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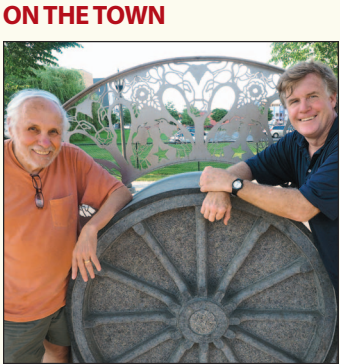
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Fun was in the air. F1rst Wrestling contenders James Tapia and Air Wolf entertained the throngs who visited the U.S. Bank Stage during Grand Old Day on June 3. They were among the hundreds of thousands of people who filled Grand Avenue for the 45th annual festival. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Lawsuit targets organized trash

City’s proposed system is said to violate state’s Waste Management Act

By JANE MCCLURE

The cost of organized trash collection debuting in St. Paul on October 1 continues to roil residents across the city. Those who espouse recycling more and throwing away less are making their feelings known in a variety of ways, including a lawsuit filed against the city in Ramsey County District Court.

Highland Park resident and former city financial analyst Peter Butler filed the lawsuit on May 21. Butler contends that the organized collection system and its fee schedule violate Minnesota’s Waste Management Act.

City officials are not commenting on the lawsuit and have until June 11 to reply in court. However, with a signed contract already in place with the consortium of private garbage hauling companies, it is not clear what can be changed at this point.

Proponents of organized trash collection say it will reduce traffic and the wear and tear on neighborhood streets and alleys, reduce illegal dumping, force those who have not had trash service in the past to pay for disposal, and create uniform trash disposal rates.

Opponents of the new system argue that it will not

ORGANIZED TRASH LAWSUIT ►3

Music leads chorus on trip down memory lane

Dementia is forgotten amid the joy of singing

By JANET LUNDER HANAFIN

An elderly gentleman held his wife’s hand, looked into her eyes and said, “I’ll tell you something. Love never forgets.” At that moment, Victor Zupanc knew that he had a new song.

Zupanc, the musical director of the Children’s Theatre Company and a nationally known composer, and poet Louisa Castner had been commissioned by the American Composers Forum to write several songs exploring one of the most debilitating effects of aging—dementia. Their composition “Love Never Forgets” is also the title song for an extraordinary concert that will

be presented by the Giving Voice Chorus on Saturday, June 16, at the Ordway Concert Hall.

The 170-voice chorus is composed of singers with dementia and their care partners. It demonstrates the potential of people with Alzheimer’s disease or other forms of dementia to continue to perform music and contribute to civic life. The singers will perform a dozen new songs by Zupanc and Castner, all of them drawn from the singers’ own experiences.

Zupanc and Castner have experienced the heartbreak of Alzheimer’s in their own families. Each has lost a parent to the disease. A year and a half ago, they began interviewing the singers and their care partners. In hours of conversation, they recorded dozens of stories, and the lyrics of their new songs drew on that commentary.

The original plan was that Castner would



Victor Zupanc conducts the Giving Voice Chorus in a rehearsal of “Love Never Forgets.”

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Composer Victor Zupanc and accompanist Deb McFaggart look over the music for the upcoming premiere of "Love Never Forgets" by the Giving Voice Chorus.

1◀ 'LOVE NEVER FORGETS'

write the lyrics and Zupanc the music, but they ended up sharing those duties and building on the work of the other.

"These folks were kind enough to sit and talk about their disease, what it means to them, the struggles and the joys," Zupanc said. "We ended up with a wealth of material as inspiration for the songs."

One of the compositions compares living with dementia to rowing a dinghy: Sometimes the water is calm and the weather is clear. Then a fog suddenly rolls in and obscures the way. The rower longs to return to the familiar dock, to "when the clouds have all lifted, this harbor full of other boats is home."

Zupanc, who is a resident of Minneapolis' Hiawatha neighborhood, was born in Vancouver, British Columbia, to Slovenian immigrant parents. His mother was a violinist, and his father enjoyed playing guitar and singing folk songs. As bad as his father's Alzheimer's disease eventually became, Zupanc said, "as soon as we started singing songs, he knew every word."

When Zupanc saw the Composers Forum's call for commissions, "it rang a bell for me," he said. "I saw (my father) deteriorate over the last few years. He passed away in December, and I thought it was the right thing for me to do."

The Love Never Forgets concert is the culmination of a residency program called Healing & Hope Through Song. Sponsored by the American Composers Forum and the MacPhail Center for Music, the residency is part of the Giving Voice Initiative that was started at MacPhail in 2014 and seeks to promote choral singing by people with dementia.

The Giving Voice Chorus is directed by MacPhail teaching artist Jeanie Brindley-Bar-

nett. It also got its start in 2014 as part of the MacPhail Music for Life outreach program. The initial plan was to limit the chorus to 60 singers to encourage familiarity and the formation of friendships, but the chorus attracted so many singers that it now rehearses in three sections—two at MacPhail in Minneapolis and one at the Lyngblomsten Care Center in St. Paul. The June 16 concert will be the first time the three sections perform together.

Not all of the singers were experienced at singing, Brindley-Barnett said, but everyone is welcome and "it's magic because it all works."

Zupanc described the songs in Love Never Forgets as pop music. "It isn't avant-garde, atonal music," he said. "It's really accessible."

There are many kinds of dementia, and together the singers of the Giving Voice Chorus have all of them. Among the care partners are spouses, offspring and friends. Some of the care partners lost their loved ones who sang with the chorus, but they continue to participate.

A few of the songs are written in harmony, and Brindley-Barnett encourages the singers to vocalize in their own range. She does not coddle them, but asks for clean cutoffs and articulate phrasing.

"Repetition is important," Zupanc said. "We created a CD that has all the parts separate and then together so the singers can listen in the car and at home and learn that way. Some people can barely open their mouths, but they're here. They might not be singing, but I'm sure they're living inside."

Tickets to the Love Never Forgets concert went on sale on April 16 and sold out in four days. However, the performance is being filmed, and video will be available online in the coming months.



Composer and conductor Victor Zupanc joins members of the Giving Voice Chorus in song during a rehearsal at the Lyngblomsten Care Center. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAURFFER

Revision of city's historic preservation regulations delayed

HPC postpones action to give proposed changes a broader public hearing

By JANE McCLURE

St. Paul's Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) has decided to postpone action on a series of proposed revisions to the city's historic preservation regulations. The revisions drew more than 100 people to a public hearing before the HPC on May 24. Following two-plus hours of public testimony and dozens of oral and written comments, the HPC voted to continue its efforts to explain the proposed changes to citizens.

A series of public meetings is planned, and an HPC task force will continue to review the proposed changes for possible revisions. Though the city's goal was to have the changes ready for City Council action this fall, HPC commissioners now say they plan to take as long as needed.

HPC supervisor George Gause explained at the hearing that the proposed changes will not affect the design guidelines for renovating homes within the city's historic preservation districts. That did not deter some speakers from complaining about how difficult it is to replace windows or make other exterior improvements to their homes now. Some complained about the long process for getting building permits. One speaker said it took him three years to replace a garage.

