot and another on the West Side Flats.

# Ford site TIF is expected to pay for affordable housing citywide

## Additional tax revenue from Ford project could generate \$1M annually for affordable housing

By JANE McCLURE

Affordable housing is one of the focal points of the development agreement for the Ford site approved on December 4 by the St. Paul City Council. Twenty percent of the 3,800 new housing units planned for the now-vacant 122-acre site have been promised to be affordable to people making between 30 and 60 percent of the median income in the Twin Cities area. However, the agreement does not provide all of the tax in-

crement financing (TIF) that may be needed to make those 760 housing units affordable. That financing is expected to come later.

"The goals here are extremely ambitious," said Ward 3 City Council member Chris Tolbert, who chairs the board of the city's Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA). Tolbert said he would like to see the TIF district at the Ford site provide as much affordable housing as possible, both on the site and elsewhere in the city, given the great need.

City Council member Jane Prince praised Ryan Companies' commitment to affordable housing, saying the developer never flinched at the requirements raised by the master plan. "This should set an example for every development in the future," Prince said. "It gives the council the moral authority to demand the best from the development community."

City Council member Dai Thao agreed,

saying the Ford project "will set the bar high" when it comes to developers providing affordable housing.

The TIF budget for the Ford site calls for \$27.2 million to help pay for the construction of affordable housing anywhere in the city, including the Ford site, according to an HRA staff report. The funds would be generated over time by setting aside 10 percent of the tax increments collected annually at the Ford site. "This is expected to generate over \$1 million annually for affordable housing once the Ford site is fully built out," the staff report stated.

The tax increments are the additional property taxes generated at the Ford site through its redevelopment. The money would be allocated by the City Council and HRA board project by project.

Ryan Companies is planning a mix of single-family, townhome and multi-family hous-

ing at the Ford site. The 3,800 new homes will include both rental and ownership options. At least 20 percent of them will be affordable to low-income residents, including 380 units affordable to those making 30 percent of the Twin Cities area's median income (AMI), 190 units to those making 50 percent of AMI, and 190 units to those making 60 percent of AMI.

The AMI for a family of four is \$100,000. To be affordable, the rent for a two-bedroom apartment would be \$675 per month at 30 percent AMI, \$1,125 at 50 percent AMI and \$1,350 at 60 percent AMI. The units would be governed by deed restrictions and have to remain affordable for 30 years.

Among Ryan Companies' development partners on the affordable housing for the Ford site are the nonprofit CommonBond Communities, Project for Pride in Living and Habitat for Humanity.

### 1 ◀ FORD SITE REDEVELOPMENT

Kristin Guild, interim director of the St. Paul Department of Planning and Economic Development (PED), praised the city's more than 10 years of planning for the Ford site's redevelopment, which involved more than 14 technical studies and 100 public meetings.

Ford chose Ryan Companies as the master developer in 2018. Ryan will purchase the property from Ford and subdivide it in order to create streets, sidewalks, parks, plazas, wetlands and private lots. City documents have estimated the present value of the Ford site at \$40 million. The property is expected to be worth \$1 billion when fully built out by 2040.

The development plan calls for 3,040 market-rate housing units, 760 affordable housing units, 265,000 square feet of office space, 150,000 square feet of retail space and 50,000 square feet of civic or institutional space.

The City Council budgeted \$275 million in TIF for the Ford site over more than 10 years based on an analysis and market study of the site. So far it has approved \$53.5 million in TIF to help pay for the \$92.5 million in infrastructure on the site. Additional TIF is expected to be approved over time, including the TIF needed to develop affordable housing, both on the site and elsewhere in the city.

TIF allows developers to draw from the additional tax revenue their development will generate to pay for specified costs. Ryan Companies will pay for some of the infrastructure costs on the Ford site. Other infrastructure will be covered by municipal-state aid, capital improvement bonds, green infrastructure bonds and interfund loans.

Ryan will design and build all of the public infrastructure on the site, including streets, sidewalks, boulevards, trails, water distribution systems, sanitary sewers, stormwater sewers, ponds, parks and public art. The public open spaces—including parks, streets, sidewalks, paths and publicly accessible private space—will total 55 acres. The public parkland and street right-of-way will be dedicated at no land sale cost to the city.

Ryan and the nonprofit Friends of Highland Ball are expected to reach an agreement



With an estimated value of \$40 million now, the 122-acre Ford site in Highland Park is expected to be worth \$1 billion when fully built out over the next two decades with new housing, retail, office and institutional uses as pictured above looking toward the southeast.

*Ryan Companies will design and build all of the public infrastructure on the site. The public open spaces—including parks, streets, sidewalks, paths and publicly accessible private space—will total 55 acres... and will be dedicated at no land sale cost to the city.*

on the purchase of the existing ballfields and use a forgivable mortgage for that purchase. However, no sale price has been specified.

City Council support for the development agreement with Ryan Companies was unanimous, although some concerns were raised. Council president Amy Brendmoen, for example, said she would like to see the state of Minnesota help with the project. "There's clearly a regional benefit," she said. City offi-

cial are seeking a stormwater management grant of \$7 million from the state to "buy down" the amount of TIF needed for infrastructure on the Ford site, according to interim city finance director John McCarthy.

Highland Park resident Kate Hunt and Macalester-Groveland resident Kathy McGuire spoke against the financing package, questioning what the new TIF district would mean for the overall property tax burden in the city. The increased property tax revenue that TIF diverts on a site is revenue that would otherwise be added to the tax base of the city, county and school district.

Hunt and McGuire are members of Neighbors for a Livable St. Paul. That group has asked for a public meeting on the Ford site's financing package. According to McGuire, more information on the financing package should be released before it is approved, saying there have been no "checks and balances" on the plan. Hunt complained about the complexity of the financing package and how the amounts of the various components in that

package have fluctuated. "This feels like a shell game," she said.

However, more than a dozen other people praised the development agreement, including representatives of local construction unions, the St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce, Highland Ball, low-income housing providers and the Twin Cities Medical Society. Expanding the city's tax base, providing new jobs and new housing near those jobs, retaining the youth ballfields and promoting environmentally sustainable development were all cited as benefits.

"I couldn't be more excited about this project," said Highland Park resident Dan Hintz, while praising the work that Ryan Companies has done.

"St. Paul is a union town," said Bobby Casper of the St. Paul Regional Labor Federation. "Unfortunately, we lost the Ford plant." However, the new development will be a welcome economic engine, he added, providing construction jobs, permanent jobs and badly needed affordable housing.

**Edina Realty** Inc.

edinarealty.com

Grand Avenue Office  
700 Grand Ave. • 651 224-4321

Highland Park Office  
723 S. Cleveland • 651 698-2434



*Happy Holidays*

from your  
**Grand & Highland Edina Realty**



# Slim City Council majority approves \$636M budget for '20

By JANE McCLURE

The turbulent four months that it took to draft St. Paul's city budget for 2020 ended on December 11 with the City Council's 4-3 vote to approve the \$636 million spending plan—an increase of 3.9 percent over 2019. However, divisions remain at City Hall over how to address a rising tide of gun violence and other issues.

The City Council also approved a \$165.1 million property tax levy for 2020—a 5.85 percent or \$9.1 million increase over the 2019 levy. The increase is 1 percent higher than the 4.85 percent increase proposed in August by Mayor Melvin Carter, but well below the maximum 22.3 percent levy increase adopted by the City Council in September when city officials were contemplating covering the annual \$27.1 million cost of organized trash collection through the general fund.

For the average-valued home in St. Paul, the grand total for all city services, including water charges, various city fees and the city's portion of the property tax, will be \$1,793—a \$91 increase from 2019.

City Council members Amy Brendmoen, Mitra Jalali Nelson, Rebecca Noecker and

Chris Tolbert voted in favor of the budget and levy. Council members Kasim Busuri, Jane Prince and Dai Thao voted against, citing concerns about public safety spending and the effect the tax hike will have on the city's poorer neighborhoods where more steeply rising home values will bring double-digit increases to property tax bills.

"Overall this is a good budget," Thao said. However, he said, he is worried about the impact it will have on his constituents in Frog-town and the North End, arguing that the \$5 million realized from the city's recent sale of the parking lot at Kellogg Boulevard and West Seventh Street should have been used to lower the tax levy. Instead, those funds are being used to bolster the collections of the St. Paul Public Library and to provide more money for parks and recreation and city housing programs.

"I will vote 'no' on this budget because it does not cover the basics and it funds extras that my ward cannot afford," Prince said.

Prince questioned Carter's "community first" approach to public safety, quoting a recent newspaper opinion piece that said the mayor's plan "lacks logic and cohesion." That \$2.9 million plan includes \$1.679 million in

city funds and \$1.25 million in outside grants and other funds to pay for such things as after-school programs, youth employment, mental health services, housing assistance for people with criminal records, and the hiring of a city attorney to work in criminal diversion, a pedestrian safety engineer and city "ambassadors" to help connect youths to city programs and services.

The city budget eliminates five police officer positions—a move questioned by Police Chief Todd Axtell—and it does not fund the "ShotSpotter" gunfire detection technology that had been championed by Thao.

Prince pointed out at the budget hearing that because of illnesses and retirements, the Police Department is seldom if ever at full strength. She expressed concern about the growing police response times to 911 calls and the redeployment of the city's FORCE unit to homicide duty. FORCE officers typically address problem properties and other situations that breed crime.

Noecker praised the budget's restoration of funding for critical city services, while conceding that some needs are still being unmet. She said that she, too, has heard from many constituents who are concerned about rising

property taxes and she pushed city officials to keep the levy as low as possible. She also praised Carter's approach to public safety as an alternative to hiring more police officers.

The budget approved on December 11 includes an additional \$225,000 for the city's after-school Rec Check program to eliminate a daily fee of \$5 that under Carter's original budget would have been charged to children in households whose incomes are too high to qualify for free or reduced-price lunches at school.

Another big change was an additional \$500,000 for library collections. Carter's initial budget had reduced spending on library collections by \$200,000—from \$ 1.5 million to \$1.3 million.

Other budget additions included more city staff to enforce upcoming increases in the minimum wage, an additional deputy director in human rights, housing programs for at-risk families, parking meter upgrades, and longer recreation center hours to address changes in school start and end times. The City Council also restored \$100,000 for holiday lights and \$30,000 for hanging baskets downtown—money that Carter had cut as part of his \$4 million in budget savings for 2020.

## Tax levy hearing dominated by calls for more city spending

### Appeals for social services exceed pleas for tax relief

By JANE McCLURE

Any doubts about the level of citizen engagement in St. Paul's budget were dispelled at the city's annual truth-in-taxation hearing on December 4. Roughly 150 people turned out, and 50 of them spoke, calling for new investments in affordable housing, climate change and "community first" public safety initiatives as well as property tax relief.

Testimony was heavy on social justice issues from such organizations as ISAIAH, the Metropolitan Interfaith Coalition on Housing, Root and Restore St. Paul, the St. Paul Youth Commission and advocates for immi-

grant and youth services.

"I see the face of the homeless as I move about our city, and it is not acceptable," said Myrna Nelson, a member of ISAIAH and Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Summit-University.

Some people spoke about the need for the city to enforce its policies on earned sick and safe time and hire more city staff to investigate violations by St. Paul employers.

Others spoke for addressing crime as a public health issue and spending more on youth and family services to help break the cycles of violence. Mycee Lee of the Youth Commission cited the opportunities she has enjoyed through city-supported youth programs. Housing opportunities were also cited as a deterrent to crime.

Peter Meyer of Macalester-Groveland dis-

agreed with the "community-first" focus, saying gun violence is a criminal issue that demands a stronger police presence.

Tom Backstrom of Macalester-Groveland called for the City Council to invest more in public infrastructure, saying that the condition of St. Paul's streets are a great concern. He objected to Mayor Melvin Carter's plan to reduce Ayd Mill Road from four lanes to two with the addition of trails for bicyclists and pedestrians and questioned why the city is using decades-old studies to support that plan.

Michaelene Colestock, whose family operates Spence Specialties, a provider of transitional housing for women and their families, complained about the \$10,000 increase that business has seen in its annual property taxes since 2016. The business provides supportive housing for about 32 women and 20 children,

she said, and the tax increases "are making it very difficult to keep the housing affordable. If I have to leave and close my program, where will the people go?"

Her husband, Tom Comstock, agreed, saying "these (property tax) increases are out of control."

The December 4 hearing was the third and final truth-in-taxation hearing in St. Paul this fall. That evening the City Council approved a 5.85 percent increase in its property tax levy for 2020. The Ramsey County Board held its 2020 truth-in-taxation hearing in November and was expected to approve a 4.75 percent increase in its property tax levy on December 17, after this issue of the *Villager* went to press. The St. Paul School Board was expected to approve a 5 percent increase in its property tax levy for 2020, also on December 17.

**Happy Holidays**

Bob Reidell, Marti Estey, Ryan Estey, Scott Blanck, Matt Peterson, Joe Anderson, Sarah Hannahan

From Reidell-Estey & Associates

MARTI@REIDELLESTEY.COM  
BOB@REIDELLESTEY.COM  
651-696-0855  
748 GRAND AVE, ST PAUL, MN 55105  
971 SIBLEY MEMORIAL HWY, LILYDALE, MN 55118  
2100 FORD PKWY, ST PAUL, MN 55116  
WWW.REIDELLESTEY.COM

REIDELL ESTEY AND ASSOCIATES  
SOLD OURS

RE/MAX Results

GRANDSPECTACLE

IF YOU CAN'T SEE PAST THE DISCOUNTS  
**YOU SHOULD HAVE YOUR EYES EXAMINED!**

We take your vision very seriously. That's why we provide the most comprehensive eye exam you'll ever get, including depth screenings for conditions like *cataracts* and *glaucoma*. Then we custom craft a complete eyewear package that is as unique as you and give you a professional fit – all with our **BEST PRICE GUARANTEE**.

Call today to schedule your **comprehensive eye exam**.

Dr. Mark Wellnitz

GRAND SPECTACLE

GrandSpectacle.com  
764 Grand Avenue, St. Paul | 651.227.8198



Seven-month-old Christian enjoys time with his mother (who did not want to give her name) in the family room of the Project Home Day Center. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

1 ◀ PROJECT HOME

gender parents,” Liegl said. Some parents have outside jobs, and the older children attend school on weekdays. Others remain at the center throughout the day.

Project Home’s goal is to provide families with basic needs, giving them time and support to find jobs and more stable housing, Liegl said. The average stay for a family is 67 days, although “one family last year sheltered with us for 11 months before finding permanent supportive housing,” she said. “Case management is the linchpin of moving families forward and out of here.”

Upon entering the program, parents at Project Home develop a plan and budget for their family. A case manager helps them secure a valid picture ID, birth certificates and a Social Security card and compile information about disabilities and any chemical dependency and mental health issues. “We also look at sources of income, Social Security, disability and child support payments and the Minnesota Family Investment Program,” Liegl said.

Project Home collects their clients’ monthly income and uses the money to help the families pay their bills. Budgeting is key to a successful plan, according to Project Home program manager Barbara Hunt. The parents are given a stipend to use for other expenses. “If they can increase their income, we can work with them and usually get them in below-market-rate housing,” Hunt said.

At 4 p.m. on a recent Friday, the commotion at the Day Center built as the older children got off the bus from school. Families who had made progress on their plans and budgets were awarded weekend passes to visit family and friends. Others gathered in the family room, enjoying conversation, toys, videos and the festive Christmas tree.

Some parents were still at their day jobs and not due back until dinner time. Later, the families would be bused to the two overnight shelters. The overnight shelters are rotated among 23 churches, synagogues and schools. The shelters are staffed by volunteers with the

*“I just take it one day at a time. It’s been seven months and I’m getting closer and closer to my house. It beats being on the street with my two kids.”*

support of Project Home. Parents interviewed at the Day Center were all grateful to have a warm place to stay, but they had mixed reactions to the case management services and their prospects for finding a permanent home.

“I’m hopeful for (subsidized) housing,” Shay Wilson said. “It’s the only way I can save money. Without it, what’s the point? I’d be here forever.”

“I’m not sure if (Project Home) has the resources I need,” said Marsha, who declined to give her last name. Marsha has been at the shelter for three months. “It’s helpful if you need services like advocacy, which can be a barrier,” she said. “But my monthly stipend is only \$100. What’s that for a family of three?”

“I just take it one day at a time,” said Crystal, a single mother who would not give her last name. “It’s been seven months and I’m getting closer and closer to my house. It beats being on the street with my two kids.”

Project Home served a total of 59 families in 2018—139 children and 70 adults, according to Liegl. “This year, with one month to go, we’ve already served 62 families—149 children and 70 adults,” she said.

Catholic Charities operates the Family Service Center in Maplewood, the only other day and overnight shelter for homeless families in Ramsey County. It has a total of 65 beds. However, there are more than 60 other families in Ramsey County who are without shelter and on a waiting list, according to Liegl.

“Project Home is unique because we provide aftercare once our clients are settled (in a permanent home),” Liegl said. “The families know they have a safety net that will help them maintain their new housing.”

“The new Project Home Day Center helps Interfaith Action live out its mission more fully, helping families increase their economic mobility, often helping them move out of deep poverty,” said Interfaith Action executive director Randi Ilyse Roth. “It gives us more opportunities to involve volunteers from the faith community in making an impact on the lives of families in need.”

For more information about volunteering with Project Home, visit [interfaithaction.org](http://interfaithaction.org).



Lavender Gail, 10, and brother Kevin, 4, play a board game with advocate Debbie Barr at the Project Home Day Center.



World Class Jewelry  
from the Heart of St Paul



CHARLEMAGNE  
FINE JEWELRY

1262 Grand Ave, Saint Paul, MN 55105  
(651) 699-1431  
[charlemagnefinejewelry.com](http://charlemagnefinejewelry.com)



Health & Fitness

**DON'T  
WISH FOR IT.  
WORK FOR IT**

Villager readers are very health-conscious. Hence the popularity of the Villager's upcoming Health and Fitness issue. Of our over 106,000 readers, 45% plan to purchase health club memberships and/or exercise classes in the coming months.\* Having to handle so many customers might just help get your business in shape, too.

\*2018 audit conducted by the Circulation Verification Council

UPCOMING HEALTH & FITNESS ISSUE:

January 8  
Reserve by: January 2

To reserve your advertisement, call 651-699-1462  
or e-mail [displayads@myvillager.com](mailto:displayads@myvillager.com)

VILLAGER  
BETTER WRITTEN. BETTER READ.

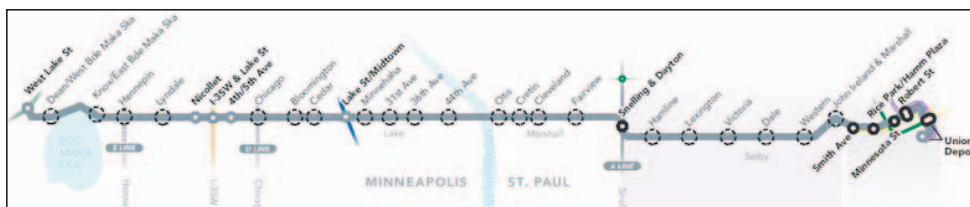
757 Snelling Avenue South | Saint Paul 55116  
651.699.1462 | [MyVillager.com](http://MyVillager.com)



# Making a B Line between Uptown Mpls. and downtown St. Paul

**UPDC seeks support for new bus rapid transit service on Marshall, Selby and Lake**

By JANE McCLURE



The Union Park District Council's Transportation Committee voted unanimously on December 9 to ask local and state elected officials to support funding during the 2020 legislative session for the proposed B Line that would replace Route 21 bus service in St. Paul.

The new bus rapid transit (BRT) line would travel along Marshall and Selby avenues in St. Paul and Lake Street in Minneapolis. Corridor and station planning began earlier this year. Detailed engineering is to start next year, with construction in 2022. However, that hinges on obtaining the estimated \$55-\$65 million for construction. The project currently has only \$26 million allocated for it.

Route 21's ridership tops 10,000 on week-

days, making it the second-busiest Metro Transit bus route. Buses currently carry about 20 percent of the people traveling on Lake Street. However, Lake Street is also one of the slowest transit corridors in the metro area, with buses often creeping along at 8 mph at rush hour. Frequent stops, heavy passenger loads and lots of red lights mean the buses are moving less than half the time.

The B Line would provide faster, more reliable service in the corridor, according to Cody Olson, community outreach coordinator for Metro Transit. "Lake Street can be pretty slow, whether you drive or take the bus," said Macalester-Groveland resident Deb Alper.

BRT requires passengers to pay at kiosks in advance for faster boarding. The stations are

on raised platforms and have enhanced lighting, push-button heating, real-time scheduling and improved security. The buses also make fewer stops. An average of two to three stations per mile are planned for the B Line.

Olson said the new line was initially envisioned at 8.2 miles long, only traveling as far east as Snelling Avenue. However, after hearing from the public, the B Line was recommended to extend 12.6 miles from Minneapolis' Lake Bde Maka Ska to St. Paul's Union Depot. In downtown St. Paul, the B Line would use the same stations planned for the Metro Gold Line, which will eventually serve destinations between St. Paul and Woodbury. The B Line would connect at Snelling and Dayton avenues to the A Line, a BRT route

that has been running along Snelling and Ford Parkway in St. Paul between Roseville and the Blue Line at Hiawatha Avenue and East 46th Street in Minneapolis since 2016.

Running the B Line on Snelling between Marshall and Selby avenues generated mixed reactions on December 9. Some people liked the idea, while others raised safety concerns and questioned how 60-foot buses would make the turn at Snelling and Selby. Olson said the buses have been tested and can make the turn safely.

Metro Transit would keep some level of Route 21 service along Lake Street, but not in St. Paul. The sub-routes that extend to University Avenue and the University of St. Thomas would be dropped. Dropping the jog to University generated mixed comments from riders. "People use that route in a lot of different ways," Olson said.

Route 21 originally crossed the Selby Avenue bridge over Ayd Mill Road, but a fire in

B LINE BUS RAPID TRANSIT ▶ 7

# District council drops proposal for off-leash dog area in Snell-Ham

By JANE McCLURE

The Union Park District Council (UPDC) concurred on December 4 with a recommendation from one of its committees to give up the idea of turning the green space at the southeast corner of Hamline and Ashland avenues into an off-leash area for dogs weighing 30 pounds or less.

Local dog owners had supported the idea, believing there is a need for more areas where their pets can run free. The nearest off-leash dog parks are at Meeker Island in Merriam Park and beneath the High Bridge.