The city ordinance that governs the operations of the HPC was written in 1976 and has never had a major overhaul. Many of the pro-

posed changes are intended to bring historic preservation regulations in line with other city zoning and permit regulations, to clarify existing practices and to comply with state law. Though there are references to building interiors and gardens as areas to regulate in the proposed revisions, the HPC is not going to start regulating those spaces, Gause said. In fact, the only building interior in St. Paul with historic protection is the former Schmidt Brewery's Rathskeller, which was a designation sought by the property's owner. Other interiors and outdoor landscaping would only be regulated if a property owner requested it.

The biggest focus on May 24 was the proposed historic preservation fees. Unlike property owners who may pay fees of over \$1,000 to rezone a property or seek a zoning variance, HPC reviews currently have no fee. Under the proposed changes, about 90 percent of permit applicants would pay a fee of \$70 to \$140, according to Gause. Two percent of applicants would not pay anything. The rest would pay \$500 since they would be major cases necessitating a review before the HPC.

The proposed fees are intended to cover the city's costs. A proposed \$400 fee to appeal an HPC decision to the City Council has been dropped.

A majority of the speakers at the May 24 hearing were from the Ramsey Hill and Summit Hill neighborhoods. Several said they already pay high property taxes and should not have to pay more for permit reviews. Others said that people may not repair or improve their historic properties if they have to pay fees. Some speakers said historic districts and historic properties are amenities that all St.

Paul property taxpayers should foot the bill for.

"Five hundred dollars is excessive," said Ramsey Hill resident Steve Gordon. "I think it'll have a chilling effect (on historic preservation)."

The Summit Avenue Residential Preservation Association (SARPA) is concerned that the proposed changes would work against its goal of maintaining the largely residential character of Summit Avenue, according to Thomas Darling, who sits on SARPA's board. "We need to encourage, not discourage, people from working on their houses," he said.

According to Darling, there is "no rationale" for the city to charge fees to historic property owners, saying the city does not charge bicyclists every time it stripes a bicycle lane on a street. He joined others in arguing that historic properties are amenities that many people enjoy.

Ramsey Hill resident Andrea Jepson said that while the HPC and its staff are doing the best job that they can, "you are making it up as you go along." When you consider the high property taxes these homeowners pay, it is "offensive" to pay an additional fee for building permit reviews, Jepson added.

Ramsey Hill Association president Aaron Gjerde said that group and other neighborhood improvement associations helped create the HPC. According to him, local homeowners and the HPC worked together to transform Ramsey Hill into the neighborhood it is today. The HPC was created without fees for those who wished to improve their properties and should remain that way, Gjerde said. He cited the economic development benefits of

historic preservation and suggested the city find ways to provide grants for historic preservation.

Several people, including former members of the HPC, said communication between the HPC and residents of the city's historic districts has broken down in recent years. More dialogue is needed before any changes are adopted, they said.

Carol Carey, a former HPC member who now leads the nonprofit Historic St. Paul, said she hopes that disagreements do not stand in the way of progress on regulatory changes. "I work with people who would love to have historic protections for their neighborhoods," she said. She spoke for proposed improvements to the process through which properties get interim protection so that studies of historical significance can take place.

Ray Meyer, a former HPC member from Ramsey Hill whose dispute over a new driveway resulted in his being removed from City Hall by security, criticized the HPC for being "rigid and inflexible" and accused it of abusing its power.

"I would observe that the people in this room tonight are the natural constituency of historic preservation and the HPC," said former HPC chair Charles Skrief. "I would ask the commission to reflect on the antagonism that seems to exist between the audience and the commission and how to ameliorate it."

The Summit Hill Association, Union Park District Council and a Dayton's Bluff neighborhood group have all agreed to host open houses to discuss the proposed historic preservation changes. A meeting is also planned with Lowertown property owners.

1 ORGANIZED TRASH LAWSUIT

only take away their freedom of choice and ability to negotiate their own fees for trash collection, but it will discourage customer service by eliminating the competition among private trash haulers. "Zero waste" advocates are also opposing the new system because the city's contract with the St. Paul Haulers LLC consortium does not provide enough incentives to reduce waste.

The five-year contract eliminates the possibility of single-family homeowners and residents of one-, two-, three- and four-unit rental buildings from sharing a trash cart. The city does not know how many residents are sharing trash service now. While there are those who refuse to pay for trash service, others take their trash to garbage transfer stations.

Butler himself shares a trash collection service with his neighbors. "I just don't generate that much waste," he said. "Now (under the new system) I'll pay for a service I'll barely use even with every-other-week pickup."

The Waste Management Act was adopted by state lawmakers in 1980 to protect the state's land, air, water and public health. It requires municipal solid waste collection systems to charge for disposal based on volume or weight.

According to Butler, the fee structure under the city's new organized collection system provides no incentive for people like him who generate very little solid waste. Those who generate the most waste get the best discounts under the proposed fee structure, he said.

The city is offering four levels of service under the new system, with higher fees for

larger carts and more frequent pickup. However, Butler said, when you break down the cost per gallon of trash collected, those who generate the most trash are actually getting a better deal.

A 35-gallon cart collected every other week will cost \$20.28 per month, or 27 cents per gallon collected, according to Butler. A 95-gallon cart collected every week will cost \$34.15 per month or 8 cents per gallon collected, he said.

Minnesota law, according to Butler, requires municipalities to charge a base rate that results in a higher fee for those who generate more trash. The city of Minneapolis, for example, charges a base rate of \$23.99 per month for trash collection with an additional monthly charge of \$5 for a 96-gallon cart and \$2 for a 32-gallon cart.

St. Paul's proposed pricing system decreases

the cost per gallon of trash collected as the volume increases, Butler argues.

Other St. Paul residents have also expressed unhappiness with the proposed trash collection system. A small group met with Mayor Melvin Carter on May 31. One of them, Frogtown resident Kristin Becker, had collected copies of her neighbors' cart-selection postcards indicating the cart size they ordered and the cart size they actually need.

Like Butler and many of her neighbors, Becker strives to generate as little waste as possible, but under the new system she and many of her neighbors will be paying much more for trash service.

"I'm a zero-waster, so I don't have a need for much service," Becker said. "We need to bring a loud voice to the mayor's office about this change."

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O'Gara's fine-tunes plan for redeveloping Snelling-Selby

New five-story building will need a rezoning and permit for 62-foot height

By JANE MCCLURE

Plans for a new five-story building on the site of O'Gara's Bar and Grill at 164 N. Snelling Ave. are moving forward with a request to rezone three adjacent residential properties on Hague Avenue to Traditional Neighborhoods 2.

The rezoning request will be heard by the St. Paul Planning Commission's Zoning Committee at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, June 21. In addition, the project will need a conditional use permit from the Planning Commission to allow a height of 62 feet. The O'Gara's property is zoned for Traditional Neighborhoods 2, which limits its height to 55 feet without a permit.

The St. Paul Planning Commission could act on the matter as early as June 29, with the City Council following suit in late July or August. If all goes as planned, construction would start this fall and be wrapped up in 2019.

The Union Park District Council (UPDC) Land Use Committee reviewed architectural renderings for the new building with developer Ryan Companies and property manager Excelsior Group on May 21. The new building would include 163 apartments on four floors above first-floor commercial space.

The first floor would include a co-working

space and a new O'Gara's. At 4,116 square feet, the new O'Gara's would be about one-fourth the size of the current bar and restaurant. Three townhouses would be located along the Hague Avenue side of the building where three homes owned by the O'Gara family would be torn down.

"This is a perfect project for the next chapter of O'Gara's," said Dan O'Gara, the third-generation owner of the bar and grill, which opened in 1941. "While we'll retain lots of little touches that will remind patrons of our past, our smaller footprint and outdoor patio will reshape our business, making it feel like a great neighborhood pub and restaurant."

The O'Gara's building is similar in design to the recent Ryan-Excelsior building on the northeast corner, which includes the 210-unit Vintage on Selby apartments and a Whole Foods Market. Ryan and Excelsior sold that building last September for \$87 million to Zurich North America, a Swiss insurance company, though Excelsior continues to manage it.

The first floor of the new building would be clad in brick. Detailing would mimic O'Gara's existing commercial buildings. The upper floors would be faced with dark panels and brick inserts.

Ryan Companies has taken to heart many of the comments neighbors have made at past meetings on the O'Gara's development, according to its vice president Tony Barranco. A combination of studio, one- and two-bedroom apartments are planned. Three of the units would be rented at below market rate,



An artist's rendering of the proposed five-story building on the current site of O'Gara's Bar and Grill on the southeast corner of Selby and Snelling avenues.

with the rest at market rate.

The building would have a total of 205 parking spaces, with tenants parking underground and O'Gara's patrons parking on the first level.

The upper floors would be stepped back from the first floor. The building would also be stepped back on its east side to reduce the shade and otherwise minimize the impact on neighboring properties. A small alley between O'Gara's and several other commercial properties on Selby would be transformed into patio space to be shared by the businesses.

Ryan Companies said it will work with the nonprofit Better Futures Network to salvage materials from the demolition of O'Gara's. O'Gara's exterior signage and many of the bar's interior features would be reused in the new O'Gara's. If the three Hague homes cannot be moved, their materials would also be salvaged.

The building plans are now being reviewed

by the St. Paul Department of Public Works and the UPDC's Transportation Committee, according to Barranco. One idea the development team is championing is the installation of medians on Snelling between Summit Avenue and Selby. That is an idea local residents have supported in the past. However, the need to seek state and city funding for the medians means that project would have to come later, Barranco said.

The development team discussed other ideas for the project with the UPDC committee, including creating a physical connection between the Vintage on Selby and the new building so that tenants could share some of the amenities.

The committee did raise concerns about traffic and parking. Neighbors on both sides of Snelling say they already contend with motorists who cut through the residential neighborhood to avoid backups at the busy Snelling-Selby intersection.

City fails to secure funds to replace crumbling RiverCentre ramp

Lobbying effort falls short at state Capitol

By KEVIN DRISCOLL

The 1,625-space RiverCentre parking ramp in downtown St. Paul has been closed since May 17 by order of Mayor Melvin Carter. As of last week, the city was still waiting for a report from Reigstad Engineering on the status of the parking ramp and why a large chunk of the concrete ceiling fell on a car during the night of May 16.

"This incident underscores the critical condition the ramp is in," Carter stated in a press release, "and the urgency with which we need to build a new parking ramp to serve the 2.1 million visitors it serves each year."

Built in 1970, the RiverCentre ramp has about 600 contract parking spaces, mostly for downtown employees during the work week. It also serves motorists attending special events or patronizing downtown businesses, according to Laurie Brickley, chief of media relations in the city's Department of Safety and Inspections (DSI). "The ramp has been inspected on a regular basis since 2009 and has reached the end of its useful life," Brickley

said. "The last inspection was in April.

"Motorists have had to use alternate locations while the ramp has been closed," Brickley said. "It's just as well they get used to that because the ramp is expected to take up to two years to replace once the money is obtained to do the job."

The new ramp is expected to cost \$117 million to construct. Carter and Deputy Mayor Jaime Tincher led a delegation of lobbyists to the Capitol just days before the Legislature adjourned on May 20 to underscore the city's request for \$58 million to help replace the ramp, calling it "a critical statewide asset." A new RiverCentre ramp was the city's number-

one priority for bonding this legislative session, superseding its previous number-one request: \$46 million in matching funds to replace the aging Third Street (Kellogg Boulevard) bridge.

The \$825 million bonding bill approved by the Legislature and signed by Governor Mark Dayton on May 30 included \$5 million for the demolition of the RiverCentre ramp. That the bill did not include the full \$58 million requested was due to several factors, according to state Representative Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul), who is the ranking DFLer on the

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Calming Snelling

New medians put pedestrian-friendly face on Highland Park thoroughfare

BY ERIN ROBINSON

The city of St. Paul's \$2.2 million project to install 8-foot-wide medians on Snelling Avenue between Randolph Avenue and Ford Parkway is getting mixed reviews from local residents and business people.

The project was recommended last year by the Highland District Council. Work began on May 7 and it should be completed by late June or early July, according to Barbara Mundahl, the project engineer in St. Paul's Department of Public Works.

Snelling will continue to have four lanes of traffic. New left-turn lanes will be added at Randolph, Niles, Hartford and Scheffer avenues and at Highland (northbound only) and Ford parkways. Painted crosswalks will be provided at other intersections with ramps that meet the guidelines of the Americans with Disabilities Act. To make room for the median, on-street parking will be eliminated on the east side of Snelling except where five new parking bays have been cut into the boulevard.

The city of St. Paul's 8-80 Vitality Fund is paying close to two-thirds of the construction costs with \$1.5 million from a grant intended to improve the quality of city living. The Minnesota Department of Transportation is covering the remaining expenses since Snelling is a designated state highway. The medians will be planted with sod and trees that will be maintained by the city's Department of Public Works.

"My biggest concern about Snelling is trying to cross it as a pedestrian, and (the medians) might make it easier for pedestrians because there'll be a spot to pause in the middle," said Richard Day, a local resident.

"I think it'll add some beauty to Snelling, for sure," said Joan Schmitt, owner of Joan's in the Park restaurant at Snelling and Bayard avenues.

The added vegetation will also introduce "edge friction," a phenomenon that gives motorists the perception of added risk and

encourages them to slow down, according to Kevin Gallatin, president of the Highland District Council.

Traffic on Snelling has been pretty steady for the past three years, Gallatin said. The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) estimates about 16,000 motor vehicles use the avenue along that stretch each day.

Federal studies have shown that medians not only discourage speeding, but reduce the severity of traffic accidents by reducing the likelihood of head-on collisions and eliminating left turns where a left-turn lane does not exist. "We're trying to make our neighborhood a lot safer and livable," said St. Paul City Council member Chris Tolbert, whose Ward 3 includes that stretch of Snelling.

"It's going to be safer for pedestrians, but it's also going to make drivers more irritated because there's not going to be as much space in the road," said a Cretin-Derham Hall student, who asked not to be identified. "People get super-irritated, and they're more aggressive driving because they want to go faster."