More than 40 people attended a meeting hosted by the UPDC's Environment and Parks Committee in September to discuss the issue. The dog park raised objections from some neighbors who doubted the .23-acre site was large enough for even small dogs. Lack of off-street parking, safety threats for people and pets crossing Hamline, noise and dog waste cleanup were among their concerns.

Of the 43 respondents to a 2018 survey of neighbors within a block of the site, 73 percent opposed an off-leash dog park. Ninety-seven percent said they had concerns about traffic and parking, and 47 percent said the

site would be too small.

The committee unanimously passed a motion in October to rescind the dog park proposal. Because the UPDC held its annual meeting in November, the committee report did not go to the board until this month.

The city-owned site was long known as Ashland Park. For many years a few pieces of playground equipment stood there. It also had a skating rink in the winter until the 1990s, but for the last several years it has sat empty.

Several months ago the UPDC gave approval to the idea of being a fiscal agent for the dog park, similar to the one it has for the

nearby Eleanor Graham Community Garden that is also on city-owned land.

The City Council approved a lease agreement for the space with the UPDC this summer. The district council opted to not sign the lease and instead initiated a public review process.

Eric Thompson of the St. Paul Department of Parks and Recreation said the proposed site at Hamline and Ashland would be considered a "dog run," since it is too small to be a true off-leash dog park. By city ordinance, dog parks have to be at least 4 acres in size and have off-street parking, water and shade.



OPENING **FEBRUARY OF 2020**

Model now open — call to schedule a personal tour!

• COMPASSIONATE COMMITMENT TO CARE •

Seven Hills Senior Living offers a vibrant lifestyle with the personalized care you require. Everything you need to live your best life!

651.222.2003 • [SevenHillsSeniorLiving.com](http://SevenHillsSeniorLiving.com)

733 SELBY AVE ST. PAUL, MN 55104

INDEPENDENT LIVING • ASSISTED LIVING • MEMORY CARE



Middle & Upper School Admissions Open House

**January 14 at 6 p.m.**

Learn about the benefits of an all-girls education!



*Visitation School*

[visitation.net/openhouse](http://visitation.net/openhouse)

# Vine Park is brewing new taproom for 2020

By Jane McClure

A new taproom is in the works at Vine Park Brewing on West Seventh Street, where customers have been making their own beer and wine since 1995. The owners obtained a one-space parking variance on December 2 from the St. Paul Board of Zoning Appeals. They hope to have the new taproom up and running in 2020, though they still need to obtain a liquor license and building permits.

Vine Park, the Midwest's only brewery where customers can brew their own beer and make their own wine, has three off-street parking spaces and needed one more for the taproom. The West Seventh/Fort Road Federation supported the variance request.

Vine Park's majority owners Touyer Moua, Tou Thao, Nhi-asing Moua and Jai Fang believe a taproom is necessary for the brewery to survive. Fewer people brew their own beer these days, according to Andy Grage, a longtime part owner and brewmaster at Vine Park. "I can tell you that the business is struggling," he said. Sales are one-quarter of what they were in 2008, he said.

Vine Park's flagship beer is Tyga Bite (Tsov Tom) Premium, a lager. About a dozen people come in each day wanting to try Vine Park's beers, Grage said, but that is not allowed under the brewery's current licenses.

Vine Park was founded by David and Scott Thompson in the Seven Corners area near downtown. It moved to 1254 W. Seventh St. following the opening of Xcel Energy Center and discontinued its original brewpub. It is now one of fewer than a dozen establishments in the nation where customers can brew their own beer—a survivor of the boom that saw more than 100 such businesses operating at the turn of the 21st century.

Taprooms and brewpubs have changed the social life of the Twin Cities since 2011 when the Minnesota Legislature passed the so-called "Surly Bill," named for the craft brewery in Minneapolis that opened one of the state's first taprooms. It was the growth of taprooms and brewpubs that reduced the popularity of brewing beer outside of the home, according to Grage.

Taprooms allow breweries to sell their beer on the premises. Brewpubs can sell beer, wine and liquor on the premises with the proper licenses, but they can only sell beer for off-site consumption in specified containers. Brewpubs are also limited to producing no more than 3,500 barrels of beer per year.

More than a dozen taprooms have opened in St. Paul in the past several years, and they have had an impact on traditional bars and restaurants. Taprooms and brewpubs can serve food from their own kitchens or outside foodtrucks and have fewer expenses than the typical restaurant, according to Dan O'Gara of O'Gara's Bar and Grill. He cited their growing competition when he recently announced the closure of his longtime bar and restaurant at Selby and Snelling avenues.

The growth of taprooms and brewpubs represents a shift in regulatory attitudes in St. Paul. In the 1980s, the city was faced with a growing number of problem bars in some neighborhoods. Tying new liquor licenses to the sale of food phased out many of the traditional watering holes and the old 3.2 clubs in favor of restaurants. However, in recent years, the city has loosened the limits on the number of liquor licenses in each ward and allowed more restaurants to serve liquor in addition to wine and beer. It has also encouraged new taprooms and brewpubs.

Vine Park's owners plan to renovate the interior of the building in preparation for the taproom, relocating equipment and adding a restroom. The West Seventh neighborhood has welcomed many new restaurants, brewpubs and taprooms in recent years, Grage noted. Vine Park's new taproom "is about making the neighborhood even more of a destination," he said.

## 6◀ B LINE BUS RAPID TRANSIT

1976 and deteriorating conditions forced the buses to be rerouted north to University between Snelling and Hamline avenues. The bus route changes were made permanent in 1991, and that pleased riders, who liked the convenience of riding to Midway Center, Midway Target and Midway Marketplace.

Signal priority for buses and possibly dedicated travel lanes are among the ideas being considered for the B Line. Suggestions made at the meeting included a painted "red lane" for buses only, which is used in a few places in Minneapolis. Another issue raised was that of snow removal, which is already problematic for the Marshall Avenue bike lanes.

Olson cautioned that while plans for Lake Street could be modified, Marshall Avenue is "much more defined" with a median as well as bike lanes. "There aren't a lot of changes we could make (there)," he said.

A short survey on the proposed B Line can be taken through January 31 at [tinyurl.com/vvlmeal](http://tinyurl.com/vvlmeal). For more information on BRT service, visit [metrotransit.org/abrt](http://metrotransit.org/abrt).

**GUARANTEED\* GOOD COMPANY**

\*NO RESTRICTIONS APPLY!

**COLDWELL BANKER**  
BURNET

**GOOD COMPANY**  
REALTY GROUP

**GoodCompanyRealtyGroup.com**

**Education isn't something you can finish**

**Over 42,000 Villager Readers Will Spend Money on Education This Year**

So you might call an ad in our Education Section "Smart Marketing 101"

Of the more than 106,000 pairs of eyes that will be reading your ad, 45% plan to purchase education classes or materials in the next 12 months. And that's not just an educated guess.\* Education is highly valued in our neighborhoods. There's a college, high school, elementary school or other learning center virtually everywhere you look. And when the Villager publishes its Spotlight on Education section January 8, our readers will be perusing them with above-average interest.

\*2018 audit conducted by the Circulation Verification Council

**UPCOMING EDUCATION SECTION:**

**January 8 & 22**  
Reserve by: January 2 & 16

To reserve your advertisement, call 651-699-1462 or e-mail [displayads@myvillager.com](mailto:displayads@myvillager.com)

**VILLAGER**  
BETTER WRITTEN. BETTER READ.

Serving the St. Paul neighborhoods of Highland Park, Macalester-Groveland, Merriam Park, Snelling-Hamline, Lexington-Hamline, Summit-University, Summit Hill, West End and Downtown; the Minneapolis neighborhoods of Hiawatha and Minnehaha; and suburban Mendota, Mendota Heights and Lilydale.

**GOT FLEX? GET SPECS!**

Use those 2019 Flex dollars for a new pair of glasses before it's too late!

**Spectacle Shoppe**  
See Different

**Uptown, New Brighton and Grand Avenue**

# Viewpoint

## Say it ain't so, St. Joe's: City must find way to keep hospital open

BY DAVE WRIGHT

It was 10 years ago this month that I came home from a routine night of work. I sat down in a chair for a while, but couldn't get comfortable. I shifted positions a few times, but nothing helped.

The same thing happened when I went to bed. By 1 a.m., my wife had had more than enough of my twisting and turning. She called 911.

A half hour later, I was in a waiting room at St. Joseph's Hospital in downtown St. Paul. A doctor soon examined me from head to toe and told me to have a seat in his office for a couple of minutes. He whispered something to the nurse and then talked to my wife.

In a flash, I was whisked into an elevator and then to a hospital room. I was told I had suffered a heart "incident." The blood supply to the heart hadn't stopped flowing, but it had slowed down considerably due to arterial blockages. I was soon in an operating room where Dr. Schuchard implanted a pair of stents.

As I recall, one blockage was about 90 percent and the other was 70 percent. Those numbers may not mean much to most people, but let's just say you don't ever want to get to 100 percent blockage.

For two days and nights, I laid in bed at St. Joseph's wondering what would happen



M Health Fairview is considering several options for easing its financial constraints, one of which is closing St. Joseph's Hospital in the next couple of years. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

next. I can't remember any of the names of the nurses who came in and out of my room during that time, but I can remember their faces and their comforting words.

Two weeks later, I was back at St. Joseph's due to a pain near my groin. A doctor took one look, called a nurse and I was quickly transferred to a room. A young nurse was typing in some information when the doctor pulled her aside and whispered something.

She came back minutes later and the doctor went right to work. In short order the abscess was cured.

Ten years later, I weigh a little more than I should, but otherwise I'm doing just fine.

All the above came to mind recently with the news that M Health Fairview (formerly HealthEast), which now owns St. Joseph's, is considering several options, one of which is closing the hospital in the next couple of

years. In addition, nearby Bethesda Hospital, a long-term acute care facility that M Health Fairview also operates, could see its number of beds cut by around 50 percent.

James Hereford, the chief executive and president at M Health Fairview, cited the usual reason for making such moves: money. Fairview claims to be looking at a loss of \$60 million this year.

A city the size of St. Paul simply cannot afford to lose a hospital. It's one thing for Macy's to close, since other businesses can move in, but you can't replace a hospital. It's more vital than ever to have St. Joseph's and the many health services it offers (22 are listed on its website). Some of those services that will sorely be missed include its mental health and addiction services, Kidney Stone Institute and Palliative Care Department that treats Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and ALS patients.

The city of St. Paul found creative ways to pay for attracting businesses like the Minnesota Wild and the St. Paul Saints to downtown. Accordingly, one would think that the mayor and City Council should be able to find a way to help St. Joseph's.

I can already hear the naysayers. They'll argue that it's Fairview's problem, not the city's. There's a germ of truth in that, but this is an issue that's more than just a financial one.

It is, as it was for me, a life-saving one.

## Inbox

### Another regret for Nathan Hale

Regarding the city of St. Paul's approval of a plan to transfer ownership of a parcel that is part of Nathan Hale Park to an adjacent homeowner (*Villager*, December 4): I am surprised, concerned and frankly angry that this was even considered, much less approved.

Nathan Hale Park is located at the intersections of Summit, Portland and Western avenues in the historic Ramsey Hill neighborhood. It is a small park with a few benches and a skating rink in winter. Holiday lighting and spring and summer plantings are provided by the Ramsey Hill Association. Its statue of patriot Nathan Hale was donated by the Daughters of the American Revolution when the park was created, like other parks and public spaces, for the use and enjoyment of all of the city's residents.

The plan to sell a portion of the park to the owner of the home at 420 Portland Ave. stems from the fact that the homeowner, at some point in the recent past, erected a fence in his yard and in the process included a portion of the park on his side of the fence. Unfortunately for the neighborhood and other city residents, the process did not include getting a building permit, which is required when erecting a fence, nor having the project reviewed by the St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC), which is required for all exterior modifications to properties within the historic district. The homeowner asked the city to sell him the part of the park that he had already enclosed.

I keep asking myself and a couple of city employees if a private individual or group asks to acquire a portion of a park or other public space, why isn't the answer just "no"? God isn't making any more land. If, as in this case, a private individual erects a fence without proper authorization or required permits and approvals, why isn't that person required to remove the fence? This makes no sense.

I spoke with several employees in the city's Parks and Recreation and Real Estate departments. It took a while, but I did get some answers. I was told the following: The city is allowed to sell park land. There is no requirement in the City Charter requiring notification of area residents, but a notice is published in the county Legal Ledger. But, come on, how many citizens who are not members of the legal profession read that publication? And no one could answer the question as to why removal of the fence wasn't required.

This system seems to me to be seriously flawed, and I am hoping that there is a way to stop the transfer of this chunk of parkland from the public domain to private ownership. Hopefully an appeal to responsible city officials will offset the requests of irresponsible citizens.

Kevin O'Brien  
Ramsey Hill

### FMR questions risk at Area C

Thank you for your consistent, quality coverage of the Ford site redevelopment and the adjacent riverfront dump, Area C. Unfortunately, your December 4 article mischaracterizes the position of Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR). We do not claim to know the level of risk posed by waste leaking into the river or groundwater from the buried barrels of industrial and toxic waste at Area C. We are advocating further investigation to assess that risk, and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has agreed to conduct further study. In fact, the MPCA, Ford Motor Company, the Capitol Region Watershed District and FMR are meeting soon to discuss where to place new monitoring wells so that we may better understand what chemicals are in the dump and the paths they may be taking into the river or the groundwater.

Before we can clean up or build upon a riverfront landfill full of hazardous waste, we need to know what lies below. Getting the fullest feasible understanding of the risk posed by Area C is the least we owe to future generations who will inherit the legacy of our decisions, just as we inherited this landfill of industrial waste.

Colleen O'Connor Toberman  
River Corridor Program Director  
Friends of the Mississippi River

### Shop local, shop less

Consumerism is at an all-time high. According to the National Retail Federation, almost 190 million people went shopping during Thanksgiving weekend alone and spending was up 16 percent. It's easy to see why. Plastic toys and synthetic clothing are inexpensive and can land on your doorstep tomorrow without you even getting out of bed. We're buying more stuff more often because it's easier than ever to do so.

But just because it's easy and cheap doesn't mean it doesn't have a cost. In addition to the labor, material and shipping costs that go into new products, all of the associated packaging, gift wrap and shopping bags add up to a million tons of waste every week between Thanksgiving and New Year's. And then there are the gifts themselves. Sometimes we get things we want or need. And the rest? They may sit in a closet, get returned or get re-gifted to somebody else who may not want it either.

So how do we solve this? Lucky for us, we live where shopping on Amazon is a luxury and local independent stores abound, selling unique, responsibly sourced goods that are free from bubble wrap and Styrofoam. We have amazing museums and theaters, and tickets to them make wonderful gifts. We also have a vibrant reuse market—everything from thrift and consignment shops to neighborhood online buy-sell-and-trade groups where like-new items are just waiting for a good home.

And for that gift with a truly local flair, wrap it in this fine newspaper when you're done reading it.

Erica Wacker  
Macalester-Groveland

### Keep St. Joseph's Hospital open

The National Alliance on Mental Illness-Minnesota is distressed by the rumor that M Health Fairview is considering closing St. Joseph's Hospital in St. Paul. St. Joe's is a vital component of Minnesota's mental health system, providing care to thousands of people struggling with mental illnesses and substance-use disorders. This rumor comes at a time when our mental health system is struggling to meet the needs of people who are having a mental health crisis or have overdosed and need hospital-level care. The boarding of people at emergency rooms and the transporting of people across the state in search of an open bed is well known. Removing beds that are already in short supply will exacerbate the problem.

There is a tremendous discrepancy between the mission and values stated on M Health Fairview's website and the closure of this hospital. Health includes mental health. Additionally, M Health Fairview's own 2018 Community

**8◀ INBOX**

Health Needs Assessment identified mental health as the number-one priority. Its board of directors adopted the implementation strategies on April 18, 2019. What has changed in eight months to basically reverse this decision and ignore the board's own findings? The answer is nothing. The needs have not decreased; they have increased.

NAMI-Minnesota calls on the board of directors of M Health Fairview to keep the doors of St. Joseph's Hospital open and demonstrate its commitment to meeting the needs of the community.

*Sue Abderholden, Executive Director  
National Alliance on Mental Illness-Minnesota*

**Not the same old St. Paul**

What is happening to the city of St. Paul?

We can't afford fireworks or trash containers in the parks, but we can afford to make major changes to Ayd Mill Road when what we have is just fine if they would just fix the street. Everything these days seems to be about bicycle paths and pedestrians. So we're supposed to change from four lanes to two lanes on Ayd Mill Road so that those who bike have a place to do so? A simple ratio of walkers and bikers to motorists should make this decision easy. Isn't it about time that drivers take precedence?

Then there is the recent snow emergency. We only got one side of the street plowed. All of the cars were moved and we waited and waited, but no plow came. When I went to look for a number to report this, one was nowhere to be found.

Last but not least, the mayor threatened a large property tax increase if the organized trash program was repealed. Well, it wasn't repealed and my taxes still went up 20 percent.

This doesn't seem like the St. Paul I have known and loved for many years.

*Karen Mead  
Merriam Park*

*Editor's note: To report problems with snowplowing or other street maintenance issues, call the St. Paul Department of Public Works at 651-266-9700. That number is answered 24 hours a day.*

**A quick study of Ayd Mill Road**

An open letter to St. Paul City Council member Chris Tolbert:

I ask that you review the city's decision to reject the request by the Macalester-Groveland Community Council and the Summit Hill Association to do a traffic study in regard to Mayor Carter's proposal to convert one side of Ayd Mill Road into a bikeway and pedestrian path. It is true that Ayd Mill Road has been in the public eye for many years and that there have been numerous studies and meetings. I understand that a full-blown traffic study with all of its related work is cost-prohibitive and not feasible at this time. However, there is another approach that would be far less costly and time-consuming.

In place of a traffic study, I suggest the city undertake a demonstration project utilizing the lane closures required to complete the reconstruction of the Summit Avenue bridge over Ayd Mill Road. By extending the lane closures on both sides for the entire length of Ayd Mill Road, we could approximate the situation under the proposed redesign. The demonstration project would give motorists and residents of the surrounding area an opportunity to experience and observe how traffic would change if Ayd Mill Road were

narrowed from four lanes to two, especially during the morning and afternoon rush hours.

The cost of the demonstration project should be limited to the installation and removal of the barrels and signs necessary to close one lane of Ayd Mill Road in each direction for three months. Inevitably, there will be commentary from local residents and commuters. Some may resort to social media and others will write letters to the editor or make phone calls. However, a city website could establish a formal place for comments to be recorded. The city could post signs at the project site telling the public how and where they should comment.

*Gene Johnson  
Macalester-Groveland*

*Editor's note: Gene Johnson is a member of the Macalester-Groveland Community Council and its Transportation Committee. The views expressed are his own as the resident of a townhome in Wilder Park that overlooks Ayd Mill Road.*

**Getting real around the Ford site**

It is self evident that increased housing brings increased traffic. I commend the article by Matt McGuire and Lynn Varco ("Density of Ford project demands more realistic plan for traffic," *Villager* Viewpoint, December 4). It clearly addresses the need for a transportation plan in redeveloping the Ford site.

*Molly Henke  
Highland Park*

**Stemming the tide of gun violence**

We recently had a spate of murders in St. Paul. The book *Bleeding Out* by Thomas Abt offers solutions to this problem based on both academic research and first-hand experience. Any solution must be focused, balanced and fair. Focused means concentrated on the few people and areas that account for most of the violence. Balanced means we need to include help for the people committing the crimes and punishment for the people who won't accept help. Fair means we need everyone involved to be perceived as legitimate. So we need to avoid policies such as "stop and frisk" that treat too many people as criminals. We can reduce violence if we learn what has worked elsewhere.

*Jim Pogue  
Ramsey Hill*

**In the shadow of the Grove**

It boggles my mind that the city of St. Paul plans to cram thousands of people on the Ford site in Highland Park when the infrastructure just isn't there in an already heavily trafficked area—and that tax money is being offered to aid a private developer in carrying out these plans. I only hope those plans are better made than what we're seeing along Snelling Avenue where hundreds more people will be living. And I hope the approvers of the Ford site development are better able to read layouts and elevations than was the case with the Grove on St. Clair and Snelling avenues.

The north end of the Grove was given a variance so that it could be built six stories high. The building cuts off light to the north side of St. Clair and impedes the view of traffic approaching from the south on Snelling. If those who approved these plans had merely flipped

**VILLAGER**

Volume 67, Number 21

*Maurice F. Mischke, 1920-1991*

757 Snelling Ave. S., St. Paul, MN 55116  
myvillager.com  
651-699-1462

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

**Editors**

Dale Mischke

John Wadell

news@myvillager.com

**Letters to the Editor**

letters@myvillager.com

**Display Advertising Sales**

Tim Carroll

Bob Stjern

displayads@myvillager.com

**Classified Ads**

Jennifer Gordon

wantads@myvillager.com

**Graphic Designers**

Craig Schuster

Jennifer Gordon

**Administrative Assistant**

Jennifer Gordon

jgordon@myvillager.com

**Publisher**

Michael Mischke

mmischke@myvillager.com

**Subscriptions**

subscriptions@myvillager.com

**CONTRIBUTORS:** Roger Barr, Matthew Davis, Kevin Driscoll, Janet Lunder Hanafin, Anne Hauth, Brian Johnson, Frank Jossi, Mary Maguire Lerman, Jane McClure, K.C. McKee, Lou Michaels, Steve Michaels, Anne Murphy, Melenie Soucheray, Brad Stauffer, Jennifer Stewart, Bill Wagner, Carolyn Walkup, Leslie Walters, Tilly Wilson, Dave Wright.

**CIRCULATION**

The Villager is published every two weeks by Villager Communications Inc. The paper has a press run of 57,500, including 50,000 copies delivered to households and businesses and another 7,500 copies distributed via newsstands. Mail subscriptions are available at \$38 per year for those living outside the area.

**Next Issue: January 8**

Visit myvillager.com for the 2020 calendar and publication deadlines.

theVillagerMN

INBOX ▶ 10

©2019 Villager Communications, Inc. All rights reserved.

**MAKE ANY ROOM THE MOST COMFORTABLE SPACE IN YOUR HOME WITH MITSUBISHI.**

**MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC**  
COOLING & HEATING

**“OVER 85 YEARS OF SERVICE YOU CAN TRUST”**

**FREE**  
Second Opinion on any furnace repair including cracked heat exchangers!  
With a service invoice from another company.