"It's kind of annoying that they're doing the project now instead of in the summer," another student said. "I really don't think it's going to make that much of a difference, to be honest."

With trucks banned on I-35E north of West Seventh Street, Snelling Avenue is a popular truck route. "MnDOT reviewed the design to ensure it met their requirements for truck access," Gallatin said. "Some business owners expressed concerns that trucks would have less access to their properties, but industry experts disagreed."

"I know some businesses that were struggling with delivery issues and things like that," Schmitt said, "but I don't see it affecting businesses when everything calms down."

The Reverend Emory Dively, pastor of Deaf Life Church, 536 S. Snelling Ave., sees more advantages than disadvantages with the me-

The added vegetation will also introduce "edge friction," a phenomenon that gives motorists the perception of added risk and encourages them to slow down.



Work continued last week on the new eight-foot medians on Snelling Avenue in Highland Park, seen above looking south from Bayard Avenue. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

dians. According to him, the medians will discourage speeding, improve traffic flow, and create safer crossings for members of his congregation who take public transportation.

"I wish they would've considered the business community," said John O'Halloran of O'Halloran and Murphy Funeral Home, 575 S. Snelling Ave. "Yes, there were a few people at these meetings who thought it was a good idea, but there were a few of us business people who were against it."

O'Halloran said he would have preferred the city use the money to fix potholes instead

of adding crosswalks where there may not be that many pedestrians. He was also concerned about the effect the medians would have on funeral processions. According to the city's plans, the median beside the funeral home will have an opening for vehicles leaving O'Halloran and Murphy to turn north on Snelling. Whether that will work for funeral processions is yet to be seen.

Local residents and business people with questions or concerns about the medians are invited to call city project inspector Thomas Rooney at 651-775-3040.

4◀ RIVERCENTRE RAMP

House Capital Investments Committee.

"For starters, I was surprised the ramp had become the city's top priority," Hausman said. "Secondly, they were asking for an incredible amount of money for a parking ramp." The \$58 million, along with matching funds from other sources, "would bring the cost of a single parking space in the ramp to \$54,000," Hausman said. "That's way more than even

the Vikings ramp at the new stadium. Those spaces cost \$25,000 each.

"I'm just the bad guy right now," Hausman said. "But even Senators (Dick) Cohen and (Sandy) Pappas couldn't come up with more than \$5 million for the RiverCentre ramp. And there's no way that money is enough for a teardown."

"The expense (of the ramp) and the fact that Representative Hausman didn't look with favor on the request caused me to oppose it,"

said Representative Dean Urdahl (R-Grove City), chair of the House Capital Investments Committee. "At first, I was confused when the city came back and said, 'forget the Third Street bridge, we want the ramp.' After several years of requests for the bridge, I was prepared to include the \$46 million they wanted for that in the bonding bill. Then they told me to put that money toward the ramp."

The Legislature received a total of \$4 billion in bonding requests this year, Urdahl

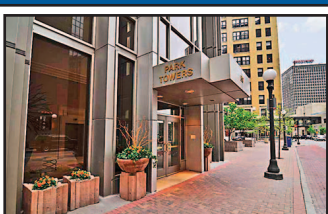
said, "but I've only got \$825 million to spend. How do I allow a \$58 million chunk just for a municipal parking ramp, which as a rule, the Legislature does not do. As an alternative, I know there was talk of having a private developer build and run the ramp. In any case, it's not uncommon for big projects to be rejected the first time and then get requested the next year. I invite St. Paul to request this money again next session, which isn't a normal bonding year, but you never know."

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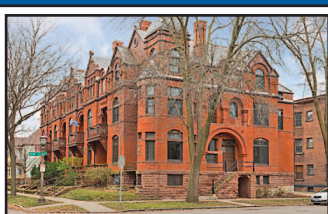
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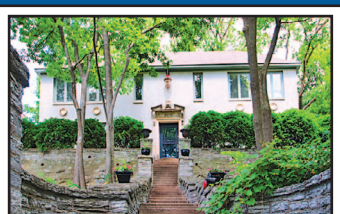
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News Briefs

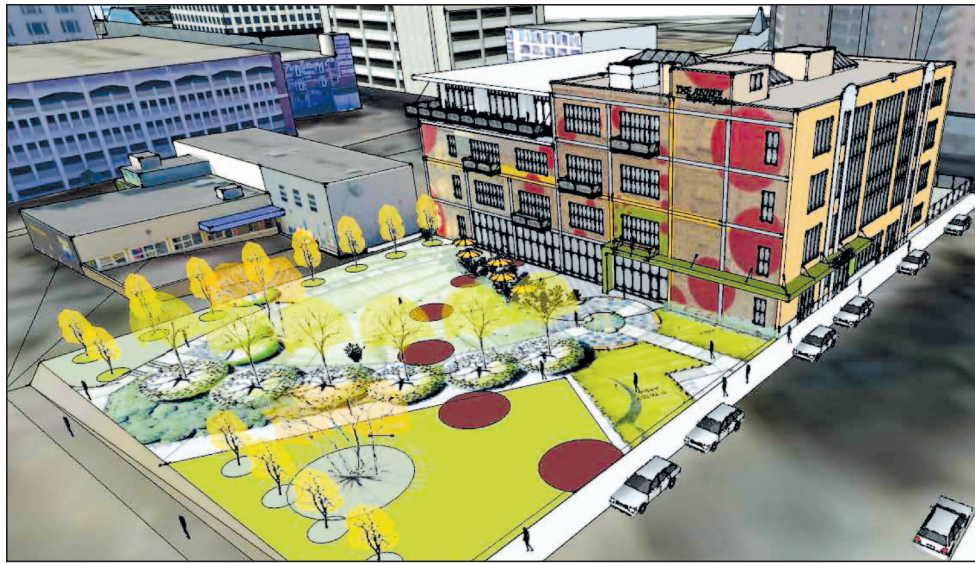
Six citizens withdraw from Pedro Park design process

An advisory committee for the proposed design of downtown's Pedro Park is roiled in controversy after six members quit on May 24, just two days before a park planting event.

The Pedro Park Design Advisory Committee was set up to work with the St. Paul Department of Parks and Recreation and Ackerman Group on designing the quarter-block space at 10th and Robert streets where the Pedro family luggage and leather goods store operated for decades. The family donated the land to the city more than a decade ago with the understanding that it and the adjacent Public Safety Annex building would become a downtown park named in honor of family patriarch Carl Pedro Sr.

However, last year then-Mayor Chris Coleman's administration decided to sell the annex for redevelopment. Minneapolis-based Ackerman Group won the bid and plans to operate an office and tech space there. Ackerman also agreed to make \$650,000 in improvements to the existing park and to maintain it for 20 years. The last surviving Pedro sister has objected to the change, saying that the family was promised a larger park.

Kati Berg, co-chair of Friends of Pedro Park Expansion, said in a statement that those who left the group refuse to participate in a process designed to sell off what downtown residents see as their parkland. Berg and fellow Friends members Patricia Flaherty and Peg Ganey resigned. So did City Walk Condominiums representative Rod Halvorson, Rossmor Lofts resident Kate Swenson and Capitol River Council representative Jeanne Hall. That leaves just one downtown resident on the committee along with representatives



The Ackerman Group's concept (for illustrative purposes only) of the converted safety building adjacent to Pedro Park at 10th and Robert streets in downtown St. Paul.

from the city, local businesses and Ackerman.

The St. Paul Department of Parks and Recreation issued a statement saying it is trying to understand the implication of the resignations. The committee was set to have its final meeting on June 21.

Neighbors appeal permit for Snelling-St. Clair development

A group who call themselves Neighbors for Responsible Development has appealed the St. Paul Planning Commission's approval of a conditional use permit for a six-story apartment building on the southeast corner of Snelling and St. Clair avenues.

TJL Development LLC is planning 118 efficiency, one- and two-bedroom apartments. Three of the larger apartments would be on

the first floor along with 4,100 square feet of retail space. The building would also have 87 enclosed parking spaces underground and on the first level.

The site is zoned for Traditional Neighborhoods 2 (TN2) on the south end and Traditional Neighborhoods 3 (TN3) on the north end. The conditional use permit (CUP) is needed to allow building heights that exceed those permitted under the two zoning designations. The building's north wall would be 68 feet 4 inches at its tallest, or 13 feet 4 inches above the TN3 maximum of 55 feet. The building's south wall would be 47 feet tall, or between 4 feet 8 inches and 6 feet above the TN2 maximum.

Neighbors for Responsible Development claim the Planning Commission made an error in granting the conditional use permit for

the development. The May 10 public hearing on the CUP before the Planning Commission's Zoning Committee was flawed. "The discussion focused on the merits of the project, not the CUP application at hand," the appeal states.

According to the appeal, the CUP does not meet the city standard that the project not be detrimental to the character of the immediate neighborhood or endanger the public's health, safety and general welfare. The appeal cites the proposed building's height in relation to the adjacent single-family homes and the two-story commercial buildings across the street and notes the impact this will have on the sunlight and privacy of nearby homes. Traffic congestion, pedestrian safety, noise and reduced property values are other concerns.

The appeal will be heard by the City Council. As of late last week, the date of the hearing was yet to be determined.

Last year the council rejected LeCesse Development's request to rezone the property for a six-story, 128-unit apartment building.

Commission favors allowing accessory dwellings citywide

A proposal to allow homeowners citywide to add accessory dwellings won approval on June 1 from the St. Paul Planning Commission and is headed to the City Council for final action. The council will hold a public hearing before voting on the issue this summer.

The proposal would allow single-family homeowners with large enough lots to add a separate dwelling unit above a garage, in a backyard or within or attached to a house.

NEWS BRIEFS ► 7

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Walking tours of Marshall Avenue preview proposed zoning changes

By JANE MCCLURE

Proposed zoning changes intended to encourage high-density development near bus stops and commercial corners on Marshall Avenue between Hamline Avenue and the Mississippi River will be the subject of a public hearing before the St. Paul Planning Commission later this month. The rezoning package could also serve to protect historic homes on Marshall in the half-mile between Wheeler and Wilder streets.

The Union Park District Council (UPDC) Land Use Committee will discuss the zoning changes at 6:30 p.m. Monday, June 18, at Central Baptist Church, 420 N. Roy St. The full UPDC is scheduled to make a recommendation on the rezoning on June 27. Prior to those meetings, the UPDC will lead two public walking tours of Marshall—at noon, Sunday, June 10, and at 6 p.m. Thursday, June 14. For information on the tours, email alexa@unionparkdc.org.

The Planning Commission's earlier studies of higher-density development and historic properties along Marshall were initiated following a controversial proposal for a five-story apartment building on the northeast corner of Marshall and Moore Street. The specter of such large-scale redevelopment has pitted

historic preservationists and single-family homeowners against developers and the proponents of higher-density housing, especially along transit routes. The issue has also raised questions about how local colleges are accommodating the housing needs of students and why these institutions are not providing more on-campus housing.

The Planning Commission released the Marshall zoning study and historic preservation study for discussion in May. The studies are recommending zoning changes for dozens of properties, including more dense, mixed-use zoning near major transit stops and at commercial corners. These properties are located at the intersections of Marshall and Fairview, Wilder and Cleveland avenues. Higher-density, mixed-use zoning is also recommended for both sides of Marshall between Pascal and Fry streets and for the south side of Marshall between Cretin Avenue and the Mississippi River.

The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the rezonings at 8:30 a.m. Friday, June 29. The commission is expected to make its final recommendation on August 10. If this timeline holds up, the City Council will hold a public hearing on September 19 and vote on the changes a week later.

6 NEWS BRIEFS

St. Paul in the past has allowed the units in neighborhoods within a half-mile of the light-rail Green Line and in places where historic carriage houses existed.

Residents of several neighborhoods, including the West End, had requested that the city consider expanding where the accessory dwellings can go. The units are touted as allowing families to stay together while maintaining some level of privacy, and for providing affordable housing. The units are not the same as tiny houses or small portable houses, which the city is considering separately.

City Council members asked for a study on accessory dwellings last fall in response to constituent and district council requests. Since then city staff has met with staff or committees from 15 district councils where interest has been expressed in the units.

The Union Park and Macalester-Groveland district councils recommended allowing accessory dwellings citywide. The Summit Hill Association has had longstanding concerns about adding the dwelling units, but has not weighed in this time around. Other councils also have not taken a position.

The Planning Commission held a public hearing on accessory dwelling units in April and is recommending to the City Council that the units be allowed citywide in single-family residential zoning districts. Specific space requirements would have to be met for the total property and for the added unit.

Council grants garage license with conditions on West End

The St. Paul City Council approved an auto repair garage license on May 23 for Benzels Motors, 985 Randolph Ave., with several conditions to address neighbors' concerns.

Residents told city licensing officials that spillover parking from the garage, repair of vehicles in the street, vehicles blocking driveways and the inability to move vehicles during snow emergencies have caused problems in the past. The license for the new operator was sent to a legislative hearing officer this spring.

The City Council put 11 conditions on the business operating license, with a focus on limiting where vehicles are parked, where work is done and what types of work can be done. One condition limits the number of vehicles on-site at any one time to 19. Customer and employee vehicles are not to be parked in

the business driveway, alley, sidewalk or public right-of-way. This includes vehicles that are waiting to be repaired or to be picked up.

The parking lot must be striped and the fence, vehicle barriers and landscaping are to be maintained. Exterior storage of vehicle parts, tires, oil or any other materials associated with the business is prohibited. Trash must be stored in a covered dumpster. Storage of hazardous waste must be done in accordance with Ramsey County regulations.

Vehicle salvage and storage of vehicles for salvage is forbidden. All vehicles parked outdoors must appear to be completely assembled with no major body parts missing. All repair work must occur within an enclosed building. Auto body repair and spray painting, and vehicle sales are not permitted.

Hearing set on new distance regs for off-sale liquor stores

A proposal to change St. Paul's longstanding distance requirement between off-sale liquor stores will be the subject of a public hearing before the City Council at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 6, at City Hall.