**\$30 OFF**  
Furnace tune-up with Carbon Monoxide Test  
Exp. 12/31/19. Not valid with any other offer.

**BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS**

**SNELLING**  
HEATING • COOLING • ELECTRICAL

**2005 - 2018 National Service Award Winner**

**FREE IN HOME ESTIMATES** [snellingcompany.com](http://snellingcompany.com) **651-646-7381**

## 9◀ INBOX

the building north to south, then the highest stories of the building would have been at the south end, where tenants of the market-rate apartments would have had a view of the neighborhood and trees instead of merely alley and streets. And facing the building with light-colored stone would have prevented the edifice from being such a stark solid wall.

A neighbor I recently talked with surmised that with these sorts of buildings being erected along Snelling, the avenue should be renamed Snelling Canyon Road.

*Kathleen Deming  
Macalester-Groveland*

## The virtue of raking leaves

I need to object to the letter by Carla Krier (“Sounding off on noisy yard work,” *Villager* Inbox, December 4). Just because someone cares about a problem that isn’t her pet issue, she belittles them and calls them privileged. St. Paul certainly has a gun violence problem, but it is not our only problem. Childhood obesity, kids hooked on iPhones, disconnected families and noise pollution are real issues, too.

I, too, have felt overwhelmed at how loud all these leaf blowers are. So I have a suggestion: Put the noisy leaf blowers away, get some rakes and get the whole family outside. Get fresh air, get exercise, have fun raking and playing in the leaves as a family. And if everything must reference gun violence, maybe all those families outdoors will build stronger community, too!

*Gloria Zaiger  
Highland Park*

## Help the victims of torture

I imagine myself tortured, living with those memories of my pain and helplessness long after the immediate ordeal is over. I think about moving to a new country with different customs, a new language or at least a language that I am not very good at speaking. How would it be to travel to a new country without my family or friends? I have lived in other countries, but I chose to live in those places out of curiosity and adventure, not because I had fled my homeland out of fear for my safety.

Those scenarios and more have moved me to become an active supporter of the St. Paul-based Center for Victims of

Torture (CVT) with both my money and volunteer hours. Alone, I cannot change the politics that cause one human being to torture another, but I help where I can.

A few years ago I heard about the work of CVT here in Minnesota and in refugee camps around the world. I realized I could use my skills to help adults with their English, and I am currently an English as a second language tutor with CVT. There are a variety of volunteer opportunities at CVT, and financial gifts are also welcome.

The Center for Victims of Torture gives hope and healing to people through direct healing and support services, training, research and advocacy. You may learn more about the extraordinary work of CVT at [cvt.org](http://cvt.org).

*Will Nordmark  
West End*

## The trivialities of elders

As a frequent reader of the *Villager’s* Viewpoint section, it disappoints me to see so many trivial, whiny letters from those of older generations. As a high-schooler, I’m concerned about the major issues that will drastically affect my future: the climate crisis, the lack of gun laws and the aversion towards immigrants and refugees (to list a few). Those who are partially responsible for these matters seem to have plenty of time to write paragraphs about trash collection and Mayor Melvin Carter, but not enough time for advocacy and activism. I don’t mean to have an “OK boomer” tone, but please, take responsibility and use your time and energy to work towards a better future for generations to come.

*Finn Zwank  
Highland Park*

## The audacity of an editorialist

Tom Goldstein’s guest editorial was a delusional screed (“A divided city is left wanting words of healing from mayor,” *Villager* Viewpoint, December 4). Goldstein has spent more than a decade cultivating a political brand that St. Paul has responded to, again and again, with a resounding “no thanks.” The sheer audacity, ego and privilege it must take to be served humble pie that many times, then demand that your opponent eat it for you, is galling. This city deserves so much better than the perpetual whining of its most petulant citizen.

It is beyond the pale that Goldstein is making demands

in ink when each passing year the margins of his electoral defeats grow larger and larger. His trash crusade and its candidates lost by a 2-to-1 ratio just a month ago. He fumes about the city wasting money on lawsuits and arguments that he perpetuates. I am weary of having to read his bitter reactionary howling. He does not speak for our city.

*Tom Basgen  
Highland Park*

## Mayor Carter and trash debate

Let me get this straight: A mayor is not allowed to promote or campaign for an issue he believes will benefit the entire city? Then when said issue is approved by a majority of voters, he is supposed to make a long-winded statement to soothe hurt feelings (“A divided city is left wanting words of healing from mayor,” *Villager* Viewpoint, December 4)? Wow. OK, boomer.

*Michaela Ahern  
Highland Park*

## Silence is Goldstein

It is pretty sad how much free press your newspaper gives to Tom Goldstein (“A divided city is left wanting words of healing from mayor,” *Villager* Viewpoint, December 4). He could also apologize and admit that organized garbage collection might work out to be a good thing for our city. He’s got that “Highland Park is the real St. Paul” perspective that didn’t turn out to be the case. He didn’t get his way. How about helping with a plan to improve the system and recognize that garbage is a social problem that was not being fairly addressed under the former system? I look forward to your invitation to give Mayor Carter as much space as you regularly give to Mr. Goldstein.

*Shannon Marting  
Como Park*

The *Villager* welcomes letters to the editors and longer guest editorials. However, all commentary must be signed, indicate the neighborhood in which the writer lives and include a telephone number for verification purposes. Send your commentary to the *Villager* at 757 S. Snelling Ave., St. Paul, MN 55116 or email it to [letters@myvillager.com](mailto:letters@myvillager.com).

# How CBD can help you through the holidays

The Christmas and Chanukah seasons are upon us, and as the year brings families and loved ones closer to one another, it also brings them closer to stress and anxiety.

The end of the year is hard on people. Money problems, cross-country travel and personal issues with family can sometimes bring stress and worry to people and signs of anxiety like suicide rates tend to be higher around the holidays.

Amid these worrying aspects of a traditionally cheery time of year, there’s no wonder why people might seek out-of-the-box solutions, but there are also less weighty concerns: What to think up for that hard-to-buy-for family member, for instance.

One avenue thousands will be taking this year is the newly-minted market for CBD products, fresh from a yearlong innovation streak after the substance was federally legalized with 2018’s Farm Bill.

Scientific conclusions are far from evident, but early studies have shown connections between CBD and the body’s endocannabinoid system, or ECS, to regulate bodily functions. There’s even a prescription epilepsy drug based on CBD.

Meanwhile, ordinary people have found many uses for CBD oils, flower and other

products. Testimonials show they love CBD for their anxiety, insomnia, chronic pain problems, inflammation and other common issues.

What any newcomer to the CBD market, especially this time of year, will notice is that it can be hard to tell quality CBD products from junk. With the surge in the market there are so many newcomers and gas-station cannabis experts that you’d almost think trust is a four-letter word.

Luckily, Nothing But Hemp has made a name in Minnesota and around the country for its educational capabilities and high-quality, lab-tested products.

Because of how variable hemp products and their manufacture can be, the Nothing But Hemp team keeps keep monitoring on all the brands and product lines it keeps on its shelves, handselecting

the best in the industry and dropping products that don’t keep up with their standards.

With brands like Charlotte’s Web CBD, Plant Diva CBD bath bombs and Wyld CBD vaping products, there’s something at Nothing But Hemp for just about everyone.

House brand Siskiyou Sungrown CBD is an Oregon-based farm-to-table brand that has repeatedly proven to produce some of the highest quality organic, non-additive CBD oils.

Minsky Grown CBD also shows Nothing But Hemp’s commitment to local growers and business. With fine CBD isolates and full-spectrum oils, Minsky Grown’s flavors include pumpkin pie, spearmint and lemon lime.

Nothing But Hemp has locations in Minneapolis’ Uptown neighborhood on Lake Street and Lyndale Avenue and in St. Paul on Grand Avenue. You can also find Nothing But Hemp shops and licensees in Forest Lake, Cloquet and Maplewood, Minnesota.

Stop by a Nothing But Hemp location soon for all your holiday wellness and gift-giving needs!



NOTHING BUT HEMP

844 Grand Avenue, Suite 1 | Saint Paul | [NothingButHemp.com](http://NothingButHemp.com) | 651-330-9810

# Fair Anita gives women 'round world means of self-sufficiency

By ANNE MURPHY

Volunteering and giving back were built into my DNA," said Merriam Park resident Joy McBrien. "My mother is a first-grade teacher, and I've always been rather nerdy, creative and determined to make things happen."

McBrien was explaining how at age 24 she managed to start a business designed to help women around the world become economically self-sufficient. She credited her "stubborn nature" for the persistence it took to get her business up and running—a business that now provides financial opportunities for more than 8,000 women in nine countries.

McBrien's firm, Fair Anita, introduced 180 new products this year, mostly jewelry and accessories, including ceramic earrings, speckled bone necklaces, wooden warrior tassel necklaces, Morse code necklaces, bamboo straw and utensil sets, and a jewelry travel case and organizer. "In January our organization will be 5 years old," she said. "It's been exceptional to watch this mission grow, starting with just me—and everyone around me thinking it was a crazy idea—and growing it to thousands and thousands of customers."

The business takes its name from a woman McBrien found especially inspiring. "Anita was a social worker in Chimbote, Peru, who taught me so much about how empowering women can positively transform entire communities," she said. "After my freshman year of college, I was volunteering with an organization called Friends of Chimbote. Anita was my host mom during my summer in Peru. She made a huge impact on me, and now she's a Fair Anita employee."

McBrien's decision to help women become self-sufficient came from a desire to combat sexual violence such as she had experienced in her own life. She researched other women's



Joy McBrien of Merriam Park markets the jewelry made by 8,000 women artisans in nine foreign countries through her business Fair Anita.

PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

experiences and found that "financial insecurity is the number-one reason women stay in abusive partnerships," she said. "So that's where the idea for Fair Anita came from. If we can create fair trade jobs with livable wages, providing economic self-sufficiency for women, they might have the tools and resources they need to leave an abusive partner."

McBrien knew from a young age what it is like to make things for a living. "I started my first jewelry business when I was 15 while working at a bead store," she said. "Jewelry was something I knew well. I know how to design it, make it, fix it. Those skills have been super-helpful while running Fair Anita. Making jewelry is something that can be done at home, so it can be a more flexible job, especially for women with children."

McBrien has created partnerships with artisans in Chile, Mexico, Peru, Egypt, Ethiopia, South Africa, Cambodia, India and Vietnam. "I've lived in a lot of these communities and

I've developed the supply chains alongside the artisans," she said. "For the last 10 years, I've been traveling and meeting with amazing women's rights organizations around the world. I started by traveling to countries with high rates of sexual and domestic violence. I wanted to better understand the cultural context around these statistics, hoping to see if there was a cross-cultural solution to the violence. So many women I've had the honor of meeting were looking for economic self-sufficiency."

"When I first started Fair Anita, our goal was just to do business in the most ethical, sustainable way that we could," McBrien said. "Now we're members of the Fair Trade Federation, so we're committed to their nine principles of fair trade, which include things like no child labor, good working conditions, environmental stewardship and fair wages."

"We're committed to long-term relationships with our artisans," McBrien said. "We

work closely with them to come up with new designs. We pay them up front when we place an order, between 50 and 100 percent (of the value of their products). In non-fair trade relationships, suppliers are usually paid after the buyer receives the product, often 120-plus days afterwards. But working in marginalized communities, it's important that the women have the money upfront so they can buy the materials, send their children to school and do all the great things women do in their communities when they control their own purse strings."

Fair Anita's artisans are paid, on average, two to three times the local minimum wage, McBrien said, plus health insurance and educational scholarships. Her customers can expect that 30 to 60 percent of the retail price goes back to the artisan.

"We pay the women we work with in Peru full-time wages for their part-time work," McBrien said. "They're often not able to work full time because they or their children have physical disabilities that limit their capacity for work. We've been able to give many of these women their first-ever pay checks, and seeing the incredible impact they make with those dollars is astounding."

McBrien has been having a busy holiday season. Most of her sales are made online at fairanita.com, but she has also been taking part in pop-up events and bazaars across the Twin Cities. Two of these pop-ups will be held from noon-5 p.m. Saturday, December 21, at Lakes and Legends Brewing Company, 1368 LaSalle Ave. in Minneapolis, and from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Sunday, December 22, at Wagner's Garden Center, 6024 Penn Ave. S. in Minneapolis.

"Partnering with hard-working, talented, resilient women has hands-down been the best part of the job," McBrien said. "Together, we're creating a community of women investing in women."

## next chapter

BOOKSELLERS

# 10% off

## all calendars

With this ad, expires December 24, 2019.  
Cannot be combined with other offers.

38 S Snelling Ave, St Paul  
651/225-8989 • nextchapterbooksellers.com

## SIMPLIFY YOUR LIFE

ONE  
BEDROOM  
AVAILABILITY!

Hang up the shovel!  
At Lexington Landing, enjoy a simpler lifestyle in a stylish one-bedroom apartment, complete with on-site amenities to provide comfort and convenience right at your doorstep!

- Spacious open floor plans
- Kitchen with stainless steel appliances
- In-home washer and dryer
- Underground parking
- Dining options

**Call Dianna today to learn more!**

HIGHLAND PARK-ST PAUL  
FALL 2020

**Now Reserving!**  
**Information Office**  
Carondelet Center  
1890 Randolph Ave, Ste 109  
Saint Paul, MN 55105

**651.432.4940**  
LexingtonLanding.org

Equal Housing Opportunity.  
OWNED BY: J. A. Wedum Foundation  
MANAGED BY: PHS Management, LLC

Senior Apartments | Assisted Living | Memory Care



# GIFT IDEAS CLOSE TO HOME

### Handmade Chocolates Since 1926!

**Holiday Special**  
Peanut Brittle  
**\$12.95 lb.**



### REGINA'S CANDIES

2073 St. Clair Ave at Cleveland Ave  
651.698.8603 [reginascandies.net](http://reginascandies.net)

**CRISP & GREEN**

FREE MUG  
GIFT SET  
WITH ANY  
GIFT CARD  
PURCHASE  
OVER \$50!

Highland Park • 2111 Ford Pkwy • [crispandgreen.com](http://crispandgreen.com)

**Red Balloon**  
BOOKSHOP

[redballoonbookshop.com](http://redballoonbookshop.com)  
891 GRAND AVE.  
ST. PAUL, MN

books & gifts  
for little hands  
& big minds

**GIFT CARDS!**

CELEBRATING  
20 YEARS!

Register to Win!

**FREE Pedicure**

Stop In Today!

**Red Nails Highland Park**  
Open Everyday  
720 Cleveland Ave S • 651.690.0227

**BUY 1  
GET 1 FREE**

ANY Regular Concrete Mixer®

Expires 02/12/20. Reproductions of this coupon are not accepted. M M M M M

Shown: Concrete Mixers® made with Reese's® & Heath®  
Based on purchase at regular menu price. Please no substitutions. Not valid with any other offer. Value 1/200 cent. Limit one coupon per person per visit. Valid only at participating Culver's® restaurants. Store#463-12/19

**Culver's**

Valid only at Culver's® Midway - 1491 University Ave.

**Selby at Snelling Holidays-  
Woman-Owned Businesses**

Common Coast Boutique • Augustine's Bar & Bakery • Flirt • Lula Vintage MN • Spoils of Wear • Brow Chic • Teeny Bee Boutique Martha's Gardens • Patina • Natural Ways Chiropractic • Spatial Effects Gallery • Third Street Studios • Practical Goods • EggPlant Urban Farm Supply • SweatShop Health Club Merriam Park Nails • Tennis On Selby • Up Six Vintage Everyday People • Neighborhood Café • Merriam Park Acupuncture • Jacqueline Fortier Interior Design • Strippers Furniture Restoration

[INSTAGRAM.COM/SelbyatSnelling](https://www.instagram.com/SelbyatSnelling)

GIVE DELICIOUS  
**GIFTS** THEY  
WILL Love

AMERICA'S ORIGINAL BUTCHER  
**OMAHA STEAKS**  
SINCE 1917

100% GUARANTEE  
YOU WILL LOVE IT!  
OR WE'LL GIVE YOU \$100!

**+ 4 FREE BURGERS!**

**16 MAIN COURSES  
+ SIDES & DESSERTS**

**THE FAVORITE GIFT**

- 4 (6 oz.) Filet Mignons
- 4 (4 oz.) Boneless Pork Chops
- 4 (4 oz.) Omaha Steaks Burgers
- 4 (2.8 oz.) Potatoes au Gratin
- 4 (4 oz.) Caramel Apple Tartlets
- Signature Seasoning Packet

\$218.92\* separately  
**COMBO PRICE \$69.99**

\*Savings shown over aggregated single item base price. Limit 2 pkgs. Free gifts must ship with #59104 Standard S&H will be added. Expires 2/29/20. ©2019 Omaha Steaks, Inc.

**ORDER NOW! 1.877.419.5485** ask for **59104KRS**  
[www.OmahaSteaks.com/love49](http://www.OmahaSteaks.com/love49)

Buy \$100  
Get \$25  
**FREE**

Buy \$50  
Get \$10  
**FREE**

**Holiday Gift Card Special!**

Monthly Membership  
Sign up now  
and Receive a **FREE**  
Interior Clean!\*

Full Service  
Express Wash

**SOAPY JOE'S  
CAR WASH**

**651-493-1304** [WWW.SOAPYJOESMN.COM](http://WWW.SOAPYJOESMN.COM)

\*Purchase Monthly Membership before 1/1/20 to receive free interior clean.

1340 West 7th Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

# News Briefs

## Committee supports 7-story building on West 7th-Leech

The St. Paul Planning Commission's Zoning Committee unanimously recommended approval of a conditional use permit, zoning change and variances on December 12 for a proposed seven-story mixed-use building at 337 W. Seventh St. The full commission will take up the issue on December 20. The zoning change will go to the City Council for final approval in 2020.

No one appeared at the committee hearing to speak against the project, which will feature 153 apartments atop two levels of above-ground parking and a small retail space. The West Seventh/Fort Road Federation recommended approval last month.

The site, which is less than 75 feet wide in places, is bounded by Smith and Grand avenues, and West Seventh and Leech streets. It includes a shop owned by Bonfe Auto Service & Body Repair and two adjacent parcels. Northland Real Estate Group is the developer and is working with DJR Architecture.

A rezoning is being sought from Traditional Neighborhoods 2 to TN3 to allow 55 feet of building height, with additional height allowed through a conditional use permit. The planned building would be about 75 feet tall.

Two variances also are being sought. One is to increase the maximum floor-area ratio from 3.0 to 3.44. The second would reduce the required number of vehicle loading spots from one to zero.

Much of the Zoning Committee discussion centered on affordability. The developers plan a range of studio, one- and two-bedroom

apartments. They do not plan to seek city subsidy, so there is no requirement that any units be affordable. The apartments are seen as meeting the demand for smaller apartments within walking distance of downtown.

## Council settles suit regarding inaccessible parking meters

The St. Paul City Council approved a settlement on December 4 with Jerald Boitnott regarding a federal lawsuit centered on inaccessible parking meters.

The city's meter pay stations, for the most part, are not in compliance with heights set by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). It will cost the city about \$200,000 to adjust the heights of about 180 of the 200 pay stations.

Boitnott and his attorneys will be paid \$45,000. Boitnott settled a similar lawsuit this fall with the city of Minneapolis. He is one of several people who have filed ADA-related lawsuits against Minnesota cities and businesses, seeking monetary compensation and changes related to disability access.

Boitnott served a 24-year sentence for first-degree murder, but was given supervised release in 2012.

Since 2014, he has filed at least 30 civil suits in Minnesota against businesses he claims are in violation of the ADA, including downtown's Candyland, Keenan's Bar on West Seventh Street and Mama's Pizza on Rice Street.

His attorneys, Patrick Michenfelder and Chad Thronset, have represented other plaintiffs in lawsuits against Mancini's, Cecil's Deli, Red's Savoy, Mickey's and DeGidio's.

## It'll cost more to get vehicles out of St. Paul's impound lot

The St. Paul City Council on December 4 raised the fee to get towed vehicles out of the city's impound lot. The fee had varied from \$90-\$120 depending on which company did the towing and where the illegally parked vehicle was located. It will now be a flat \$175.

Other fees also are assessed when a vehicle is towed due to snow emergencies, parking bans or other illegal parking. The parking ticket is \$56 and the Police Department tacks on an \$80 administrative charge. There is also \$20 in taxes and a \$15 per day storage charge at the impound lot. That raises the total to \$275 if a vehicle is retrieved right away.

The city's main towing contractors are Bobby & Steve's Auto World and Guardian Towing/Yuba Transportation. Those two companies reportedly are finding it more difficult to hire and retain subcontractors.

The city's Public Works Department called last winter's towing performance "abysmal." Illegally parked vehicles that are not towed when a snow emergency is called means streets cannot be cleared curb to curb.

## Mendota Heights establishes Historic Pilot Knob task force

The Mendota Heights City Council authorized the establishment of a task force on December 3 to pursue short- and long-term goals for the preservation and improvement of Historic Pilot Knob.

Known to the Dakota people as Oheyawaha, "the hill much visited," Pilot Knob is a 112-

acre area of public and private land south of Highway 55 on the east end of the Mendota Bridge. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2017. The city owns 25 acres of the site known as Historic Pilot Knob.

The task force will consist of seven members who will focus on prioritizing capital improvements, developing a plan for natural resource management, and identifying needs and opportunities regarding educational visits and resources for the city-owned portion.

The final draft of a landscaping plan for Historic Pilot Knob was released earlier this year. It included plans for minimal trails, an entryway, handicapped-accessible trails, new signage and artwork. The part of the site being redeveloped is managed by the nonprofit Pilot Knob Preservation Association.

Great River Greening has already worked to restore the hill's vegetation to an oak savanna. There have been seedings, prescribed burns, conservation grazing and haying, bee monitoring and various volunteer events. The site now includes several overlooks, including one featuring carved stones with the names of the seven council fires of the Dakota Nation.

The site has served for centuries as a sacred gathering place for the Dakota people. It was referred to as Pilot Knob by riverboat captains for its role as a prominent landmark overlooking the confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers. It is also where the 1851 Treaty of Mendota was signed that ceded 35 million acres of Dakota land to the United States.

For more visit [pilotknobpreservation.org](http://pilotknobpreservation.org).

News Briefs were compiled by Jane McClure and John Wadell.

### GIFT IDEAS CLOSE TO HOME

## Tis' the season for holiday cheer and shopping



### Vintage Greetings Tree

Festively designed tree arranged in a vintage-inspired metal keepsake cube with shimmering ornaments is a Christmas surprise they'll never forget! The joyful tree arrangement includes white spray roses, red carnations, red miniature carnations, white waxflower, flat cedar, noble fir, white pine, and birch. Delivered in a Merry Vintage Christmas Cube.

Approximately 14" W x 21" H  
**\$99.99**

### Classic Holly Ornament


Wish them a holly jolly holiday with this classic Christmas rose bouquet, arranged in a gleaming hand-glazed ceramic ornament jar that's also perfect for storing festive treats! Flowers include crème roses, red miniature carnations, green button spray chrysanthemums, and white sinuata statice are arranged with variegated holly, noble fir, and white pine. Delivered in a Deck the Holly Ornament.


Approximately 12 1/2" W x 11 1/2" H  
**\$69.99**



A. Johnson & Sons Florist, 1738 Grand Avenue 55105  
(651) 698-6000 [jflorist.com](http://jflorist.com)

# Last Minute Gift Guide Ideas





**A. Johnson & Sons Florist**  
Since 1936

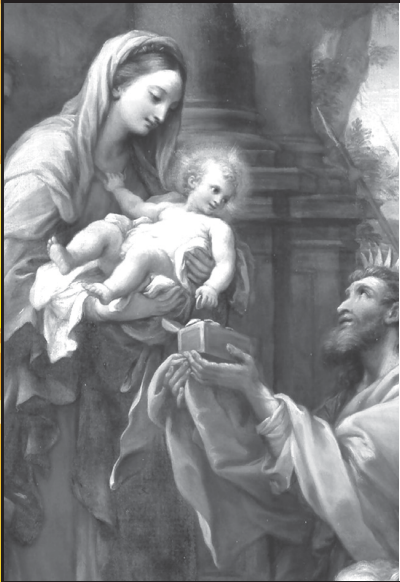
HOURS		
Thu	Dec 19	8am to 8pm
Fri	Dec 20	8am to 8pm
Sat	Dec 21	8am to 5pm
Sun	Dec 22	10am to 5pm
Mon	Dec 23	8am to 8pm
Tues	Dec 24	8am to 4pm

**1738 Grand Avenue, St. Paul 55105 • (651) 698-6000**  
[www.jflorist.com](http://www.jflorist.com)

# Share with us the joy of Christmas!

## Dazzling! Glorious! Magnificent!

*It's an unforgettable experience  
you won't want to miss!*



### Enjoy Mozart's Coronation Mass Christmas Eve with the Twin Cities Catholic Chorale!

11:15 p.m. Carols and hymns  
Procession to the Manger  
Midnight Mass in Latin with  
Mozart's *Coronation Mass*

**All are welcome!**

Location: The Church of Saint Agnes  
548 Lafond Ave., Saint Paul

**Come early for best seating!**

The Twin Cities Catholic Chorale | [www.catholicchorale.org](http://www.catholicchorale.org)

## HAMLIN CHURCH UNITED METHODIST Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship DECEMBER 24 AT 5 & 10 PM



1514 Englewood Ave Saint Paul, MN 55104 | 651.645.0667  
[hamlinechurch.org](http://hamlinechurch.org) | Worship Sundays at 10am



## Christmas Services at Area Churches

### CATHOLIC

**Lumen Christi:**  
Christmas Eve Masses at 4:00pm and 6:00pm.  
Christmas Day Masses at 8:30am and 10:30am.  
**Holy Spirit:** Christmas Eve Carols at 4:00pm and 9:30pm,  
Mass at 4:30pm and 10:00pm. Christmas Day Mass at 9:00am.  
**Nativity of Our Lord:**  
Christmas Eve Masses: 3:00pm (church and school  
auditorium), 5:00pm (church), 6:00pm (church), Midnight  
(church with 11:30pm prelude).  
Christmas Day Masses at 7:00am, 8:15am and 11:00am.



*May the deep and abiding joys of Christmas fill  
your heart and bring you every happiness.*

**St. Mark's:** Christmas Eve Family Mass at 4:30pm,  
Carols at 11:30pm and Midnight Mass.  
Christmas Day Mass at 10:00am.  
**St. Peter of Mendota:**  
Christmas Eve Masses 4:00pm and 8:00pm.  
Christmas Day Mass 10:00am.  
Caroling one half hour before all Masses.

### CATHOLIC cont.

**St. Thomas More:**  
Christmas Eve Masses at 4:30pm and 10:00pm.  
Christmas Day Masses at 8:00am and 10:30am,  
(Carols at 10:10am).

### EPISCOPAL

**St. Mary's Episcopal:** Christmas Eve Services  
at 4:00pm and 7:00pm. Christmas Day at 10am.

### LUTHERAN

**St. Luke:** Christmas Eve at 6:00pm.  
Christmas Day at 9:00am with Holy Communion.

**Gloria Dei:** Christmas Eve Family Service at  
2:00pm and 4:00pm.; Services at 8:00pm and 10:30pm.  
Christmas Day at 10:00am.

**Immanuel Lutheran:** Christmas Eve: 3:00pm, 4:30pm and  
10:00pm.; All services with Holy Communion.

### PRESBYTERIAN

**House of Hope:** Christmas Eve at 4:00pm,  
7:30pm and 10:00pm.



John & Michael O'Halloran

[ohalloranmurphy.com](http://ohalloranmurphy.com)

# O'Halloran & Murphy

Funeral & Cremation Services

575 SNELLING AVE. S.

651-698-0796

### Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion

2:30 PM

Art-Making with Guest Artist from ArtStart

3:00 PM

Interactive Worship for Children

5:00 PM

Cross+Generational Worship, DIY Pageant  
nursery care provided

6:51 PM

Celtic Contemplative Worship

10:00 PM

Festival Worship



### PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH

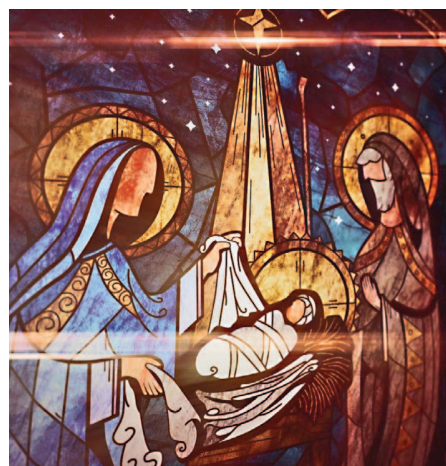
1935 St. Clair Ave, St. Paul  
(651) 699-6886  
[pilgrimstpaul.org](http://pilgrimstpaul.org)  
A Home for  
Hungry Minds & Souls  
An ELCA, R/C, Caring for  
Creation Congregation  
Pastor Carol Tomer &  
Pastor Jen Rome

### Meaningful Christmas Tradition

#### Christmas Eve Candlelight Services December 24 4:30 and 10:30 pm

Enjoy 30 minutes of seasonal music  
prior to each service.  
Nursery Care available at 4:30 service.

**A Place for Everyone!**



### Fairmount Avenue United Methodist Church

1523 Fairmount Avenue  
1 block east of Snelling • 3 blocks south of Grand  
[www.faumc.net](http://www.faumc.net) • 651/699-1335



**Sunday Schedule**  
9:00 am Christian Education  
10:30 am Worship

Fully Accessible



# O holy night, the stars are brightly shining



## Christmas Worship

**Christmas Eve: 4pm & 10pm**

With extended musical prelude before each service

**Christmas Day: 10am**



**60 KENT STREET ST. PAUL**  
**STJOHNSSTPAUL.ORG**

## Christmas Services

**Tuesday, December 24th**

at St. Mark ~ 4:30 pm

Candle Light Christmas Service

**Wednesday, December 25th**

at St. Luke ~ 9 am

Lay led Christmas Day Service



Saint Luke Lutheran Church  
1807 Field Avenue, St. Paul 55116  
Sunday Service: 8:30 AM

**Tuesday, December 24th**

at St. Luke ~ 6:05 pm

Candle Light Christmas Service

**Sunday, December 29th**

at St. Mark ~ 9:30 am

a shared service with congregations of St. Luke and St. Mark. This replaces usual church service time.



Saint Mark Lutheran Church  
550 West Seventh St., St. Paul 55116  
Sunday Service: 10 AM

## CHRISTMAS 2019 AT HOUSE OF HOPE

**Saturday, December 21**

5:30 p.m. Traditional Tableaux Service

**Tuesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve**

4 p.m. Multigenerational Service

7:30 and 10 p.m. Candlelight Services

Both Candlelight Services will include Christmas anthems and feature music by The Motet Choir and The Bach Chamber Players. 10 p.m. service also includes J.S. Bach's *Christmas Oratorio, Parts 1-3*.

Childcare available at 4 and 7:30 p.m. services.

There is no service on Christmas Day.

Visit our website for live-streaming of the Candlelight Christmas Eve Services.



**THE HOUSE OF HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
797 SUMMIT AVENUE, ST. PAUL, MN 55105  
651-227-6311 · HOHCHURCH.ORG

## VIRGINIA STREET CHURCH

**INVITES YOU TO THEIR 99th ANNUAL PAGEANT OF THE NATIVITY 5:00 P.M.—5:30 P.M. CHRISTMAS EVE**

Join us in celebrating the arrival of the Christ Child!  
Participate in the music and pageantry!



**Narrator: Rev. Eric Hoffman**  
Virginia Street Church Choir and Players  
Corner of Selby and Virginia Street in St. Paul

651-358-3125  
virginiastreetchurch.org

▫ All are welcome! ▫

## Christmas Eve Worship

5 pm Family Carol Service with ASL Interpreter

10 pm Candlelight Service · Prelude 9:30 pm

Featuring Chancel Choir & Festival Orchestra with special music by Barber, Rutter & Forrest



1658 Lincoln Ave · Saint Paul · 651.698.8871 · www.macalester-plymouth.org

# ALL ASSES WELCOME.

The manger was full of all sorts of animals: sheep, goats, cows, & asses. No matter which of those you are, Christmas has your name on it — so get yourself to Church let's do this! Please join us as we celebrate the birth of Christ at one of three Christmas liturgies:

### Christmas Eve Instant Christmas Pageant for All Ages

Tuesday, December 24 | 4:00 p.m.

**Christmas Eve Candlelight** | 10:30 p.m.

**Christmas Day, Wednesday December 25** | 10:30 a.m.

Festival Eucharist with organ, choir, and brass

**ST. PAUL-REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH**

IN THE CITY FOR GOOD

100 Oxford Street North, Saint Paul

www.stpaulref.org + 651.224.3371



# Celebrate Christmas Liturgy

**December 24**

**Christmas Eve Mass**

Lessons and Carols at 4 p.m.

Mass at 4:30 p.m.

Celebrant Fr. Michael Joncas

**December 29**

**Feast of the Holy Family**

Mass at 10:30 a.m.

**January 5**

**Feast of the Epiphany**

Mass at 10:30 a.m.

**St. Catherine University**

*Our Lady of Victory Chapel*

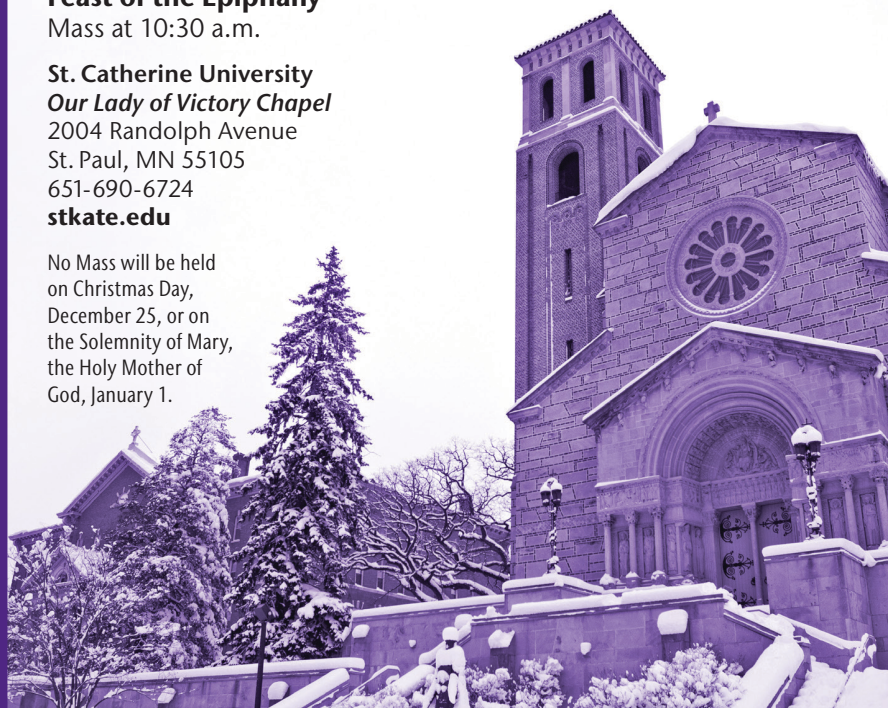
2004 Randolph Avenue

St. Paul, MN 55105

651-690-6724

stkate.edu

No Mass will be held on Christmas Day, December 25, or on the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, January 1.



# Crime Report

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

## Highland Park

**Theft**—Copper wire was stolen from light poles on the 1200 block of Montreal Avenue on November 25-26.

—A laptop computer and wallet were stolen at Core Power Yoga, 680 S. Cleveland Ave., between 3-4 p.m. Tuesday, November 26.

—Vehicles were stolen from the BP Station at 2005 Ford Pkwy. on December 1, on Inner Drive on December 1-2, the 2100 block of West Seventh Street on December 2, the 1800 block of Rome Avenue on December 3, the 2000 block of Ford Parkway on December 5 and the 1500 block of Randolph Avenue on December 5.

—Thefts from vehicles included a purse and wallet at Life Time Fitness on Ford Parkway on December 2, credit cards and cash on Cleveland and Pinehurst avenues on December 7, and a catalytic converter on the 1200 block of Bayard Avenue on December 7-8.

## Lexington-Hamline

**Robbery**—A purse-snatching was reported at Speedway, 399 N. Lexington Pkwy., at 3:25 p.m. Saturday, December 7.

**Theft**—A 40-year-old woman was arrested for trying to steal \$503 in merchandise from the Midway Target at 8:40 p.m. Sunday, December 1.

—Vehicles were stolen on the 1100 block of Dayton Avenue on December 1-2, and the 1200 block of St. Anthony Avenue on December 9.

—Two iPhones were stolen on the 300 block of North Hamline Avenue on December 3-7.

—About \$700 in electronics was stolen from a vehicle in the Midway Target parking lot on Saturday, December 7.

## Macalester-Groveland

**Robbery**—A purse-snatching was reported on Cambridge Street and Grand Avenue at 8:03 p.m. Monday, December 2.

**Theft**—Thefts from vehicles included a catalytic converter on Wheeler Street and Summit Avenue on November 26-27, multiple items from two vehicles at Macalester College on December 6, and a purse on Mississippi River Boulevard and Summit Avenue on December 8.

—Vehicles were stolen on the 1900 block of Grand Avenue on November 27-28, the 1600 block of Stanford Avenue on November 28-29, the 1500 block of St. Clair Avenue on December 1 and the 1900 block of St. Clair Avenue on December 7.

—A watch valued at more than \$1,000 was reported stolen on the 1900 block of Sargent Avenue at 10:16 a.m. Friday, December 6.

## Mendota Heights

**Theft**—Thefts from vehicles included a diaper bag on the 700 block of Highway 62 on November 29 and a checkbook on the 700 block of South Plaza Drive on November 29.

**Miscellaneous**—A driver was arrested for

## Suspect charged in '92 murder near Cathedral

John Robert Capers, 65, of Minneapolis was charged with second-degree murder by the Ramsey County Attorney's Office on December 11 in connection with the July 1992 stabbing death of Annette Gail Seymour. According to the criminal complaint, an unnamed citizen found the 39-year-old Dayton Avenue woman's body down the hill east of Summit Avenue near the entrance of the now sealed Selby Avenue streetcar tunnel below the Cathedral of St. Paul.

An autopsy determined that Seymour had been stabbed 11 times and had various bruises on her body and face. She was found wearing only a long black T-shirt and there was a stream of blood running

DWI after he was found asleep behind the wheel of a vehicle with the motor running in the parking lot of a closed business on the 1000 block of Mendota Heights Road at 12:37 a.m. Saturday, November 30.

—Officers stopped a vehicle with expired tabs and discovered the tabs were fake at 10:13 p.m. Wednesday, December 4, on Delaware Avenue and Annapolis Street. The driver was arrested for an outstanding warrant.

## Merriam Park

**Theft**—A bicycle, backpacking bag and laptop computer were stolen on the 2200 block of Marshall Avenue on December 2.

—Vehicles were reported stolen on the 500 block of Otis Avenue on December 2, at the Marshall Stop at 2057 Marshall Ave. on December 6, on the 1700 block of Laurel Avenue on December 5-6, at Town and Country Club on December 5-6 and on the 1600 block of Selby Avenue on December 9.

## Man arrested after 15-month burglary spree

Deondre Ramon Cush, 35, of St. Paul has been charged in Ramsey County District Court in connection with dozens of burglaries that took place throughout the metro area from August 2018 to October 2019. In most cases, he smashed the glass in doors with a rock to gain entrance and steal cash. He also took safes, guitars, food, liquor and cigarettes.

Locally, Cush was believed to have broken into Coffee Bene and Sakana Sushi on Cleveland Avenue; Green Mill, Colossal Cafe, Cold Front Coffee and the Nook on Hamline Avenue; Kim's Chow Mein, Choo Choo Bob's and Izzy's Ice Cream on Marshall Avenue; Caribou Coffee, Mucci's and Bay Street Grill on Randolph Avenue; Capital Guitars on Selby Avenue; Mac's Fish and Chips, Spy House Coffee and the Naughty Greek on Snelling Avenue; J. Selby on Victoria Street; Agelgil Ethiopian Restaurant, Tavial Grill, Claddagh Coffee, Joe and Stan's,



John Capers



Annette Seymour

from her head.

Prosecutors reviewed evidence from the case, including DNA from Seymour's shirt, to establish probable cause for charging Capers, who was living on Marshall Avenue at the time, less than 2 miles from where Seymour's body was found. He was to make his first appearance in Ramsey County District Court on December 12. He faces a maximum sentence of 40 years for the felony.

**Miscellaneous**—The tires of several vehicles were slashed at Cooperative Plating, 271 N. Snelling Ave., between 9-10 a.m. Monday, November 25.

—A 38-year-old woman was trapped inside her vehicle, which had flipped on its roof after an accident at 6:55 p.m. Tuesday, December 3, on Exeter Place and Marshall Avenue. She was cited for driving after license revocation, no proof of insurance, unsafe tires and careless driving, and was taken to the hospital for injuries that were not life-threatening.

## Snelling-Hamline

**Theft**—Items stolen from vehicles included a laptop computer at LA Fitness at 1370 University Ave. on November 26, a catalytic converter on Albert Street and Summit Avenue on November 26-27, a laptop computer on the 100 block of North Snelling Avenue on November 25 and a wallet at the Midway Cub Foods on December 3.

and Yarmo Liquor on West Seventh; and Teresa's Mexican Restaurant in Mendota Heights.

He reportedly used his cellphone to search for restaurants and coffee shops near him during the spree, as well as to check news reports of the break-ins. Some restaurants were hit more than once.

Police originally arrested Cush on April 11, 2019, when he was caught on surveillance video burglarizing Cold Front, Joe and Stan's, and Bay Street Grill between 5-6 a.m. He pled guilty and was scheduled for sentencing on December 11.

While out on bail, he was believed to have committed several other burglaries beginning in May, including at A Piece of Cake on Selby in June. Investigations of additional burglaries believed to have been perpetrated by Cush went on as recently as October 26.

According to media reports, Cush was tracked down by the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office and jailed on December 2. Warrants for his arrest showed he has seven prior felony convictions, including ones for burglary, theft, drugs and murder.

—Vehicles were stolen on the 1500 block of Selby Avenue between November 27-December 2 and the 1400 block of Marshall Avenue on December 6.

## Summit Hill

**Robbery**—A strong-arm robbery was reported on South Grotto Street and Summit Avenue at 11:05 p.m. Wednesday, December 4.

—A purse-snatching was reported on the 700 block of Grand Avenue at 5 p.m. Thursday, December 5.

**Burglary**—A break-in occurred at Golden Fig, 794 Grand Ave., at 5:38 a.m. Tuesday, December 3.

**Theft**—A laptop computer was stolen from a vehicle on the 900 block of Grand Avenue on Monday, December 2.

—Vehicles were stolen on the 600 block of Grand Avenue on December 2, the 400 block of Summit Avenue on December 7 and the 900 block of Grand on December 9.

## Summit-University

**Robbery**—Two men, ages 38 and 51, were arrested for robbing a man of his cellphone at knifepoint on Selby Avenue and Dale Street at 12:40 a.m. Sunday, December 1. The victim was able to track the phone to an apartment, where the suspects were arrested.

—A pizza delivery driver was robbed by a couple claiming to have a knife at 1:54 a.m. Tuesday, December 10, on the 700 block of Selby Avenue.

**Burglary**—A break-in was reported at Familia Skate Shop, 606 Selby Ave., at 4:36 a.m. Monday, December 2.

**Theft**—Items stolen from vehicles included an iPad on the 1000 block of Summit Avenue on November 29, a purse at the St. Paul Curling Club at 470 Selby Ave. on November 29, a catalytic converter on the 400 block of Ashland Avenue on November 27-28 and a MacBook Air on the 400 block of Selby on December 4.

—Vehicles were stolen on the 900 block of Hague Avenue on December 2, the 800 block of Marshall Avenue on December 5, and at Oxford Street and Summit Avenue on December 10.

**Miscellaneous**—A 24-year-old man was arrested for DWI after he was found sleeping in the driver seat of a vehicle on the 300 block of North Lexington Parkway at 12:39 a.m. Sunday, December 1.

—A 27-year-old man was arrested for DWI on Carroll Avenue and Milton Street at 5:53 a.m. Friday, December 6. Police found him asleep behind the wheel of a vehicle that was still running and in drive. His foot came off the brake while still asleep and he crashed into the squad car. No injuries were reported.

## West End

**Theft**—A purse was stolen from a vehicle at Famous Dave's, 1930 W. Seventh St., on Friday, November 29.

—Vehicles were stolen on the 600 block of Watson Avenue on December 5, the 700 block of Tuscarora Avenue on December 5, and the 400 and 500 blocks of West Seventh Street on December 10.