The change is driven by the transformation of much of Midway center into the Allianz Field soccer stadium and its parks, street grid and interim parking lots. Big Top Liquors must move from its location at 1574 University Ave. to make way for changes. A proposal to move the liquor store into a shuttered Perkins restaurant at 1544 University Ave. won approval this spring from the Union Park District Council. That is considered an interim space until the longtime Midway Center business can find a permanent home.

Under city regulations, off-sale liquor stores must have at least a half-mile between them. Big Top is less than a half-mile from Snelling Fine Wines and Spirits and barely a half-mile from the Midway SuperTarget liquor store.

The council would be allowed to waive the half-mile requirement if a store is relocating to a new location that is within a half-mile radius of its current site and if the relocation is related to hardship or circumstances outside of the licensee's control.

Stores would still have to meet distance requirements from such places as child care centers and places of worship, and go through a consent petition process. The council could adopt the ordinance by mid-June.

News Briefs were compiled by Jane McClure.



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Viewpoint

Monroe as name of school has long history on its side

By JOE LANDSBERGER

For the last six months I have been researching and writing the history of the neighborhoods surrounding Linwood-Monroe's upper school campus in preparation for the 11th annual West End Neighbors' Garden Tour on Saturday, June 9. Each year for the tour, we focus on the history of a particular area of the West End.

Linwood-Monroe parents and staff are now considering renaming the school at 810 Palace Ave. because of U.S. President James Monroe's history as a slave owner (*Villager*, May 23). As I began my research, I became amazed at the rich immigrant history of the area around Monroe School going all the way back to the mid-1800s.

The early immigrants in the neighborhood were mostly Prussian, Bavarian and Bohemian. Monroe School was originally located at Goodhue and Western avenues. Its naming followed a familiar pattern of recognizing in school and street names prominent national figures as well as New England bankers, politicians, land speculators, traders, etc. Missing from these schools and streets are the names of the original settlers, with the exception of Johann and Clementena Ayd.

An elderly contact informed me that the plateau between the Mississippi River and the hills leading up to Lexington Parkway was colloquially referred to as Peasant Valley, reflecting the humble origins of the immigrants who lived there.

For nearly 40 years I have lived on Goodrich Avenue, and I confess I did not know who Aaron Goodrich was until I looked him up in Donald Empson's book, *The Street Where You Live: A Guide to the Place Names of St. Paul*. I also confess to not caring, and I suspect that nearly everyone in St. Paul does not much care about the namesake of their particular street. I attended Humboldt High School, and I doubt there were any classes there on Alexander van Humboldt, the Prussian scientist and explorer after whom the school was named.

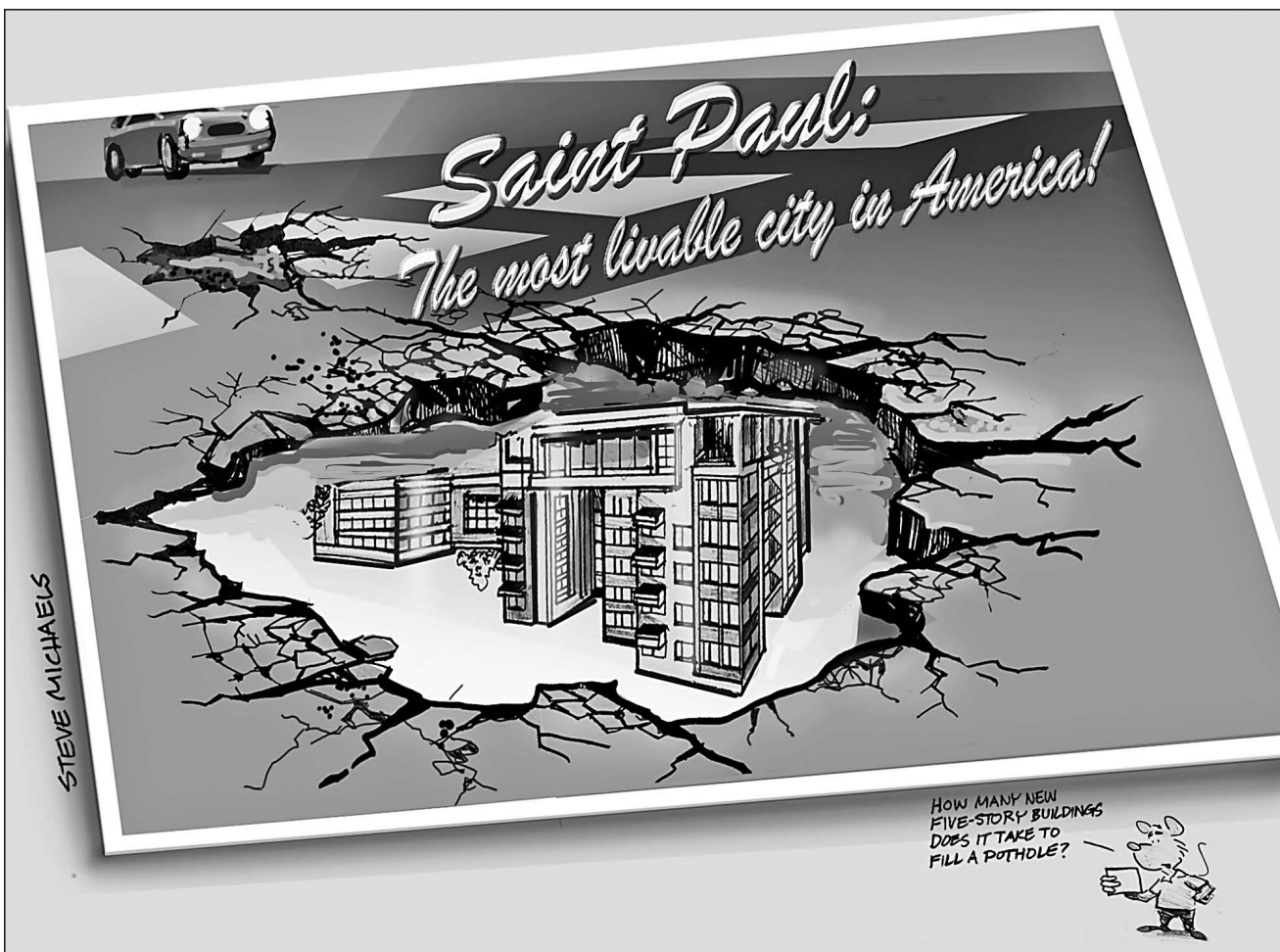
So what is in a name besides a footnote? I would advance that a name, especially of a school, symbolizes that school's tradition and identity more than the identity of the person for whom it is named. For those who call out President Monroe's history, here is a lesson: Monroe School educated the children of the immigrants who built the West End, and is so identified.

Monroe School's football team was founded in 1938 and won the city championship the next year. Monroe's athletic teams were known as the Green Wave. Why was that? Did it reflect early environmentalism? Little green men from Mars? Or did it refer to the farmland once located on the plateau between early St. Paul and Fort Snelling? Monroe School's logo was a ship: Did that refer to the immigrants' passage to America? These references had nothing to do with presidential history.