**End 2019 Begin 2020 SALE**  
Bridge the Years with Fabric Savings  
10-50% off December 26-28 & January 2-4  
+ an extra 10% off through 2019

**Sewing Lounge**  
"A Little Fabric Store in the heart of St. Paul"  
987 Selby Ave 651.645.7645 sewinglounge sewinglounge.com

JOIN THE FUN! CLASSES FOR EVERYONE!  
\* \* \*

**HIGHLAND LEARN TO SKATE!**  
Pre-School Age, Basic Skill and Hockey Classes Available! Register for our WINTER SESSION TODAY! Classes begin Monday, January 6th, 5:30-7:40pm.  
\* \* \*

To register and for more info, go to [StPaulFSC.org/LearnToSkate-Highland](http://StPaulFSC.org/LearnToSkate-Highland)

RAMSEY COUNTY

For questions or for more information about the **Learn to Skate Scholarship Program** please email: [SPFSClearntoskateusa@gmail.com](mailto:SPFSClearntoskateusa@gmail.com)

**mcgann dental**  
mcgann dental.com

**Because you should look forward to seeing your dentist.**

Lisa McGann, DDS (651) 699-1547  
**757 Cleveland Ave. S. #2 Saint Paul**  
Across the street from the Highland Theater

# The Kiosk

## Wednesday/December 18

**HAVE SUPPER WITH SANTA** from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Groveland Recreation Center, 2021 St. Clair Ave. Games, craft activities, music and a performance by the ballet and tap classes at Groveland will also be featured. Admission is free, but reservations are required. Call 651-695-3714.

## Thursday/December 19

**FARE FOR ALL'S** monthly distribution of fresh produce and frozen meat will take place from 4-6 p.m. at the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center, 270 N. Kent St. The food will be available in packages priced from \$10-\$25. Cash, credit and debit cards are accepted. Visit [fareforall.org](http://fareforall.org).

## Saturday/December 21

**OR EMET CONGREGATION** will hold a Hanukkah Party from 5-7:30 p.m. at the Wellstone Center, 179 E. Robie St. In addition to dreidels and gelt, the event will feature a potluck dinner with potato latkes, a Hanukkah blessing, candlelighting, music and entertainment by the children in Or Emet's Jewish Cultural School. Reservations are required. Email [info@oremnet.org](mailto:info@oremnet.org).

## Sunday, December 22

**"BE THE LIGHT,"** a celebration of giving in the season of Hanukkah, will be held from 1-3:30 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. The event will feature a host of activities in support of a variety of social service agencies in the Twin Cities. For more information, visit [stpauljcc.org](http://stpauljcc.org) or contact Tracey Agranoff at 651-255-4759 or [tagranoff@stpauljcc.org](mailto:tagranoff@stpauljcc.org).

## Monday/December 23

**A FREE SUPPORT GROUP** for the families of individuals living with a mental illness meets from 6:30-8 p.m. today and the fourth Monday of every month at Wilder Foundation, 451 N. Lexington Pkwy. For information, call Jennifer at 507-254-5524.



### Gift of the Matykiewicz's.

The Matykiewicz family — from left, Mary Jo, Linda, Ray, Roxanne, Nancy and Denny — had front row seats at the Union Depot tree lighting ceremony on December 6. The West End family had donated their Colorado spruce tree to the depot for the holidays and decorated it with ornaments in memory of their late mother, Rose.

PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

## Thursday/January 2

**RESERVATIONS FOR PARK** pavilions and picnic shelters in St. Paul in 2020 will be available to city residents and businesses beginning with a lottery at 7 a.m. at the Parks and Recreation Department's Como Maintenance Office, 1100 N. Hamline Ave. Lottery numbers will be issued from

6:30-7 a.m. Those arriving after 7 a.m. will be issued permits first-come, first-served. Reservations may be made by phone at 651-266-6400 or in-person at 25 W. Fourth St, Suite 400, beginning January 3.

## Friday/January 3

**MORE THAN 1,600 DOGS** in 194

breeds will compete in the Land O' Lakes Kennel Club Dog Show and Expo today through January 5 at St. Paul RiverCentre. Meet the dogs, see live demonstrations of fun activities for you and your dog, and visit the Ringside Marketplace for all kinds of dog goodies. The event will run from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Admission is \$9, \$7 for seniors and veterans, \$5 for children ages 4-12 and \$23 for a family of four. For information, visit [xcelenergycenter.com](http://xcelenergycenter.com).

## Sunday/January 5

**JOIN IN REFLECTION** and a celebration of Christ's Epiphany at 2 p.m. at Lumen Christi Catholic Church, 2055 Bohland Ave. Music for Advent, Christmas and the Epiphany will be performed by Lumen Christi's adult, youth and handbell choirs. An audience sing-along will also be featured. Admission is free, and a reception will follow.

## Wednesday/January 8

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

**LONGFELLOW GARDEN CLUB** will hear about the University of Minnesota's newest conservatory and view photos of some of its 1,500 species of plants in a meeting at 7 p.m. at Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37th Ave S. in Minneapolis. New members are welcome.

## Thursday/January 9

**A PARKINSON'S SPECIFIC** music therapy group will meet from 4:30-5:20 p.m. on Thursdays, today through February 27, at Shalom Home East, 740 S. Kay Ave. Singing, songwriting, movement, musical instruments and music-assisted relaxation will all be part of the program. The cost is \$120. To register, call 651-363-3936 or contact [melissa@livingspirittherapy.com](mailto:melissa@livingspirittherapy.com).

## Is your savings growing?

Watch it grow in a Treasury Savings account!

earn **1.00% APY\*** with a Treasury Savings account

Call a banker today!  
651-209-4800



\*Annual Percentage Yield advertised for the Gateway Treasury Savings account is current as of 11/7/19 and is subject to change. Rates earned on daily balances of \$50,000 and up 1.00% APY; \$25,000 - 49,999.99 0.25% APY; \$10,000 - 24,999.99 0.15% APY; \$2,500 - 9,999.99 0.10% APY; \$0 - 2,499.99 0.05% APY. A minimum balance of \$10,000 to open the account is required. Rate is subject to change after account has been opened. Fees could reduce earnings.

**GATEWAY BANK**  
745 Market Street - Mendota Heights  
[gateway-banking.com](http://gateway-banking.com) | Member FDIC

**TOYS FOR TOTS**  
Official Drop Site Through December 18

## Nobody Cares for Eyes More Than Pearle

Use your Vision Benefits or Flex Spending by 12/31/19

- Choose from over 1000 frames
- Highest quality of lens materials
- Contact lens specialists
- Most insurance plans accepted
- Eye exams 6 days a week by Dr. Troy Randgaard & Dr. Aaron Peterson & Dr. Taylor Wolke



**PEARLE**  
EST. 1961  
**VISION**

**LOCALLY OWNED, COMMUNITY INVOLVED, CLEARLY DIFFERENT**

SCHEDULE YOUR EYE EXAM AT  
[PEARLEVISIONHIGHLAND.COM](http://PEARLEVISIONHIGHLAND.COM)

Highland Shopping Center  
2024 Ford Parkway • 651-698-2020

**Where's Gregie's at?**  
**Past Customers Call:**  
**651-690-0615**

**LEITNER'S**  
 GARDEN CENTER  
 FRESH FLOWERS  
**Naturally beautiful flowers & plants!**  
 Great Prices!  
 Local Delivery!  
 945 Randolph Ave. • St. Paul  
**651-291-2655**

**Drawing & Painting Lessons**  
 Ages 5 to Adult  
**Celebrating Our 23rd Year!**  
**The Art Academy**  
 See examples at  
**651-699-1573 • theartacademy.net**

**Happy Holidays**  
**WE KNOW THE WAY HOME**

**740 Grand Ave**  
 MN LICENSE #BC005210  
**651.228.9102**  
**authconst.com**

**Roof?**  
**Garlock-French**

While other roofers may come and go, Garlock-French endures. We have been providing skilled roofing solutions with friendly, reliable service for over 87 years (that's 609 dog-years). And, we guarantee our work. We've been up on roofs longer, and it shows.

**Roofing, Chimneys, Sheet Metal and more**

**Garlock-French CORPORATION**  
 SINCE 1932

**Call us at 612-722-7129**  
 2301 East 25th St., Minneapolis  
**Garlock-French.com**  
 MN License #BC001423

# District Council News

## Highland Park

highlanddistrictcouncil.org • 651-695-4005

**Home Improvement Fair**—Registration is now open for sponsors and exhibitors who would like to participate in the 28th annual Macalester-Groveland & Highland Park Home Improvement Fair on March 7. Priority registration is open through December 31. Afterward, registration fees will be an additional \$25 through January 31. For registration information and materials, visit the HDC website under “events.”

**Upcoming meetings**—Board of directors, 7 p.m. Thursday, January 9; and Transportation Committee, 7 p.m. Tuesday, January 14. All meetings will be held at the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy.

**Holiday office hours**—The Highland District Council office will be closed from December 24-January 1.

**Stay in touch**—Sign up for the HDC's e-newsletter by clicking on “subscribe” at the bottom of the website's home page.

## Macalester-Groveland

macgrove.org • 651-695-4000

**Read Brave**—The Macalester-Groveland Community Council has received copies of *Climate Justice* by Mary Robinson and will be lending books to those who are interested in participating in a group discussion in the new year. The book is the nonfiction pick of Read Brave St. Paul, the St. Paul Public Library's citywide reading program. The theme for 2020 is “Our Climate Crisis.” Email mgcc@macgrove.org to be notified of book availability and related events.

**Home Improvement Fair**—Applications are now being accepted from sponsors and exhibitors for the Macalester-Groveland & Highland Park Home Improvement Fair that will be held on March 7 at Cretin-Derham Hall. Registration is requested by December 31 at tinyurl.com/y6p6eorf.

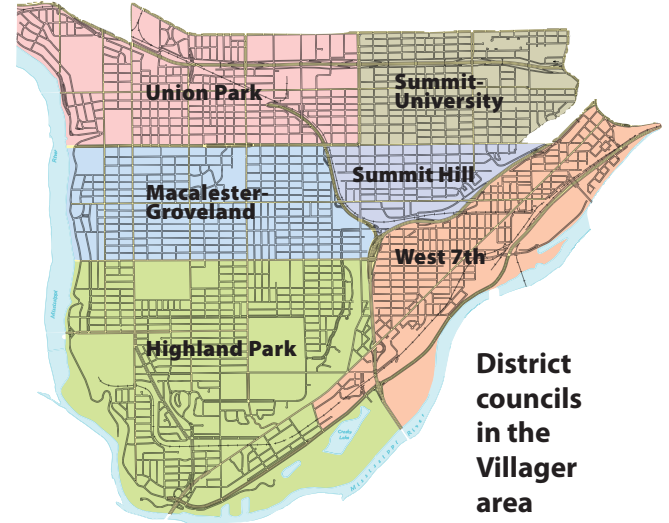
**Invest in the neighborhood**—The community council is a nonprofit organization that works to make Macalester-Groveland a great place to live, work, learn and play. People can help support its efforts by visiting macgrove.org/donate.

**Mac-Grove T-shirts**—Show your neighborhood spirit by ordering a Macalester-Groveland T-shirt designed by Elizabeth Rozendaal and Wayne Ctvrtnik. The shirts cost \$10-\$12. Order them online at macgrove.org/2019tshirt and pick them up at the community council's office.

**NeighborCare offered**—Episcopal Homes has received a state grant to help launch NeighborCare, which is designed to help older adults remain in their homes. There is no minimum time commitment and services are available 24 hours a day. For information, visit episcopalhomes.org/neighborcare or call Karen Vento at 651-444-4000.

**Get involved**—There are openings on the community council's board for Grid 4 residential, at-large business and at-large student representatives.

**Upcoming meetings**—There are no community council meetings in December. The council's office will be closed from December 24-January 1 for the holidays.



District councils in the Villager area

## Union Park

unionparkdc.org • 651-645-6887

**Upcoming meetings**—Environment and Parks Committee, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 18, Merriam Park Recreation Center, 2000 St Anthony Ave.; board of directors, 7 p.m. Wednesday, January 8, Otto Hall at Episcopal Homes, 1840 University Ave.; and Transportation Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, January 13, 1821 University Ave., Suite 127.

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

## West Seventh

fortroadfederation.org • 651-298-5599

**Board update**—At its meeting on November 11, the West Seventh/Fort Road Federation board of directors approved a request for support from Irvine Park residents who are concerned about the safety of the retaining wall between their homes and the railroad tracks below. Also at the meeting, Dr. Lily Thompson from United Health Medicine presented her concept for a project to increase walking and a sense of community. Outreach to neighborhood block clubs, schools, property owners and other groups will start this winter and spring. St. Paul Planning Department staff presented the HUD Consolidated Plan for St. Paul. A representative from the Minnesota Nurses Association also spoke about the potential closing of St. Joseph's Hospital and the coalition that is forming to attempt to prevent the closing.

**Upcoming meeting**—The board of directors will hold its next meeting at 6 p.m. Monday, January 13, at the Fort Road Federation's office on the second floor of 882 W. Seventh St. A holiday gathering will follow.

**Stay in touch**—People are invited to “like” the West Seventh/Fort Road Federation on Facebook and subscribe to its electronic newsletter on its website.

**The Electric Fetus**  
**A Holiday Tradition**  
 since 1968

**THE ELECTRIC Fetus**  
 electricfetus.com

Mpls • 2000 4th Ave S • 612.870.9300  
 Mon-Fri: 9-9 • Saturday: 9-8 • Sunday: 11-6  
 Open 9-4 Christmas Eve

**Become a certified nursing assistant and Help our heroes!**

• Train at the Minnesota Veterans Home - Minneapolis near Minnehaha Falls in Minneapolis  
 • Tuition reimbursement available  
 • Short-term training perfect for those interested in a healthcare career

**Inver Hills Community College** is partnering with the **Minnesota Veterans Home—Minneapolis** to offer Nursing Assistant Certificate training at the new Veterans Home Education Center.

About this course:

- Seven-week session
- Evening class
- Earn college credit
- Taught by Inver Hills Nursing Faculty
- May lead to a professional career as a nurse (LPN or RN)

**Next course starts soon!**  
**January 13—March 18, 2020**  
**March 23—May 9, 2020**

**Register now!**  
**INVERHILLS.EDU/CNA**  
 Select the Minnesota Veterans Home location

**Inver Hills Community College**  
 A member of Minnesota State

**INVERHILLS.EDU | 651-450-3000**  
 Inver Hills is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer and educator. This information is available in an alternate format by calling 651-450-3884 or TTY/Minnesota Relay at 1-800-627-3529.

**Flex Spending Reminder**

**Arthur Williams**  
**OPTICIANS**  
 Great Eyewear • Sunglasses • Contact Lenses  
 Eye exams with Dr. Matt Anderson  
**772 Cleveland Ave. So. (at Ford Parkway)**  
**651-224-2883**

Most flex spending dollars expire on Dec. 31. Don't lose your contributions! Contacts, glasses, frames & prescription sunglasses all qualify!

**arthurwilliams.com**

# On the Town

## New take on *Nutcracker* St. Paul Ballet enlists choreographer Sewell in polishing a holiday nugget

BY JANET LUNDER HANAFIN

Tchaikovsky's beloved ballet *The Nutcracker* is as much a part of the holiday season as Christmas cookies and evergreen trees. Based on a fanciful tale written in 1816 by E.T.A. Hoffmann, the magical drama will be staged by the St. Paul Ballet on December 19 and 21 in the O'Shaughnessy at St. Catherine University.

This is the second year that St. Paul Ballet has presented this version of *The Nutcracker*. "Our show, *A Nutcracker Story*, is traditional, but there are fresh elements as well," said St. Paul Ballet director Christine Onusko.

The production involves more than 80 young dancers from St. Paul Ballet's school. This year it was choreographed in collaboration with James Sewell of the Minneapolis-based James Sewell Ballet Company, and the principal roles are played by Sewell's professional dancers: Chloe Duryea as the Sugar Plum Fairy, Da'Rius Malone as Drosselmeyer, Andrew Lester as the Nutcracker, Stephanie Moffet-Hugg as the Snow Queen and Arimee Gambill as the Rat Queen.

*Some people may think of the art of dance as stuffy and difficult to comprehend. The Nutcracker has the capacity to change that perception. "It's a gateway performance into other ballet," Rambo said.*

Summit-University singer and actor T. Mychael Rambo will return as Uncle D, a role he played in the premier production a year ago.

*A Nutcracker Story* "is a mix of verbal and visual storytelling," according to Eve Schulte, an artistic associate for James Sewell Ballet. The ballet opens with Uncle D's arrival at the home of his niece and nephew, Maria and Frank. Uncle D finds them engrossed on a smartphone and playing video games. The children ignore their uncle at first, but he asks them to put away their gadgets and employ their imaginations instead.

Uncle D pulls out a copy of *The Nutcracker*, and as he reads from the book, Maria and Frank are transported back in time to a fantastic world where they are introduced to a legion of soldiers, a battalion of mice, flurries of snowflakes, a rat queen, a fairy and a nutcracker who becomes a prince.

"People may not be familiar with the story, but they're entertained by the range of characters and compelled through the ballet itself," Rambo said. "There's something about the enchantment and wonder that come from the story. It's full of joy and magic and



Katherine Krieser (above), Tahmei Tulia (right) and other dancers from the St. Paul Ballet will return to the O'Shaughnessy on December 19 and 21 to reprise its production of *A Nutcracker Story*.

PHOTOS BY L. GLEASON

has fantastic visuals."

"This ballet is often a young dancer's first full-length ballet," Schulte said. "There's a lot to learn about stamina, quick costume changes and the ability to either carry a single role for an entire show or switch quickly between roles." And *The Nutcracker* is often the first ballet experience for youngsters in the audience, too, she added.

Some people may think of the art of dance as stuffy and difficult to comprehend. But

'A NUTCRACKER STORY' ▶ 22



## Heiruspecs steps out of studio for its annual holiday classic

Sextet with 'undeniable' chemistry is planning the release of its sixth album

BY K. C. MCKEE

Heiruspecs has been a mainstay of the Twin Cities music scene for over two decades, blending hip-hop vocals with rock and soul instrumentals to create an instantly recognizable sound. The sextet has released five full-length albums over the course of its career, and is currently at work on a sixth, the CD "Low Key, Whatever Happened To Heiruspecs?" scheduled for release in the spring.

The title refers to a comment made by one of Heiruspecs' fans on Twitter. "I get where the fan was coming from," said bassist Sean McPherson. "Our style has been to put out a record every five years or so, and people start to wonder if we're even still together."

For those who need further proof, the band will present its annual holiday classic at 8 p.m. Friday, December 27, at the Turf Club, 1601 University Ave. Sharing the bill will be Twin Cities performer MaLLy, fresh off the release of his album "The Journey to a Smile," and DJ Dan Speak. (Tickets are \$15 on the day of show, \$13 in advance at heiruspecs.com.)

Heiruspecs' versatility and frequent collaborations with such disparate artists as Chastity Brown, Dessa and Dan Wilson have led to an unusually diverse fan base. "I think folks who are interested in hearing great



Two decades together as a band are Heiruspecs members (from left) Peter Leggett, Josh Peterson, Sean McPherson, Craig "Felix" Wilbourne, Devon "dVRG" Gray and John "Muaddib" Harrison. PHOTO BY BENNY MORENO

music flock to us," McPherson said. "We have great musicians in our group. It's not one of those things where it sounds like rap plus a band. We sound like a band that has six members, two of whom are rappers. I think people pick up on the difference."

Heiruspecs was formed in 1997 when a music recording class at Central High School first brought together the talents of McPherson and singer Craig "Felix" Wilbourne. The classroom "was a place where we could all jam after we got our homework done," said Wilbourne. "We ended up jamming a lot, and this thing we were doing ended up becoming a band."

"Felix and I were the nucleus," said McPherson, who lives in Macalester-Groveland. "It was kind of like, 'I'll go get a band, you go get another rapper.' We started working that way with a rotating cast of people."

The duo were soon joined by guitarist

*"We hear about our friends in other bands that go through real struggles at home and on the road, and we've just never had to face that. We've had our tough times, but the highs have been so high for us that it's hard to walk away."*

Josh Peterson and vocalist John "Muaddib" Harrison, who took his stage name from the character in Frank Herbert's sci-fi novel *Dune*. When the band's original keyboardist departed, they recruited DeVon "dVRG" Gray, and the lineup crystallized with the addition of drummer Peter Leggett.

Following their initial success in the Twin Cities, Heiruspecs toured extensively in the

early years of the new millennium. "But we had a period where the road became a very tiring thing," Wilbourne said. "We were torn between our desire to stay on the road—which is where we connect with fans and to some extent make our money—and the desire and need to make new music. It's hard to do those things at the same time."

"I also feel like the way we were touring was starting to plateau," said Harrison. "We realized that we needed to restructure, step back and figure out what we needed to do."

The question of just when to quit touring was unexpectedly resolved by the loss of their vehicle between shows. "I crashed the van in North Dakota," said McPherson. "That was in December 2006. And that to me was the line in the sand, and everything we've done since as a band has been because we all agreed to it."

A HEIRUSPECS HOLIDAY ▶ 22

# On the Town Briefly

## Music

**“Happy Holi-Dane,”** a swinging, singing hallelaloo of holiday entertainment hosted by Dane Stauffer, directed by Dan Chouinard and featuring a bevy of Twin Cities talent, will take the stage at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 18, at the History Theatre, 30 E. 10th St. Beth Gilleland, Julius Collins, Ben Bakken, Jen Maren, Ruthie Baker-McGrath, Sandra Struthers, Kris Stauffer, Tait Cameron and Michael Johnson will join pianist Chouinard for an evening of holiday chestnuts, lesser-known ditties, storytelling, dramatic sketches, hilarity and reflection. Tickets are \$35-\$45. Call 651-292-4323.

**Celebrate Christmas with Cantus.** The eight-man vocal ensemble will perform familiar carols and contemporary songs of the season in concerts at 7 p.m. Friday, December 20, in the Ordway Concert Hall; and 3 p.m. Sunday, December 22, at the Summit Center for Arts and Innovation, 1524 Summit Ave. For tickets, call 612-435-0055 or visit [cantussings.org](http://cantussings.org).

**Powerhouse singer Carrie Elkin** will perform at 8 p.m. Friday, December 20, in Weyerhaeuser Auditorium at Landmark Center. Elkin straddles the genres of Americana, folk and indie rock with songs of personal intimacy and universal experience. Her special guests include John Hermanson of Storyhill and the Falderals. Tickets are \$25 at the door, \$20 in advance. A cash bar will be available from 7-8 p.m. Visit [landmarkcenter.org](http://landmarkcenter.org).

**The Elizabethan Syngers** will celebrate the season of Christmas and Hanukah with stories and songs from the Renaissance to the modern day at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, December 21, at the Summit Center, 1524 Summit Ave. They will be joined by the Eglantine Consort and guitarist Mike Salovich. Tickets are \$25, \$20 for students and seniors, and refreshments will be served. Visit [theelizabethansyngers.com](http://theelizabethansyngers.com).

**The life of St. Paul soul singer Wee Willie Walker** will be celebrated with music on Sunday, December 22, at the Minnesota Music Cafe, 499 Payne Ave. Walker died unexpectedly on November 19. Among the local players who will pay him tribute are Paul Metsa, Mari Harris, Sonny Earl, Bob Coates, Maurice Jacox, the Butanes, Wilbur



Cole and the Soul Mates and Willie's former group, the We R Band. Doors open at 3 p.m. Admission is free. Call 651-776-4699.

**The Lex-Ham Community Band** will perform music for the holidays in a free concert at 7 p.m. Sunday, December 22, in Buetow Auditorium at Concordia University, 310 N. Hamline Ave. Refreshments will be served.

**“Holiday on Ice Cubes,”** a night of music, musings and mania from the Iron Range native and singer-songwriter Paul Metsa, will be presented at 7 p.m. Monday, December 23, at the Parkway Theater, 48th and Chicago Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Metsa is celebrating his 40th year in the business by bringing it all back home with special guests Sonny Earl, Stan Kipper, Mari Harris, Randi Starr Hudson, Jimmy Anton, Donnie La Marca and the Cats Under the Stars Acoustic Quartet. Bobby Vandell will emcee the show. Tickets are \$25 at the door, \$20 in advance. Two dollars of each advance ticket will go to

### “Holiday on Ice Cubes.”

the Northeast Seniors food shelf. Tickets at the door will be discounted by \$5 with the donation of a bag of nonperishable food. Visit [theparkwaytheater.com](http://theparkwaytheater.com).

**The Larry McDonough Quartet** will return for the second annual concert for Festus and Other Twisted Holidays from 7-9 p.m. Monday, December 23, at the Black Dog Cafe, 308 E. Prince St. Flutist and accordionist Carol Bergquist will join pianist McDonough and his mates Richard Terrill on sax, Greg Stinson on bass and Dean White on drums. Admission is free, though donations are suggested. Call 651-228-9274.

**“When Morty Met John,”** spoken word, singing and experimental music performed on electronics, toy pianos, a recorder and meditation bowls, will be presented by Stephen Lilly, Stacey Mastrian and Kristian Twombly in concert at 7 p.m. Saturday, January 4, at Studio Z, 275 E. Fourth St., Suite 200. Tickets are \$10. Call 651-755-1600.

**“Christmas Eve and Other Stories,”** the winter tour of the progressive rock group Trans-Siberian Orchestra, will stop at Xcel Energy Center for shows at 3 and 8 p.m. Saturday, December 28. The brainchild of orchestra founder, the late Paul O’Neill, this bit of rock theater features a slew of Trans-Siberian classics and fan favorites wrapped around a story set on Christmas Eve when a young angel is assigned to bring back what is best representative of humanity. For ticket information, visit [xcelenergycenter.com](http://xcelenergycenter.com).

**The Minnesota Boychoir** will present a free winter concert at 1 and 3:30 p.m. Sunday, January 5, at Landmark Center.

**The Bakken Trio** will perform the music of Robert Schumann, Lera Auerbach and Hans Gal in concert at 4 p.m. Sunday, January 5, at the MacPhail Center for Music, 501 Second St. S. in Minneapolis. Violinist Stephanie Arado and cellist Pitnarry Shin will be joined by violist Hyobi Sim and pianist Hanna HyunJung Kim. Tickets are \$25, free for children and students. Call 612-584-1967.

**The contemporary folk duo** Fellow Pynins will play among the flora of Como Park Conservatory from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Sunday, January 5. Admission is free, and beer and wine will be available for purchase.

## Theater

**Beyond the Rainbow: Judy Garland at Carnegie Hall,** playwright William Randall Beard’s musical tribute to the Minnesota-born singer and actress, is being performed through December 26 at the History Theatre, 30 E. 10th St. The drama is set in 1961, when Garland played Carnegie Hall to a packed house. Ivey Award-winner Jody Briskey stars. Elena Glass plays Garland in flashbacks to the events that inspired and haunted her. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$15-\$65. Call 651-292-4323.

**Pride and Prejudice,** a clever comedy adapted for the stage by Kate Hamill from the 19th-century novel by Jane Austen, is playing through December 22 on the proscenium stage at Park Square Theatre, 20 W. Seventh Place. The drama offers a decidedly progressive take on Austen, whom many consider to be an early feminist. Sara Richardson, China Brickey, Kiara Jackson,

**Velvet Elvis Design**  
WHERE GRAPHIC DESIGN IS KING  
ESTABLISHED 1995

Custom Projects of all Kinds

- \* Web Work
- \* Custom Signs
- \* Print Work
- \* T-Shirts
- \* Multimedia
- \* Furniture Renovation

[velvetelvis.com](http://velvetelvis.com) \* 612-860-5137

**BEST GIFT EVER**

BUY A \$50 GIFT CARD, GET A \$15 BONUS CARD FREE!

**RED RABBIT**

**RED COW**  
est. 2013

[redrabbitmn.com](http://redrabbitmn.com) [redcowmn.com](http://redcowmn.com)

Paul Rutledge, McKenna Kelly-Eiding and Neal Beckman star. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Call 651-291-7005.

**Langston Hughes' musical drama** *Black Nativity* is playing afternoons and evenings through December 22 at Penumbra Theatre, 270 N. Kent St. Directed by Lou Bellamy with musical direction by Sanford Moore, this retelling of the Christmas story features the choreography of Alanna Morris-Van Tassel and the singing of the Kingdom Life Church Choir and soloists. Tickets are \$15-\$40. Call 651-224-3180 or visit penumbratheatre.org.

**The six wives of Henry VIII** step out of the shadow of their infamous spouse and remix 500 years of historical heartbreak into a power-packed celebration of female empowerment in *Six*. The musical is playing evenings and afternoons through December 22 at the Ordway Music Theater. For reservations, call 641-224-4222 or visit ordway.org.

**Jungle Theater's** holiday hit of 2017, *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*, is being performed through December 29 on the stage at 2951 Lyndale Ave. S. in Minneapolis. The drama by Lauren Gunderson and Margot Melcon imagines the characters of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* reunited at the Darcy home. Directed by Christina Baldwin, the love story stars Christian Bardin as Mary Bennet, the ever-dependable middle sister, and Reese Britts as bookworm Arthur de Bourgh whom Mary sees as a kindred spirit and intellectual equal. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays and 2 and 7:30 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$15-\$50. Call 612-822-7063 or visit jungletheater.org.

**Miracle on Christmas Lake**, a heartwarming holiday comedy by Jessica Lind Peterson about a soap opera star who returns home to Minnesota when his father dies and tries to save his dad's community theater from bankruptcy, is now playing at the Cabaret in Camp Bar, 490 N. Robert St. Peyton Dixon, Marci Lucht, Michael Ooms, Fjaere Harder Nussbaum and Charla Marie Bailey star. Show times are 7 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, December 19-21; 5 p.m. Sunday, December 22; and 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, December 27 and 28. Tickets are \$29.50 and \$39.50. Visit actorsmn.org.

**The family-friendly comedy** *Triple Espresso* returns from December 26 through January 4 with eight shows, all benefiting the Union Gospel Mission. Written by Bill Arnold, Michael Pearce Donley and Bob Stromberg, the drama tells of Hugh Butternut, Bobby Bean and Buzz Maxwell, who relive their

dubious choices in life in hilarious scenes that take you from the dance floors of Zaire to the dust storms of Nebraska. The curtain will rise at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and at 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, December 28 and 29, in the O'Shaughnessy at St. Catherine University. Tickets are \$40 with discounts for students, seniors and military personnel. Call 651-690-6700.

**When a blind date** takes a dark turn, crisis and comedy erupt in *Becky Shaw*. Playwright Gina Gionfriddo's ferociously funny tale of love, sex and ethics will open on January 3 at Gremlin Theatre, 550 N. Vandalia St. Chelsie Newhard, Logan Verdoorn, Jodi Kellogg, Olivia Wilusz and Kevin Fanshaw star. Ellen Fenster directs. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sundays through January 26. Tickets are \$28, or whatever you can afford for the added show at 7:30 p.m. Monday, January 13. Discounts are available for seniors, Fringe button holders and anyone under age 30. Call 888-718-4253 or visit gremlintheatre.org.

## Exhibits

**"History Is Not Here,"** paintings, drawings, photography, sculpture, book art, installation and video by 17 artists who reject history as a fixed category and look to alternative imagery to examine social, cultural and political issues, is on view through January 5 in the Main Gallery of the Minnesota Museum of American Art, 350 N. Robert St. Admission is free. Call 651-204-0700.

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

**"Elemental Entanglement,"** a multi-media exhibit that demonstrates how two artists using vastly different materials hone in on the essence of nature, is on view through

January 5 in the North Gallery at Landmark Center. Kim Shuck is a poet, beadworker and textile artist. Elizabeth Jolly uses plant fiber to make sculpture that offers insights into the stories, mythologies and philosophies of various cultures. Visit landmarkcenter.org.

**A Handmade Holiday Market** continues through January 5 at AZ Gallery, 308 E. Prince St., Suite 130. Displayed for show and sale are jewelry, glass, textiles, ceramics, photography, household goods, ornaments, cards, bath and body products and more, all by local artists. The gallery is open from 5-8 p.m. Thursday and Friday and 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Call 651-224-3757.

**Come in out of the cold** and revel in the color of Ice Punch poinsettia, eucalyptus, Persian shield and Cher Kalanchoe at Como Park Conservatory. The Holiday Flower Show is open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. daily through January 12. Admission is free. For \$5 per person, guests are welcome to bring a camera and find the perfect spot for a holiday photo. Visit comozooconservatory.org.

## Family

**Annie Jr.**, the heartwarming musical about a spunky child who at age 11 moves from the hard-knock life of the orphanage to the world of billionaire Oliver Warbucks, is being staged afternoons and evenings through December 22 at SteppingStone Theatre, 55 N. Victoria St. The hour-long show is filled with radiant melodies and dance moves from the 1930s. Tickets start at \$14. Call 651-225-9265 ext. 212.

**Highland Park Library**, 1974 Ford Pkwy., offers the following free programs: Nature Smart, a trading post in natural science, 4 p.m. Wednesdays; Createch, high-tech fun for teenagers, 3:30 p.m. Thursdays; Yarn Night for all ages and abilities, 6:15 p.m. Thursday, December 19; Children's Storytime, 11 a.m. Saturdays and 10:30 a.m. Mondays; Amharic storytime, 6 p.m. Tuesdays; and Baby Storytime, 10:15 and 11:15 a.m. Wednesdays. Call 651-695-3700.

**When a brick is thrown** at a menorah placed in a child's window, leaders of all faiths come together to spread a message of tolerance in *Hanukkah Lights in the Big Sky*, a drama by Buffy Sedlacek that is playing through December 22 on the Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company's stage at the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. The story, which has been revised for audiences age 6 and up, is told from the

perspective of two children. Show times are 9:45 and 11:45 a.m. on weekdays and at 1 p.m. Sunday, December 22. Tickets are \$20. For reservations, call 651-647-4315 or visit mnjewishtheatre.org.

**The Gingerbread Man**, aka *Super-Cookie* will be performed by the Loki Puppet Players at 10 a.m. Friday, December 27, on the historic Jemne puppet stage at Latimer Library, 90 W. Fourth St. Admission is free. Call 651-266-7034 or visit sppl.org.

**Ring in the zoo year** at a Confetti Dance Party running from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. on both Tuesday and Wednesday, December 31 and January 1, at Como Park Zoo and Conservatory. A deejay, dancing, games, exotic animals and a countdown to noon will be featured. Admission is free. Call 651-487-8201 or visit comozooconservatory.org.

**Open Drum Jam Blast**, a New Year's Eve celebration featuring open drum circles, drum performances and dancing, will be held from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 31, at Co-Motion Center for Movement, 655 N. Fairview Ave. Bring your own percussion instrument or use the center's. No experience is necessary. Refreshments will be available and a raffle will be held with prizes, including the grand prize of a \$100 Visa gift card. Admission is \$5, free for children age 12 and under, or \$20 for the whole family. Visit smilingdrum.offeringtree.com.

## Books

**The First Friday storytelling** series will continue with poet Tom Cassidy, essayist Erica Christ and storyteller Richard Rousseau taking the stage from 6:45-7:45 p.m. Friday, January 3, at Coffee Bene, 53 S. Cleveland Ave. Admission is free, though donations will be accepted.

## Et cetera

**"Celtic Holiday Hooley,"** an old-fashioned variety show with caroling, stories, live music by the Celtic Junction Band and dancing by Cormac O'Sé and the O'Shea Irish Dancers, will be presented on December 19-21 at Celtic Junction, 836 N. Prior Ave. Emceed by comedian Joshua Will and Natalie O'Shea, the entertainment begins at 7 p.m. Thursday and 1 and 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Tickets are \$25, \$20 for seniors, at the door; or \$20, \$16 for seniors, in advance. Children age 18 and under will be admitted free. Visit celticjunction.org.

**Get Better. Get home.**  
Individualized Rehab Programs



**"HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM ALL OF US..."**

**Highland Chateau**  
HEALTH + REHABILITATION CENTER

**We look forward to meeting you!**  
Admissions are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Please call us for more information, (651) 698-0793.

HighlandChateau.com



*home for the*  
**HOLIDAYS**

*Wishing all of our neighbors a prosperous 2020!*



**THE ODD COUPLE TEAM** **kw** KELLERWILLIAMS INTEGRITY REALTY **TheOddCoupleTeam.com**



19◀ 'A NUTCRACKER STORY'

The *Nutcracker* has the capacity to change that perception, according to Rambo. "It's a gateway performance into other ballet," he said. "I think that's why St. Paul Ballet asked me to play Uncle D and encouraged this idea of a narrator—to deconstruct ballet so that we can all enjoy it and be a part of it."

The choreography is fresh and fun, according to Onusko. Even the battle scene is quirky and charming rather than scary. Middle Eastern, Spanish and Russian traditions are all honored in the telling.

St. Paul Ballet operates a school at its studio at 655 N. Fairview Ave., instructing students from age 3 through high school in the art of ballet. The youngest dancers in the upcoming show are 5 years old.

Training to be a dancer is a demanding discipline, and putting on such a big production can be equally challenging, according to Onusko, who has taught dance for more than 40 years. "But the kids are

thrilled to be a part of it," she said. "Young dancers grow through the ranks. They may start as Snow Flurries, but eventually they graduate to more advanced roles."

Creating and maintaining hundreds of dazzling costumes is also demanding. Onusko designed and made many of the costumes herself, and each year parent volunteers help with alterations and repairs. "The costumes are used over and over, and it's a rite of passage to learn who used the costume before," she said.

A *Nutcracker Story* will be performed at 1 and 6 p.m. Saturday, December 21. With a 15-minute intermission, it is about 100 minutes long. A 60-minute version for school-age children will be performed at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, December 19.

Tickets for Saturday's shows are priced from \$22-\$44 with discounts for students, seniors and military personnel. Tickets for Thursday's show are \$7.50.

For reservations, call 651-690-6700 or visit [oshag.stkate.edu](http://oshag.stkate.edu).



Uncle D (played by T. Mychael Rambo) reads the story of *The Nutcracker* to his niece and nephew in the St. Paul Ballet's production of *A Nutcracker Story*. PHOTO BY L. GLEASON



Heiruspecs, seen here at the Turf Club on December 8, will return to that University Avenue stage for its annual Holiday Classic on December 27. PHOTO BY COLIN MICHAEL SIMMONS

19◀ A HEIRUSPECS HOLIDAY

"We have a chemistry as a band that's undeniable," Wilbourne said. "We hear about our friends in other bands that go through real struggles at home and on the road, and we've just never had to face that. We've had our tough times, but the highs have been so high for us that it's hard to walk away."

"And we've been calibrated toward the things that really matter," McPherson added. "Making new music matters. Playing shows outdoors and in town matters, and the things that don't fit we just don't do anymore."

Throughout its career, Heiruspecs has demonstrated a willingness to give back to the community that fostered its growth, participating in charitable events and philanthropic causes. Nine years ago, the band established a scholarship fund for Central High School graduates pursuing

higher education in the arts.

"We started the scholarship at Central because we really feel like Central gave us a lot," Wilbourne said. "Not only was it the place where we started, but it gave us a lot of encouragement. It pushed us in the right direction."

"We probably haven't gone a year without playing a benefit concert," McPherson said. "This community has been really good to us, and I think I can comfortably say that we've been really good to this community, that we've been there in times of need. It's a relationship I'm really proud of."

With their sixth album, Wilbourne said, "we're going in every direction. Some of it feels very intimate and small, and some of it feels very big and epic. We've been lucky as a band to be able to do both comfortably, and I think that will show on this project."

**Happy Holidays**  
from  
Ted, Mike & all the employees from



995 W. 7th St • 651 228-9925  
[crshamrocks.com](http://crshamrocks.com)

Casper's & Runyon's



a small place with big burgers  
Randolph & Hamline • 651 698-4347  
[crnook.com](http://crnook.com)



Ran-Ham Bowling • 651 698-0252  
[ranhambowling.com](http://ranhambowling.com)

Will be partying and having a champagne toast at both locations at midnight.

Pro Night (Mon, Dec. 30th) & Amateur Night (Tues, Dec. 31st)

**\$13<sup>95</sup> Steak & Shrimp Special**

"There will be plenty in '20"

**ONE VOICE** MINNESOTA'S LGBTQ+ MIXED CHORUS  
performs at Sundin Music Hall  
12/19 at 7:30 pm  
12/21 at 2:30 & 7:30 pm  
"VILLAGER" for 10% off tickets  
[www.onevoicemn.org](http://www.onevoicemn.org)

Roll on in for our **Winter Bowling Leagues**  
Starts Monday, January 6th  
**Happy Hours**  
Food & Drink Specials  
**RANHAM**  
BOWLING CENTER  
Ran-Ham Bowling • 651 698-0252  
[ranhambowling.com](http://ranhambowling.com)

**Healthy Smiles for a Lifetime**  
Meet Barbra Lee, DDS  
Over 25 years experience  
Gentle, compassionate care for the entire family  
**PARKWAY DENTAL CENTER**  
612.824.4211 AllBeautifulSmiles.com

**Rise & Shine**  
**New Years Day Hangover Buffet**  
Wednesday, January 1st  
11am-2:30pm \$25.95 Adults \$13.95 Kids 5 to 12 (4 & under FREE)  
Includes 1 complimentary champagne or mimosa \$1.00 refills  
Non-alcoholic beverages available. Dinner menu available at noon  
**IN NEED OF A LAST MINUTE STOCKING STUFFER?**  
**BUY \$100 IN HOLIDAY GIFT CERTIFICATES - RECEIVE \$20 FREE!**  
**Happy Hour**  
DAILY FROM 3-6 PM  
**Friday Night TRIVIA**  
9 PM - 11 PM  
**DIXIE'S** SOUTHERN STYLE  
SUNDAY BRUNCH THE BEST IN TOWN  
651-222-7345  
[dixiesongrand.com](http://dixiesongrand.com)  
695 Grand Avenue | St. Paul

# Sports



## The Wright Call By Dave Wright

### We're also now the state of volleyball

**Q**uick quiz: Since 1972, what athletic program at the University of Minnesota has had a winning percentage of .701 with just three losing seasons? If you answered volleyball, go to the head of the class.

For years, volleyball was a secret society of sorts at the U. In the 1970s and early '80s, the team was coached by Linda Wells, who also coached Gophers softball. Stephanie Schleuder came on board in 1982. In her dozen years at the helm, the U had just two losing seasons, but volleyball remained in the background in the eyes of Gopher backers.

Minnesota women's athletic director Chris Voelz got into a spat with Schleuder and fired her in 1994. Pam Dombeck took over as interim coach and the Gophers went 13-17 overall—just the third losing season in school history.

Voelz is not remembered fondly in Gopher lore, but she deserves credit for one thing: She had the foresight to hire Mike Hebert away from Illinois, where he led the Illini to four Big Ten titles and two trips to the NCAA Final Four.

With Hebert here, the Land of 10,000 Lakes and at least that many pucks quickly had company on the athletic front with volleyball nets popping up in gyms all over the state.

"Mike was meticulous and pragmatic. He worked from the ground up," said Geoff Carlston, who worked for Hebert as a student assistant for two years and went on to help turn Concordia University-St. Paul into one of the top Division II volleyball programs in the country.

Carlston, who is now head coach at Ohio State, has never forgotten his roots and how Hebert, who died in October, helped turn Minnesota into a volleyball hotbed.

"It was a grassroots mentality," Carlston remembered. "Mike recruited players who were physical and athletic."

Hebert worked the media as best he could, but it wasn't until his first two teams advanced to the NCAA tournament and won a match that the public really began to pay attention. When the Gophers advanced to a regional semifinal three years out of four and then to the Final Four, the transformation was complete.

Volleyball clubs popped up everywhere in the state and there are now 15,000 girls in nearly every age bracket playing in leagues that run close to year-round. While California remains the top source for Division I volleyball players, Minnesota has made big strides. Five members of the current Gophers are Minnesota natives and all 10 players on the state's Select Top 18 team earned Division I scholarships last year.

The No. 7 Gophers (27-5) beat No. 10 Florida in five sets in the NCAA regional semifinal on December 13 in Austin, Texas, and then swept unranked Louisville in three sets the next night to earn a trip to the Final Four. They will face No. 3 Stanford on December 19 in Pittsburgh.

Minnesota got to Austin with a dramatic five-set win over

WRIGHT CALL ► 24

## Girls' basketball preview

Participation rebounds for some, while others wait

BY BRIAN JOHNSON

**M**innesota is bucking the trend when it comes to participation in high school girls' basketball. From 2008-2018, participation was down roughly 10 percent nationally. However, in Minnesota participation was up nearly 4 percent.

Local teams appear to be somewhere in the middle. Some schools report solid growth in the sport, while others are treading water or are down slightly.

Visitation has 32 players this season, up from 25 a year ago. Thanks to the robust numbers, the Blazers will field C-squad, junior varsity and varsity teams this year. "We hope to see that trend continue," coach James O'Brien said.

Highland Park has not seen its numbers go up, but more girls are joining "with no or very little prior basketball experience," said assistant coach Francene Young Rolstad.

At Henry Sibley, participation is down a bit from the last two seasons, but there's a lot of excitement at the lower levels, according to coach Harry Jenness Jr. "I've heard from other coaches of participation being down due to specialization," he said. Even so, he added, "Minnesota continues to be a great place for colleges to recruit players."