In the 1970s, whole neighborhoods of the West End were torn out for the building of Shepard Road and I-35E, similar to how I-94 tore through St. Paul's Rondo neighborhood. The loss of the students who lived in those West End homes compounded the decline in enrollment that led to the closing of Monroe High School in 1978. But it also motivated neighbors to fight to keep Monroe as a community school and a local resource.

To be clear, I find President James Monroe's ownership of slaves both reprehensible and antithetical. I also find that this discussion of the school's name has educational and historical value as we embrace our past, our present and future. The guide for the West End Neighbors' Garden Tour on June 9 will include some of the history of the Monroe neighborhood, and it will be available free of charge on the day of the tour. The neighborhood's profoundness might surprise you and add value to this discussion of names.

Joe Landsberger is a historian and author and longtime resident of St. Paul's West End.



Inbox

Snelling-St. Clair project praised

I've lived in St. Paul for almost 40 of my 67 years. I've watched the city change greatly in that time, sometimes successfully, sometimes foolishly. Until recently, our population growth and tax base were stagnant while the demand for city services grew. So I was sorry to see Michelle Berg's guest editorial on the Snelling-St. Clair project recently approved by the St. Paul Planning Commission (*Villager* Viewpoint, May 23), not because she opposes the project but because of the mind set it displays. Development need not be a matter of neighbor against developer, particularly in this case.

It seems to me that Jim LaValle listened carefully to neighborhood concerns and made legitimate efforts to address those concerns while keeping the project viable. Given Ms. Berg's complaints, it's unlikely Mr. LaValle's group could have done anything to placate her short of abandoning the project. I'm happy to see the existing buildings demolished and replaced by higher-density housing that will boost our property tax base, particularly when our local taxes are increasing at a ridiculous pace.

Ms. Berg objects to a conditional use permit being granted based on what she believes are the developer's financial goals. The developer could have achieved the same square footage by staying within the height limits, but that would have resulted in the type of monolithic structure so many people objected to earlier.

We cannot remain a city of bungalows forever. We must accept vertical growth so that our homes remain affordable and we can maintain the services we've demanded over the decades. It's that or start trimming those services now, before those of us on fixed incomes are squeezed out of our homes by rising prices and the resulting tax increases.

James M. Hamilton
Macalester-Groveland

Ford Motor's toxic legacy

An Internet search reveals Ford Motor Company's dubious environmental record. It seems that Ford has a pollution rap sheet that goes back a long time. In apparent recognition of this, Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) urged vigilance about the Ford site cleanup even before the plant closed in 2011, citing an article in the *New York Times* that reported that a former Ford plant in New Jersey was plagued by public health issues decades after the plant closed.

Now that the Ford site in Highland Park is up for sale, FMR is expressing serious concerns about the toxic waste pile in a section called Area C (*Villager*, May 23). FMR conducted a preliminary review of a Ford/Arcadis 2017 environmental report and found potential flaws in the report's investigation assumptions, methods and analysis.

In July 2017, Ford Motor Company and its Livonia, Michigan, transmission plant faced lawsuits regarding a chemical plume that has allegedly polluted groundwater and soil in that city. A group of 130 homeowners sued to hold Ford to its court-ordered cleanup and pay restitution to residents and businesses affected by the pollution.

Call me skeptical, but with the Ford site for sale, perhaps the city and Ford might find it in their collective best interest to underestimate the ongoing pollution problems to aid in the sale. As citizens of St. Paul, we need to hold Ford, City Hall and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency accountable. The Ford site in Highland Park should not become another citation in the Ford Motor Company's toxic legacy.

Kate Hunt
Highland Park

A garbage cart for every home

Most St. Paul residents have by now received a postcard about the upcoming organized citywide garbage collection program. In it they will find one big surprise that may cause their garbage costs to double, triple or even quadruple. That is a result of the city requiring every household in multi-family dwellings of up to four units to have a garbage cart (*Villager*, May 23). No garbage cart sharing will be permitted.

Why was this provision included in the plan? It is not efficient, and it needlessly increases costs. It will increase the time needed for garbage haulers to collect the same amount of garbage. It will also dramatically increase the number of garbage carts in alleys, which can be a problem during the winter.

If you are concerned about this ordinance, I urge you to contact Mayor Melvin Carter and your City Council member. Ask them to consider the real impact of this ordinance and to take action to change it before citywide organized garbage collection begins.

Daniel Brown
Summit Hill

8◀ INBOX

Our taxing new trash system

St. Paul's new citywide garbage service will cost me \$11 more per quarter than my private trash hauler charged. Homeowners and renters who did not use trash collection in the past can no longer opt out. Supreme Court Justice Roberts would probably rule that although citywide garbage service is mandatory as dictated by the city government, it is simply a tax, like Obamacare. So I will write it off as such on my income taxes. For a bonus, the City Council has voted to spend up to \$4 million on new trash containers that were previously unneeded.

Robert Bushard
Merriam Park

Tone deaf at City Hall

As a 45-year resident of St. Paul, I applaud Michelle Berg's articulate and sensible guest editorial on the proposed development at the Snelling-St. Clair intersection (*Villager Viewpoint*, May 23). The tone-deafness of city officials to the problematic aspects of this project, as well as that of many neighborhood leaders, is truly remarkable and disappointing. Although planned by a local developer, it is only a warmed-over version of a Florida-based developer's proposal for Snelling-St. Clair that was shot down last year in the face of public opposition. In all fairness, it must be noted that we elected the people who seem not to be listening to us now.

Winston Kaehler
Macalester-Groveland

Thank you, St. Paul

Thank you, St. Paul, for raising my property taxes more than \$600 per year but not filling the potholes on Return Court that have swallowed small children and broken car axles. Thank you, St. Paul, for forcing me to participate in a citywide garbage service that allows me to pay more fees and abandon the private trash hauler who has served me well for the past 19 years. Thank you, St. Paul, for paving the way for 75-foot-high housing units to replace the green space of the Ford ballfields.

Deb Boyd
Highland Park

Life becomes a test of endurance

I'm a 60-year-old conservative, longtime St. Paul resident who grew up just off Victoria Street and Randolph Avenue. As I take a look around my current neighborhood and beyond, I see increasing congestion, drivers who are irritated that it takes so long to get around the city, pedestrians defiantly waving their little flags or using a flashing light to walk right out in front of traffic (whatever happened to common sense?), signs that say "no" to almost everything that is traffic-oriented, new construction being planned at already congested intersections (Selby and Snelling is a nightmare), a stop sign on Ayd Mill Road that makes no sense, and systematically reducing formerly four-lane thoroughfares (Cleveland, Fairview) to two lanes.

The terrified people who tremble at heavy traffic in fear of kids' safety are only making it worse. The key to traffic is flow, not congestion. It seems contradictory that we consider our city a liberal place. From my vantage point, it seems we are not allowed to do anything. Our local government is trying to do our thinking for us,

trying oh-so-valorantly to protect us, and only making things more dangerous as a result.

I realize the left wants everyone to ride his or her bike to work, but that's a fantasy. I don't see any bikes at Trader Joe's, Kowalski's or Korte's. In the meantime, has anyone seen a St. Paul Public Works crew out fixing potholes? I didn't think so. And our trash bill is about to go up.

Quality of life? St. Paul used to have one. It seems like more of an endurance test these days.