Cretin-Derham Hall coach Crystal Flint said she gets the sense that more girls are playing basketball at the AAU level, and high school programs are losing their players to other sports. Club volleyball teams, for example, are putting pressure on girls to specialize in that sport, Flint said, though she believes girls can do both.

The girls' basketball season is now underway. Here's a look at the local teams:

#### CENTRAL

**League:** St. Paul City  
**Last year's record:** 7-18  
**Coach:** Marlon McCoy

**Key players:** junior guard Alayjza Campbell, sophomore guard Eleanor Cordes, junior center Aaliyah Hamilton, senior guards Sherynn Titus and Afiya Ward.

**Outlook:** Central returns eight players from last season. The team is athletic, but young overall: Of the top 10 players, four are freshmen. The Minutemen look to be competitive in the conference against such rivals as Como Park and Highland Park.



Minnehaha's Charlotte Wold and Jennica Suggs battle Highland's Morgan Jones for the ball in the Redhawks' win on December 10. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

#### CRETIN-DERHAM HALL

**League:** Suburban East  
**Last year's record:** 14-14  
**Coach:** Crystal Flint

**Key players:** senior guards Sydney Jackson and Nevaeh Moeschter, junior guards Audrey Martinez-Stewart and Takara Mason, senior forward Ana Cullen, freshman forward Tootie Lewis and junior forward Olivia Allen.

**Outlook:** CDH is athletic and quick in the backcourt, but is relatively inexperienced when it comes to girls who have played together before. With good up-and-coming talent, the Raiders should be an exciting team to watch this season.

#### HENRY SIBLEY

**League:** Metro East  
**Last year's record:** 17-9  
**Coach:** Harry Jenness Jr.

**Key players:** senior forwards Jaelyn Orth and SeSe Burks, senior guard Hope Korte, junior forward Caroline Anderson and junior guard Natalie Parnell.

**Outlook:** Sibley has ample varsity experience, along with good depth and players who are familiar with the system, so the Warriors have reason to be optimistic this season. "It's an exciting time with new opportunities and roles for everyone to step into this year," coach Jenness said.

#### HIGHLAND PARK

**League:** St. Paul City  
**Last year's record:** 19-7

**Coach:** Deb Williams

**Key players:** senior guards Tiana Ellis and Anna Grundhoefer, senior forward Breyana Turner, senior center Dejonae Johnson and junior center Morgan Jones.

**Outlook:** Highland has a lot of experienced players back on the court, but not a lot of size on the roster. The Scots have several returning players who have logged significant playing time. The team will rely on its speed to be competitive in the conference.

#### MINNEHAHA ACADEMY

**League:** Independent Metro Athletic  
**Last year's record:** 19-6, state AA champs  
**Coach:** Matt Pryor

**Key players:** senior point guard Mia Curtis, senior guard Tanna Gallo, senior forward Kate Pryor, sophomore forward Telia Graham, sophomore point guard Penny Sedgwick, eighth-grade forward Jennica Suggs and eighth-grade point guard Berit Parten.

**Outlook:** Minnehaha returns an abundance of talent from last year's state championship squad. Ranked among the top 10 teams in AA, the Redhawks look to play a fast-paced game with lots of three-point shooting. "Our girls feel like they have something to prove. We're excited to defend our state title," coach Pryor said.

GIRLS' HOOPS PREVIEW ► 24



## SAINT THOMAS ACADEMY

WE ARE EXPERTS IN EDUCATING BOYS!

JAN 12

JOIN US FOR OUR  
ADMISSIONS SHOWCASE!  
RSVP @ [cadets.com/showcase](http://cadets.com/showcase)



# Boys' basketball preview

## Coaches differ on how much height helps

BY BILL WAGNER

When it comes to building a high school boys' team, the responses of local coaches are varied on the role that height plays in the mix. Still, there's one conclusion they all agree on: You don't have to have height, but if you do, it sure helps.

"I'd rather have athletes than just height," said Henry Sibley coach John Carrier. He noted that a team that's physically skilled and plays well together can always find a way to get good looks at the basket and play strong defense by virtue of their quickness.

Minnehaha Academy coach Lance Johnson said that there's truth in that. "You can get away with guard lineups if the other side isn't that athletic," he said.

Nova coach Duane Heidemann said there has been a movement away from needing to have a dominant big guy to win. "You can have guys who are 6-foot or 6-foot-2," Heidemann said. "The key is that they play bigger than that, have a good wing span and play smart basketball. But the big thing is effort. If you work hard, you can win a lot of games."

Central coach Scott Howell agreed that the days of relying on a big man down low are past. "Now it's all about speed—getting up and down the court. The game has changed," he said.

The proof is in the pudding. Early this season, Cretin-Derham Hall defeated a supposedly invincible Minnehaha Academy squad. "We're not big, but we do have some athletic guys," said Raiders coach Jerry Kline.

Sensational Redhawks point guard Jalen Suggs still scored 30 points in that game, but Kline said his players did a good job in limiting Minnehaha's 7-foot forward Chet Holmgren to 10 points and 10 rebounds. The Raiders also made 13 of 23 three-point shots.

First-year St. Paul Academy coach Kevin Keto had another way to look at this question. "To win state, you have to have elite athletes—along with height," he said.

Here's how the local boys' basketball teams stack up this season:

### CENTRAL

**League:** St. Paul City  
**Last year's record:** 22-7  
**Coach:** Scott Howell

**Key players:** senior guard/forward Caron Crowe, junior guard/forwards Gavin Gothard and Kaden Doram.

**Outlook:** The Minutemen will try to compensate for the loss of several key players by starting two sophomores. Howell hopes to see consistent progress throughout the season. "We want to play defense and contain people," he said. "We'll continue to grow and we should be an OK team."

### CRETIN-DERHAM HALL

**League:** Suburban East  
**Last year's record:** 22-6  
**Coach:** Jerry Kline

**Key players:** senior forward Amari Carter, senior guards Zion Guerra and Curtis Jones, senior forward Will Burke, junior guard Jack Tauer, senior forwards Jack Clipper, Danny McGraw and J'Vonne Hadley.

**Outlook:** Kline said rebounding is a concern for his undersized team, but his Raiders have significant talent. "We really like our team," he said. "We have good chemistry. Our guys like playing together."

### HENRY SIBLEY

**League:** Metro East  
**Last year's record:** 6-21  
**Coach:** John Carrier

**Key players:** junior point guard Dewayne Thompson, junior forward Joey Hazzard, sophomore guard Tre Michaels and senior post Michael Davis.

**Outlook:** It's expected to be a year of growth for the Warriors. "We're young, with just one returnee," Carrier said, "and we have one senior who is new."

### HIGHLAND PARK

**League:** St. Paul City  
**Last year's record:** 8-19  
**Coach:** Jesse McCann

**Last year's record:** 5-19  
**Coach:** Michael Wright

**Key players:** senior forwards Kayla Johnson and Emma Horstman, senior center Christell Mitchell, eighth-grade guards Olivia Wren and Jaida Walker, eighth-grade forward Cady Davis, sophomore guard Maya Reichert-Giron, freshman guard Ava Maly and sophomore forward Kyla Brown.

**Outlook:** Roosevelt has good team speed and players who can shoot from the outside as well as drive to the basket. With only three seniors, the Teddies are quite young and it may take some time for the girls to learn to play together. The team was off to a good start with



SPA's Adam Holod fights for an opening between New Life Academy players in the Spartans' 67-66 loss to the Eagles on December 10. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

**Key players:** junior guards Carter Owens and Joey Kottke, junior forward Nico Peterson and senior forward Yuval Lerman.

**Outlook:** The Scots have some distinct assets, according to their coach. "We're long, lanky and athletic," McCann said, "and we have a solid group of guards who can handle the ball." He said his team should be able to compete for the conference title.

### MINNEHAHA ACADEMY

**League:** IMAC  
**Last year's record:** 29-2  
**Coach:** Lance Johnson

**Key players:** senior point guard Jalen Suggs, senior guard Terry Lockett, junior forward Chet Holmgren and sophomore forward Prince Aligbe.

**Outlook:** Johnson is not hesitant about assessing this year's Redhawks, who are the three-time defending Class AA state champs. "We have more talent than we've ever had," he said. "We just want to keep the guys grounded." A tough schedule should keep them sharp.

### NOVA ACADEMY

**League:** Skyline  
**Last year's record:** 13-13  
**Coach:** Duane Heidemann

**Key players:** junior guard Jack Monroe and junior center Ben Parsonage.

four wins in its first six games.

### ST. PAUL ACADEMY

**League:** Independent Metro Athletic  
**Last year's record:** 10-13  
**Coach:** Natalie McElligott

**Key players:** junior point guard Rashmi Raveendran, junior guards Jane Christakos and Annabelle Bond, junior forwards Gabriella Thompson and Pilar Saavedra-Weis, senior forwards Abby Hedberg and Ayla Straub, and freshman guard Lindsay Browne.

**Outlook:** SPA returns a strong group of juniors and seniors, but the Spartans play in a tough conference with teams that include defending state champion Minnehaha Acad-

**Outlook:** Nova finds itself in a new league this season and Heidemann is looking forward to the journey. "It'll be a new challenge. It'll be a season of growth," he said.

### ST. PAUL ACADEMY

**League:** Independent Metro Athletic  
**Last year's record:** 17-11  
**Coach:** Kevin Keto

**Key players:** senior guard Alex Herrmann, junior point guard Adam Holod, senior guard Griffin Thissen and senior forward Liam Will.

**Outlook:** The Spartans have four players returning from last year's rotation. The club is undersized, and new coach Keto said it could take a while to be playing at full capacity.

### ST. THOMAS ACADEMY

**League:** Metro East  
**Last year's record:** 17-12  
**Coach:** Jason Birr

**Key players:** junior guard Yenika Fondungallah, junior forwards Jamie Smith and Ryan Chamberlain, and senior forward Stephen Betts.

**Outlook:** The Cadets have only one senior. Birr knows there's talent in the young players, though, and he believes they'll mature well. "Our expectations won't be any different with respect to how we play the game," he said.

*Roosevelt did not respond in time to be included in this preview.*

emy. With four wins in their first five games, the Spartans were also off to a strong start.

### VISITATION

**League:** Tri-Metro East  
**Last year's record:** 7-15  
**Coach:** James O'Brien

**Key players:** senior guard Ella Hinkemeyer, senior forward Adrienne Miller, sophomore guard Caroline Fenlon and sophomore center Olivia Johans.

**Outlook:** Visitation has good overall speed and athleticism. It has six seniors and a lot of multisport athletes, but few who play hoops year-round. The Blazers will look to build on last year's win total by improving on defense.

## 23◀ GIRLS' HOOPS PREVIEW

### NOVA ACADEMY

**League:** Twin Cities Athletic-Division 3  
**Last year's record:** 7-6  
**Coach:** John Clarkin

**Key players:** sophomore guard Genevieve Adelman and freshman forward Bella Arco.

**Outlook:** Nova returns its two leading scorers. Young and inexperienced, the Knights have only two juniors, one sophomore, six freshmen, three eighth-graders and two seventh-graders. Still, all of the starters are back.

### ROOSEVELT

**League:** Minneapolis City

## 23◀ WRIGHT CALL

Creighton before a raucous crowd of 4,003 at Maturi Pavilion. The Gophers needed a 26-24 win in the fourth set and a 15-10 decision in the fifth to keep their season alive.

That, in itself, is impressive. So is the fact that schools like Concordia, which finished 27-8, and MIAC champ St. Thomas (30-5) had teams with 13 members apiece from the Gopher State.

There were two events that occurred off the court that showed how important volleyball has become to Minnesota. The first happened in the off-season. Before it became the home for Gopher volleyball, Maturi was Williams (and later Mariucci) Arena, the site for men's hockey. It was constructed in 1927, long before air conditioning was common.

When the newer hockey arena was built, volleyball moved into the building. The arena was known to heat up with crowds. In 2018, a match had to be postponed due to excess heat. That was the last straw. The financial war chest was opened and Maturi now has air conditioning, a welcome sign of progress.

That's a worthy benchmark, but this one may be the topper. On a Sunday afternoon last month, the Gopher women's hockey team was hosting Wisconsin at Ridder Arena. Faceoff was at 2 p.m. Before the game, the press room television was turned to the Vikings game at Kansas City. At the request of several people, the TV channel was turned at 1 p.m. to the Minnesota volleyball match at Purdue.

When you can get enough members of the sporting public around these parts to switch to volleyball from a Vikings game on a Sunday afternoon, you've done something that even a visionary like Mike Hebert couldn't have imagined.

### 'Tis the season to be...grumpy

In mid-September, if U of M football fans had been told that their team would be playing on New Year's Day, there would have been some funny looks. After all, the Gophers had just finished a nonconference schedule in which they squeaked by three teams that were hardly powerhouses.

However, things began to click and Minnesota posted six straight Big Ten wins before dropping a game at Iowa. The Gophers rebounded with a solid win at Northwestern, but the

combination of a very good Wisconsin team and miserable weather conditions was too much for the Gophers to handle and Minnesota lost to the Badgers 38-17.

Giving credit where it's due—particularly to Wisconsin—is not a strong suit for Gopher fans. There was much grumbling online and on talk radio for the next two weeks. Minnesota got its just reward when it was picked to play Auburn in the Outback Bowl in Tampa on New Year's Day. That hasn't pacified the grumblers totally, but it's likely nothing would.

The grouse were also out in force after the Vikings' 20-7 win over Detroit on December 8. The victory was apparently not enough for many media members and their acolytes on talk radio who wanted a more lopsided verdict.

Unless they fall totally apart, the Vikings will make the playoffs. At that point, literally anything can happen.

Accordingly, here's a holiday wish for the grumblers: Lighten up. The fans of teams that aren't playing next month should be the ones saying, "Bah, humbug." In case some have forgotten, that included Vikings fans just a year ago.

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

# Classifieds

**LEGAL NOTICES**

**NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
COUNTY OF RAMSEY  
SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
DISTRICT COURT PROBATE DIVISION  
Court File No. 62-PR-19-927  
Estate of Irene D-ette Henderson,  
Decedent

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on January 14, 2020, at 9:00 a.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at 15 W. Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul, MN, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of the Decedent dated, August 11, 2017, ("Will"), and for the appointment of Penny Liljedahl, whose address is 431 Brainerd Ave., St. Paul, MN, 55130 as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration.

Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate. Notice is also given that (subject to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

Dated: November 27, 2019  
Signed: Kimberly Smith  
Deputy Court Administrator  
Attorney for Petitioner:  
Patricia J. Stotzheim  
Stotzheim Law Office & Mediation, LLC  
287 E. 6th St., Ste. 225 St. Paul, MN, 55101  
Attorney License No: 0387054  
Telephone: (651) 917-5343  
FAX: (651) 204-1137  
Email: Patty@Stotzheimlaw.com

**HOLIDAY GIFTS**

**HANDMADE SIGNS.** Custom Signs made to order for gifts, business, sales, weddings, retirement, etc. Use your logo, family name, favorite quote...unlimited possibilities. Wood, canvas, glass, mirror, chalkboard, etc. For more details and a quote, send a text to 612-860-5137 or visit VelvetElvis.com

**PERSONALIZED TEXTILES.** Custom designed, small run, t-shirts, hoodies, tank-tops, blankets, pillowcases, canvas etc. for holiday gifts or any occasion you are promoting. For more details, text 612-860-5137 or visit VelvetElvis.com

**LOCAL TWIN CITIES CBD Store.** Use Code VILLAGER to Save 20%. www.SimplyCraftedCBD.com

**FOR SALE**

**UPGRADE YOUR OFFICE.** The Villager has several modular office pieces, filing cabinets and other miscellaneous used office equipment for sale, all at reasonable prices. Call Craig at 651-699-1462 for an appointment to take a look and make an offer.

**FIREWOOD.** FREE delivery. 90% oak, 2-year seasoned; stacked solid 4'x8'x16", \$145, unless bigger quantity. Call Mark, 320-980-1637.

**WANTED TO BUY**

**DIAMONDS,** fine estate and antique jewelry. We know and appreciate the value of your jewelry. R. F. Moeller Jeweler, 2065 Ford Parkway, 651-698-6321. Certified Gemologist.

**BEST PAYOUT!** Old furniture, advertising, beer memorabilia and more. 651-227-2469.

**OLD RECORDS,** LPs/45s, Rock, Jazz, Country, Soul, more. 651-224-4947.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

Phone 651-699-1462

Email WantAds@MyVillager.com

Classified Categories & more information available at [www.MyVillager.com](http://www.MyVillager.com)

Classified ads are \$1.20 per word, \$12 minimum.

5% discount for prepayment of 7 issues.

10% discount for prepayment of 13 issues.

All classifieds are prepaid by cash, check or credit card.

Next Issue: January 8

Deadline: December 31

**WANTED TO BUY**

**HIGHEST CASH** for costume jewelry. I make house calls. Mary, 612-729-3110.

**BUYING VINYL RECORD** and CD collections. Top prices paid. 651-247-4180.

**HOME IMPROVEMENT**

**PATES ROOFING.** Finest in residential roofing. Local references. License #RR155317. Insured. Member BBB. Call 651-690-3956. PatesRoofing.com

**KEVIN'S PAINTING/Repair.** Wood frame, stucco, power washing, glazing, staining, cement work. Insured. 651-699-2832.

**PAINTER JIM.** Since 1982. Small painting jobs, wallpaper removal. 612-202-5514.

**ALEXANDER'S PAINTING.** High quality work at affordable rates. Full service interior/exterior. Free estimates. 651-246-2869; www.painteral.com

**CARPENTRY/REMODELING.** Kitchens/Baths specialty. 25+ years'. Exceptional experience. Licensed/insured. Martin, 612-701-5394.

**HOME IMPROVEMENT**

**PROFESSIONAL INTERIOR/EXTERIOR PAINTING, WALLPAPER HANGING, CEILING TEXTURING.** MODERATE PRICES; FREE ESTIMATES. LICENSED, BONDED, INSURED. MERRIAM PARK PAINTING. ED, 651-224-3660; "A NEIGHBOR YOU CAN TRUST." MPPAINTING.COM

**\*REMODEL-DESIGN-CONSULT\*** Kitchens, doors, windows, basements. Additions, decks, fences, porches. Reasonable rates. Personal, professional, proficient. Free estimates. "Building Brocks", 651-285-3237.

**STEVE'S PAINTING.** Quality Interior/Exterior; 30+ years; good references. 651-207-2249c. stevepaintmsp@gmail.com

**QUALITY CARPENTRY;** interior remodeling/exterior renovation. Licensed. Insured. Reasonable. John, 651-644-4957.

**\*BATHROOMS\*** YoungCastle Bathrooms specializing in bathroom design, repair, creation and remodeling. Great savings! Call for free consultation. 651-257-4706; www.youngcastlebathrooms.com

**HOME IMPROVEMENT**

**CARPENTRY/SHEETROCK.** Framing. Remodeling. Tile. Professional. Reasonable. Estimates. Frank, 651-276-7094.

**BILL'S PAINTING.** 38 years' experience; painting, wallpaper, staining, texturing. Plaster repairs. Fully insured. Free estimates. Attention to detail. Call Bill, 612-790-1266.

**STAIRWAY BALUSTERS** and column bases replicated plus other woodturning and woodworking. 612-940-7591 or thturning pointwoodworks.com

**MIKE MOHS Construction Co.** All types roofing/gutters. Siding, windows/skylights. Honesty and integrity for 50 years! Family owned, operated. Licensed, bonded, insured. #BC005456. Scott, 612-701-2209.

**RIVERVIEW CEMENT.** 30+ years' experience. References. Free estimates. Ray Johnson, 651-238-1435. Bobcat work also.

**CARPENTRY-HANDYMAN.** 30 years' experience. No job too small. 651-497-9891.

**EVERYTHING DRYWALL.** Sheetrock, plaster, textures, skim coating and painting. Insured. David, 612-554-3028.

**HOME SERVICES**

**BURTON'S RAIN Gutter Service.** GUTTERS CLEANED, repaired, installed. Since 1973. Insured, bonded. License #BC126373; 651-699-8900.

**ANYTHING MOVED.** Call Good Stuff Moving. Reasonably priced. Licensed, insured. We sell boxes. 651-488-4808.

**ReliableMaintenanceAndRepair.com.** Remodeling and Handyman Services. MN License #BC665235. 651-262-9765.

**HOME SERVICES**

**LIGHTHOUSE MOVING.** St. Paul business since 2004. A+ rating with the Minnesota Better Business Bureau. Licensed. Insured. 651-387-2955 LighthouseMoving.com

**HIGHLAND HANDYMAN.** Good work. Reasonable rates. Free estimates. Mitch, 651-698-5595.

**GUTTER CLEANING & Repair.** 29th year in Villager area. Fully insured for your peace of mind. Call us today. Free estimates, 651-287-0970.

**ALL AMERICAN One Construction.** #BC635082. Licensed/Insured. Snow and ice dam removal. Stop leaks. Roofing. Total Remodeling: Basements to Chimneys. 20% Senior Discount. BBB Listed, also Angie's List. Free estimates. Jeff, 651-285-1937.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS** from your friends at Minnehaha Building Maintenance. 651-287-0970.

**HANDYMAN FROM A-Z.** Quality work, 30 years' experience. 651-483-8581.

**CLEAN OUT** accumulated, stored junk/debris. Hauling. Reasonable. Frank, 651-276-7094.

**\*CILEK FURNITURE REPAIR\*** Complete chair re-glue since 1960. 651-699-4022.

**TILE & GROUT CLEANING.** Re-Grouting, Re-Caulking, Sealing, Tile Repair & Restoration. Call Alex @ 651-343-0014 or visit HohnandHohnRestoration.com

**GREG'S HARDWOOD Floors, Inc.** Installation, sand and refinish. Free Estimate. 651-214-4959. In business since 2002.

Continued page 26

**VILLAGER SUBSCRIPTIONS MAKE PERFECT GIFTS!**

**12 MONTHS \$38 • 6 MONTHS \$25**

**VILLAGER** 757 SNELLING AVE S, ST. PAUL, MN 55116  
SUBSCRIPTIONS@MYVILLAGER.COM • 651-699-1462

# Service Directory

**CHIMNEY REPAIR & TUCKPOINTING**  
 • Stone Foundation Repair  
 • Brick/Stone Building Restoration  
 All Repair/Restoration done to Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) specifications  
**ROGERS MASONRY**  
 651-224-6985  
 www.Rogers-Masonry.com  
 LICENSED • BONDED • INSURED

**LOCKSMITH**  
 Fast Mobile Service  
 We cut Keys and install Deadbolt Locks  
**Babcock & Son**  
 SECURITY CORPORATION  
 716 SO. CLEVELAND  
 651-690-4443

**VISIONS TREE SERVICE**  
 24 Hour Emergency Storm Service  
 Expert Climbers • Professional Service  
 Tree Trimming & Removal • Stump Removal  
 LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED  
 651-464-3317  
 Residential Commercial  
 All Major Credit Cards Accepted FREE ESTIMATES

**ESCOBAR HARDWOOD FLOORS, LLC**  
 • Installation • Repair • Refinishing  
 • Sanding (Dust Free) • 18 yrs exp  
 Free Estimates  
 651-230-7232 952-292-2349  
 escobarflooring@gmail.com

**PETER WILSON DRYWALL & PLASTER REPAIR**  
 95% Dust-Free Vacuum Sanding!  
 651-246-4758  
 PETERWILSONDRYWALL.COM  
 Since 1986

**Walls • Ceilings Floors**  
**HIGHLAND PARK PAINTERS**  
 651-497-9891

**Sullivan Construction Company**  
 Roofing & Siding  
 651-436-8975  
 Free Estimates • Licensed & Insured  
 • 30 Years Exp. MN License #BC515019

**Byron Electric**  
 Residential & Commercial  
 ★ Free Estimates ★  
 612-750-5724  
 byronelectric@comcast.net  
 Lic. EA006349

**WALLS & CEILINGS**  
 Plaster Repair • Drywall Taping  
 Texture Ceilings • Painting  
**Mud Alchemy**  
 612-272-3697  
 Insured Specializing since 1992. Free Estimates

**FOCUS PLUMBING**  
 Repair • Remodel  
 Licensed, Bonded & Insured  
 FocusPlumbingServices.com  
 Mark 651.295.5417 Lic# PM06530

**GENERAL CONTRACTOR**  
 Interior & Exterior  
 • Free Estimates • References  
**EXTERIORS BY DESIGN**  
 Call Jesse 651-206-2454  
 ExteriorsByDesignLLC.com

**Wet Basement?**  
 Call Andrew - Free Estimates  
 651-587-0015  
 Dry Basement Guys LLC

**MERRIAM PARK PAINTING**  
 Free Estimates  
 • Interior-Exterior Painting  
 • Ceiling Texturing Lic. Bond. Ins.  
 • Wallpapering  
 Call Ed, 651-224-3660  
 www.mppainting.com

**Don Rhoades Electric**  
 Licensed • Bonded • Insured  
 39 years exp. - free estimates  
 612-386-7366 Lic# EA000530

**Borden Window**  
 bordenwindow.com  
 651-338-7163  
 Window Restoration & Weather Stripping  
 We turn old drafty windows into energy efficient tilt-in windows—for less!

Treating your house like a home.  
**Painting by Jerry Wind**  
 FREE ESTIMATES  
 (651) 699-6140 or (612) 827-6140  
 www.PaintingByJerryWind.com

**THE FINISHED FLOOR** Since 2004  
 Quality Craftsmanship Guaranteed!  
 "We Bring The Showroom To You"  
 Hardwood Install, Sanding & finishing  
 Waterproof Luxury Vinyl • Carpet • Laminate  
 thefinishedfloor.com 651-455-8900

**Steigauf Brothers**  
 ~ Since 1980 ~ COMPLETE  
 LANDSCAPING, LAWN  
 & SNOW PLOWING SERVICES  
 Residential & Commercial  
 Mark Steigauf 651-698-0395

**HELP WANTED**  
 Get paid to exercise!  
 Newspaper delivery people for both employee and independent contractor positions.  
 Weekday and weekend routes available.  
 No early morning delivery.  
 CONTACT Brian Amundsen at 612-919-8626 or 651-487-1328  
 Independent Delivery Service  
 440 West Minnehaha Ave., St. Paul, MN 55103

Join the more than **6,000** people who follow the **Villager** on Facebook.  
 Facebook.com/TheVillagerMN/

Lifetime No Crack Guarantee.  
**HAGE CONCRETE WORKS**  
 SINCE 1930  
 651-690-4243  
 HageConcrete.com

**HOME SERVICES**

**Continued**  
 ODD JOB?? Young man, out of college, looking to earn some extra money doing odd jobs. If it's a big enough job, I bring my Dad along to help. My name's Malone: 651-434-8644.

MISSIONARY HANDYMAN. Pay what you can afford. Odd jobs. 651-491-0639.

HANDYMAN SERVICES by Merriam Park Painting. Small house projects done right! Sash cords, torn screens, sticking doors, pictures hung and more. 651-224-3660.

**SNOW/LAWN/LANDSCAPE**

\*P.H.M. INC. 651-231-7748\*  
 LOCATED DOWNTOWN St. Paul. OUTSTANDING SNOW SERVICE. Competitive rates. 30+ years. Snowplowing, shoveling, hauling, salting and deicing. Complete hardscaping/landscaping services. Free estimates. Licensed. Insured. References. phminc@frontier-net.net or www.MurphysLawnAndLandscape.com

\*ALLEY PLOWING\*  
 Best prices. Reliable. Tim, 651-690-1284.

**SNOW/LAWN/LANDSCAPE**

THE BEST Residential Snow Removal Services. Seasonal contracts starting as low as \$280/month. Bluhm Brothers Landscaping. 651-227-2584 or www.BluhmBrothers.com

SNOW REMOVAL. SEASONAL CLEAN-UPS. GUTTER CLEANING. Lawn Service. Free estimates. Insured. 651-699-2832.

CREATIVE DESIGNS. I can help you install. Horticulture Degree, U of MN. Certified Nursery/Landscape Professional. Living Space Landscapes. Scott Solomonson, 612-868-7787; www.LandscapesByScott.com

CNT SNOW REMOVAL and Lawn Care. Hedge trimming. Highland resident. Chris, 651-757-6339.

TREE SERVICE. Local Tree Tech, licensed, insured, clean, efficient. Dean, 651-298-0781.

TREE WORK & Stump Removal. A Tree Service, Inc. 612-724-6045.

SNOW SHOVELING. Holiday/Vacation rates. Snelling-Grand area. Jim, 612-202-5514.

FAST, RELIABLE Snow Removal. Call 612-244-8188. www.highlandsnowremoval.com

ROOF SNOW, ice removal and snow shoveling. GUTTER CLEANING. Licensed, insured; #BC126373. Burton's Rain Gutter Service, 651-699-8900.

\*ROOF SNOW & ICE REMOVAL\* Professional and experienced. Protect your roof! Ryan, 651-690-3956. PatesRoofing.com

**HEALTH & FITNESS**

100% ALL NATURAL CBD PRODUCTS. HempWorx products are made from industrial hemp plants grown on American farms. Makes a great gift! www.HempWorx.com/RF

NIELS HEALS ON WHEELS in your home or in relaxing setting in Highland. Packages and sliding scale. Certified. 612-306-7515

**DON'T Replace your windows**  
 "Providing Effective Alternatives to Window Replacement"  
**Restoration WINDOW SYSTEMS**  
 651-222-5075

**GIFT IDEAS CLOSE TO HOME**  
 PAGE 12

We Now Accept **Legal Listings!**  
 Call us for details.  
**VILLAGER**  
 651-699-1462

# Service Directory

**HOUSECLEANING**

EXCELLENT CLEANING, reasonable rates, reliable, experienced. Estimates available. Ann, 651-776-7834.

NICCI MAIDS. Professional Housecleaning Services. Bonded and insured. References. 651-253-5561.

MB's CLEANING. 26 years' experience. Toxic-free, organizing, "A" rated, Holiday specials, gift certificates. 651-329-4741. mbscleaning.com

L & A CLEAN MACHINE. Quality Service/Good Pricing. Residential and commercial cleaning. 770-837-1333.

TWO SISTERS Cleaning Service. Honest, dedicated and professional. Commercial/Residential. Chelsea & Ruth, 651-447-9084.

**COMPUTER/INTERNET/TV**

HOME COMPUTER SERVICES: On site, free pickup, delivery, troubleshooting, upgrades, virus spyware removal, networking wired and wireless, installation. Great rates. 10 years in Highland. 651-698-7519; 651-470-3792.

HIGHLAND COMPUTERS. Full service Mac & PC repair. 474 Hamline. 651-207-8276.

FRIENDLY 24-YEAR-OLD, with two years of college, available to help you better understand and work with your computer. Reasonable rates. Call 651-434-8644.

**OFFICE/PROOFREADING**

WRITE AWAY CREATIVE. Transcription/Typing/Copy Editing. Legal, academic, memoirs. 651-690-4779.

**WEB/GRAPHIC DESIGN**

PROFESSIONAL WEBSITE AND WORDPRESS DESIGN, development and maintenance. Graphic design of logos, flyers, invitations, newsletters, catalogs, brochures, etc. Fast, reasonable and local. 25+ years' experience. For details, text 612-860-5137 or visit VelvetElvis.com

**ENTERTAINMENT**

SINGER-GUITARIST. Popular songs from across the decades; weddings, private parties; listen at www.johnmischke.com. Call 651-647-0659.

**MUSIC INSTRUCTION**

PIANO. Ph.D. Music Indiana University. Lawrence Wilson, 651-699-0812.

GUITAR/UKULELE Lessons. Suzuki/Traditional. Classical/Popular. All Ages. Gene Swanson, 651-269-6983.

GREAT PIANO lessons in my cozy home...or yours. Trish, 651-387-0099.

**PIANO TUNING/REPAIR**

TIME TO Tune? Sticky Keys? Excellent Service. Call/Text Torger, 651-230-0193.

GAVINPIANO.COM. Registered piano tuner/technician. See website for coupon. 651-644-3111.

**HOME/HEALTH PROVIDER**

IN-HOME CARE. Full services. Specializing in dementia/hospice. Certified/Insured. References. WE CAN HELP. 651-757-5448.

CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT (CNA)/Former Teacher Assistant. Looking to provide occasional care for seniors, adults and children in your home. (BLS). CPR first aid certification. Ann, 651-331-0844.

**MASSAGE THERAPY**

THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE IN YOUR HOME BY A PHYSICAL THERAPIST. Call Heidi for consultation at 651-659-9527. Women only.

**SEWING/TAILORING**

HIGHLANDTAILORS. Alterations/Tailoring. Women/Men. 712 South Cleveland. 651-698-6117. HighlandTailors.com

**HELP WANTED**

MOHS TAX Service at 1771 Ford Parkway is hiring experienced tax preparers for the season. Fax resume to 651-699-8638 or drop at office.

**FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL**

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

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

GRAND AVENUE 1860. Charming 2 bedroom, 2 bath, \$1600 plus heat/electric. No smoking/pets. 651-699-8900.

**FOR RENT - COMMERCIAL**

\*OUTSTANDING COMMERCIAL OFFICE SUITE AVAILABLE\* 241 S. Cleveland Ave. (Southwest corner of Cleveland & St. Clair). 200 square feet-Single Office Suite with exterior window. Waiting area for clients. New carpet/paint throughout common areas and Suite. Off-Street Parking. Breakroom within building. Call Frank @ 612-708-4117 for an immediate response. Or email me at ffrench@midcontinentmgmt.com

**ROOF REPAIRS**  
Save Thousands Over Replacement!  
**ROOF SNOW REMOVAL**  
Complete Roofing Services Since 1972  
**VB, INC.**  
Vern Buckman  
612-599-8200 cell  
651-731-1291 office  
Lic.#20216197

**JOE'S SERVICES**  
**REMODEL RENOVATE RESTORE**  
NEW CONSTRUCTION  
baths, basements and more...  
651-276-8233

**MORAN'S**  
Hardwood Flooring LLC  
Installation and Refinishing  
Licensed, bonded & insured  
Call today for a free estimate!  
**TOM MORAN**  
(651) 335-6388

**Roger's Tree Service**  
Your Neighborhood Tree Service Since 1974  
Certified Arborist  
**651-699-7022**  
Cell: 612-414-9241  
**www.rogertree.com**

Branch and Bough Tree Service  
651.222.4538  
andy@branchandbough.com  
www.branchandbough.com  
Fully Licensed and Insured  
ISA Certified Arborists  
Call for a Free Estimate Today!  
Arboriculture Rooted in Excellence  
Committed to Sustainable Landscapes

**HINDING COMPANY**  
HEATING & AIR  
"Your Local Neighborhood Heating & Cooling Specialists Since 1936"  
• Furnace • Boiler • A/C  
**Affordable Rates**  
**651-228-1303**  
**www.hindingheating.com**  
915 W. 7th Street | St. Paul

**YOUR LAST ROOF EVER!**  
METAL ROOFING & SIDING OF MINNESOTA  
Visit our website  
**Quarve.com**  
Since 1983  
MnBC006016  
**763-785-1472**  
Quarve CONTRACTING  
Steel Roofing/Siding.com

**HIGHLAND PARK PAINTERS**  
Exterior/Interior Home Painting  
Wall & Ceiling Repair  
Spray Texture  
Fine Enameling  
Cabinet Resurfacing  
**651-497-9891**

**PATES ROOFING** **Finest in Residential Roofing**  
**651-690-3956**  
Serving the Community and Metro area for over 25 years  
**PatesRoofing.com**  
Licensed • Bonded • Insured Lic.#BR155317

**Earl's** Angie's list 8-Time Super Service Award Winner  
www.earlsfloorsanding.com  
**Floor Sanding**  
Sanding Install Refinishing  
Repair Maintenance  
**612-290-1533**

**SPIESS PLUMBING**  
Repair • Remodeling  
RPZ Testing & Water Heaters  
**Scott Spiess**  
**651-248-3853**  
Lic. • Bonded • Insured Lic.# 059373-pm

**Burton's Rain Gutter Service**  
Clean • Repair • Install  
www.burtonsraingutter.com  
Licensed • Bonded • Insured  
**Burton R. Johnson** 651-699-8900  
1864 Grand Ave. Mobile 651-398-9629  
MN ID#BC126373

**Weaver Electric**  
Residential and Commercial Wiring  
Low Rates - Immediate Response - Troubleshooting  
Office: **651-644-6551** Mobile: **612-599-7353**  
Licensed Master Electrician Over 30 Years Experience

Honesty & Integrity for 50 Years  
**MIKE MOHS CONSTRUCTION**  
3 Generations of Craftsmanship ★ Since 1963  
www.mikemohsconstruction.com  
Roofing - All Types • Flat Roofing - Rubber or Tin  
Windows & Skylights • Decks & Porches  
Siding & Exterior Wood • Gutters  
Call Scott Mohs **612-701-2209** MN Lic. BC005456

**BASEMENT WINDOW GUY**  
Replacement Windows  
Glass Block Windows  
FREE ESTIMATES 651-208-8210  
**BasementWindowGuy.com**  
Lic: BC646746 Frank Gardner Construction LLC

Local, Trusted Service for 30 Years  
**KELLY PLUMBING & HEATING INC.**  
**651-699-1232**  
1932 St. Clair Ave. Lic. #3575M8  
For All Your Plumbing Needs...

**SMALL ENGINE REPAIR** TORO HONDA POWER EQUIPMENT ECHO  
We service most makes and sell **NEW!**  
**Merriam Park Repair**  
444 N. Prior • St. Paul 55104 • 651-645-1443 Pickup & Delivery  
Visit our website: merriamparkrepair.com • Established 1989 •

**HELP WANTED**  
Get paid to exercise!  
Newspaper delivery people for both employee and independent contractor positions.  
Weekday and weekend routes available.  
No early morning delivery.  
CONTACT Brian Amundsen at 612-919-8626 or 651-487-1328  
Independent Delivery Service  
440 West Minnehaha Ave., St. Paul, MN 55103

WWW.  
landscapesbyscott.com  
**Living space LANDSCAPES**  
Scott Solomonson's cell: 612.868.7787

**VILLAGER DEADLINES**  
Our next issue will be published on **January 8, 2020**  
The deadlines are as follows:  
**NEWS** 5pm, December 30, 2019  
**CLASSIFIEDS** 5pm, December 30, 2019  
**DISPLAY ADS** 5pm, December 31, 2019  
Questions? Call us at **651-699-1462**  
Please check MyVillager.com for the 2020 calendar



**ROBBIE GROSSMAN**  
651-434-7887

Highland Park 1991 Ford Pkwy.  
651-698-2481



**cbburnet.com**

Making Dreams Come Home™

Crocus Hill 821 Grand Ave.  
651-227-9144



**GARY FABEL**  
651-334-3659



**ANITA C. HILL**  
651-707-6408



**FREE HOME SELLER SEMINARS!**

Is selling a home in your future? Maybe in 2020? Come to learn the basics steps! No obligation! No pressure! Just GREAT information! Wednesday, January 8, 7-8pm OR Saturday, January 11, 9-10am. Call or email for more information! [GoodCompanyRealtyGroup.com](http://GoodCompanyRealtyGroup.com)



**SUE JOHNSON** CRS, GRI  
651-329-1264



**COMING SOON!**

**10319 NICOLLET AVE S.**

Bloomington rambler with spacious yard, new furnace, new air conditioner, refinished hardwood floors, freshly painted. New hot water heater, new driveway! Move in and enjoy! [GoodCompanyRealtyGroup.com](http://GoodCompanyRealtyGroup.com)



**SUE JOHNSON** CRS, GRI  
651-329-1264



**NEAR THE RIVER & WALKING TRAILS!**

Tempting 3BR classic in a convenient Highland location. Discover handsome living room, sun-splashed eat-in kitchen, all new carpet. The roof is only 2 years young! Future living space in the LL. Fenced yard, 2-car. 1933 Field Avenue [click on www.teamedelstein.com](http://www.teamedelstein.com)



**TOM EDELSTEIN** CRS, ABR  
651-695-4300 • \$262,500



**COMFORTABLE, E-Z LIFESTYLE!**

Discover this open & bright 3BR, 2BA Mendota Heights condo, offering gracious space & fabulous amenities. Formal dining + breakfast rm, large porch overlooking the pool, private owner's suite, 2 heated garage stalls. 1850 Eagle Ridge Drive #E206. [click on www.teamedelstein.com](http://www.teamedelstein.com)



**HENRY EDELSTEIN** CRS  
651-270-1667 • \$285,000



**MYA HONEYWELL**  
THE HIVE  
651-329-3619



**CHARMING TOWNHOME IN MENDOTA HEIGHTS!**

Spacious townhome in Ivy Falls with open floor plan with updates throughout. This property features a gas fireplace, remodeled kitchen & baths, and deck off living room. Large mudroom & attached 2 car garage. [www.TownHomeCharmers.com](http://www.TownHomeCharmers.com)



**KRISTA WOLTER**  
612-247-5106 • \$295,000



**MIKE JAMBOR**  
612-889-9773



**PRESTIGIOUS HIGHLAND LOCATION!**

Distinctive 3BR, 3BA mid-century beauty is accented with gleaming hardwood, 2 fireplaces, inviting sunroom, sleek kitchen with breakfast room. Private fenced back yard oasis with deck, inground pool. 2237 Edgcombe Road. [click on www.teamedelstein.com](http://www.teamedelstein.com)



**HENRY EDELSTEIN** CRS  
651-270-1667 • \$575,000



**KAREN KELJIK**  
612-414-3245



**SARAH KINNEY**  
651-282-9621



**1627 NILES AVENUE**

Charming 3BR, 2BA bungalow in perfect condition features updated kitchen, hardwood floors, natural woodwork, California closets, 3-season porch, finished LL family room and a beautiful landscaped yard perfect for summer entertaining.



**NANCY K MAAS**  
651-235-8581 • \$407,000



**AMAZING!!!**

295 Salem Church Rd: Spectacular Sunfish Lake home offering 12,447 sq ft to be used for your largest entertainment need but designed for comfortable everyday living as well. Quality construction and finishes.



**JIM BURTON**  
651-690-8556 • \$3,499,000



**SOLD**

**CAREFREE LIVING!!!**

4824 53rd St E #518: 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo with full sized washer/dryer conveniently located just off the light rail for easy access to downtown Mpls, airport or Mall of America. Newer clean and well kept building.



**JIM BURTON**  
651-690-8556 • \$205,000



**JUST LISTED!!!**

2156 Charlton Rd: Stunning brick walk out rambler situated on a very private 4.26 acre lot with a pond out the front door and a pool out the back. 4 bedrooms, fabulous kitchen, 5982 square feet.



**JIM BURTON**  
651-690-8556 • \$1,275,000



**DAVID NOYES, JR.**  
REAL ESTATE GROUP  
651-233-0748



**438 PORTLAND AVE #6**

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



**SARAH KINNEY**  
651-282-9621 • \$548,500



**2085 JEFFERSON**

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



**SARAH KINNEY**  
651-282-9621 • \$450,000



**570 LAUREL AVE TRIPLEX**

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



**SARAH KINNEY**  
651-282-9621 • \$665,900



**79 WESTERN AVE #203**

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



**SARAH KINNEY**  
651-282-9621 • \$249,000



**TJ PIERRET**  
651-755-6669



**PATRICK RUBLE**  
651-230-0903



**MICHAELA TOOHEY**  
651-253-6830



**COLIN VOERDING**  
651-357-3667



**BRIAN WAGNER, M.ED.**  
651-497-4387



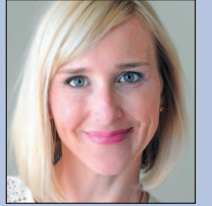
**PHILIP M. WAHLBERG**  
651-336-2410



**LOLLY MCNEELY SALMEN**  
612-810-4138



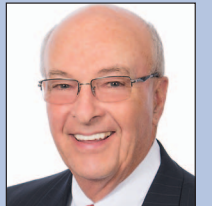
**KRISTA WOLTER**  
612-247-5106



**DEBBIE WHITAKER**  
THE HIVE  
612-532-1490



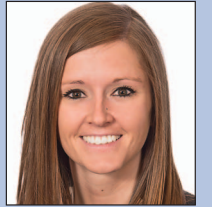
**BRYAN BEDESSEM**  
612-382-8415



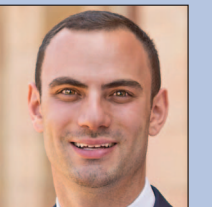
**JIM BURTON**  
651-690-8556



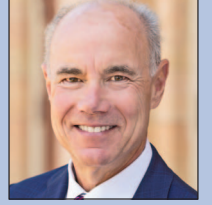
**MORAGHAN DeROSIA**  
952-486-3697



**CLAIRE BISANZ DISTAD**  
651-307-7260



**HENRY EDELSTEIN**  
651-270-1667



**TOM EDELSTEIN**  
651-695-4300