Mark Miller
Macalester-Groveland

Losing that village vibe

I have lived in Highland Park since 1964. I live in a house that I purchased in 1973. I loved the quaint village vibe. Even though everyone was flocking to the suburbs at the time, I chose to stay though the cost of living and taxes are Highland high. For 55 years, I enjoyed walking the neighborhoods and frequenting the little shops. Now St. Paul is tearing down the shops and building huge apartment buildings and huge houses on small lots. I feel our village is being turned into a suburb.

Parking has been a nightmare for the last 40 years. No one can park in front of my house except on Monday mornings. Apartments and businesses have used our street, and now there will be less parking on Snelling Avenue. Variances are being given to all the big developers. I will no longer have the privilege of living in my village.

C.J. Ryan
Highland Park

Median maintenance decried

When the Snelling Avenue medians were first proposed between Grand and St. Clair avenues, there were promises that Macalester College would maintain the aesthetics and landscaping. Trees were planted, then cut down. Flowering plants were installed that are no longer there. Now it looks like typical neglected urban medians with bare spots, dead leaves and stumps.

Who is supposed to maintain the new landscaped medians between Randolph Avenue and Ford Parkway?

Philip Jacobs
Macalester-Groveland

Editor's note: The story on page 5 of this Villager states that the city of St. Paul's Department of Public Works will be responsible for maintaining the new landscaped medians on Snelling Avenue.

The Great Wall of Mexico

I think President Trump's idea of a wall along the entire length of the U.S.-Mexico border is terrific—if we make some modifications. Let's skip the concept of a 30-foot-high chunk of vertical concrete and do something creative. I suggest we collaborate with the Mexican government to set up a sort of lend-lease program as we did with Great Britain during World War II, only this time we help Mexico purchase huge sections of China's Great Wall (the Chinese don't seem to need it any more against invading hordes) to be erected on our border and south into Mexico. That way Mexico could use it as a money-making tourist attraction.

People could approach the Great Wall from the Mexican side of the

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VILLAGER

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Maurice F. Mischke, 1920-1991

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border where businesses would provide food and housing for tourists. The Mexicans could establish theme parks along the wall, such as a big Statue of Liberty with the Emma Lazarus poem and a red circle and slash painted across her. So many jobs would be created with the wall and all of the creative amusements that Mexicans could find employment at home. And the U.S. could collect lend-lease payments for decades.

*Kathleen Deming
Macalester-Groveland*

Even greatness has its flaws

It would be good for the teachers and parents at Linwood-Monroe Arts Plus School to check their history books. They will find that four of the first five presidents of the United States owned slaves. John Adams was the only one who did not own slaves. George Washington owned 371 slaves, and Thomas Jefferson owned more than 600. Does that mean we should destroy or rename the Washington Monument and the Jefferson Memorial? Should we rename all the buildings, organizations, associations, streets, boulevards and schools named after Washington, Jefferson, Monroe, Jackson and Harrison? And what about Washington, D.C., and the state of Washington? Should these be renamed? Or should common sense and scholarship prevail?

History is past. Let’s point to its errors and use them as a lesson that history is a record of men and women of talent and achievement and even embarrassing human flaws.

*Celeste R. Raspanti
Ramsey Hill*

Erstad has a clear vision for city

I met Shirley Erstad at a recent forum at Episcopal Homes, and listened to her and the other DFL candidate for City Council in Ward 4 field questions from citizens. Although both candidates were thoughtful and articulate, I was greatly impressed by Erstad’s more specific, more comprehensive answers and by her basic common sense and transparent approach to city, district and ward government. It was very clear to me that she has “walked the walk” during her many years of grassroots experiences in St. Paul, that she is one terrific leader who can be trusted to work with her constituents to garner positive and useful results.

Shirley has a clear vision of how everyday problems can be solved, whether those problems are potholes, noise pollution, rental housing costs, homelessness, transportation, urban planning or providing open government at City Hall. It is unfortunate that the far less experienced candidate was endorsed by Mayor Carter.

I have committed my time and effort to work for Shirley Erstad’s City Council campaign in order to ensure that her constituents are assured the best possible public service in Ward 4. Shirley is a great communicator, is not afraid to mix it up with the powers that be, and has a terrific work ethic and consummate integrity. I urge the citizens of Ward 4 to meet Shirley Erstad and learn of her vision for a city she truly respects and loves.

*Mathew Curran
Merriam Park*

A bill to reform health care

Minnesota is facing a stern moral test. There are 350,000 uninsured Minnesotans who lack the ability to visit a doctor except in emergency situations. We have such a rich state, one of the best in the U.S., but the situation of the uninsured is a stain on our society. How is it fair that anybody in the U.S., in the 21st century, cannot see a doctor when ill? How is that fair to a sick child or a struggling parent? When a single father gets cancer but cannot afford the treatment, how can this be just?

Hubert Humphrey once said that you can judge a society by how well they treat the sick and needy. Based on this, we do not appear to be in a good light. Almost everyone who purchases insurance knows that the costs do not end with premiums. Co-pays and deductibles put additional stress on lower-income earners, meaning that even if a family has health insurance, these extra costs may further restrict their ability to seek medical care. The cost of this stress goes beyond health. The stress restricts our ability to fully enjoy our families, faith or other facets of life.

The U.S. spends far more on health care than any other industrialized nation. We spend twice as much per person on health care as Canada does. We spend 35 percent more per person than Switzerland. And our system does not even provide for all people. Evidence is overwhelming that our system is inefficient due to the middlemen of insurance companies and their profits. Meaningful reform is the only fair way to increase health care coverage and reduce costs.

Thankfully, there is a bill in the Legislature that would lead to reforming health care in Minnesota. It is called the Minnesota Health Plan, written by state Senator John Marty of Roseville. The bill would essentially remove the middlemen of insurance companies, and the state of Minnesota would pay for health care expenses directly to private health care providers. This system would be more efficient, more effective and more fair. The Minnesota Nurses Association is advocating for the passage of this bill, and I trust our nurses. I implore readers to learn more about the Minnesota Health Plan and consider supporting the bill.

I want to live in a state where no person is denied health care because of his or her social status or wealth. For me, it is a test of our morality, a test we must pass for the sake of our people and our collective souls. If we come together, we can achieve things that have never been done before.

*Stuart Orlowski
Macalester-Groveland*

Put family first on Father’s Day

Addictions consume time and money, whether the addiction is to alcohol, gambling or pornography. Like a forest fire that turns a refuge for wildlife into ashes, an obsession with porn destroys what was once an oasis of love and protection—the family.

My heart aches for all of the children whose fathers are absent both physically and emotionally because of their obsession with porn. *New York Times* columnist Ross Douthat opined, “so if you want better men by any standard, there is every reason to regard ubiquitous pornography as an obstacle.”

This Father’s Day, seriously examine how an addiction to porn is negatively affecting families. You can find help at our website, calofmn.com/resources.

*Ann Redding, President
Christian Action League of Minnesota*

Permit parking is not outmoded

To the comment Mr. Gerstenberger made that permit-only neighborhood parking seems outmoded (*Villager* Inbox, May 23): Many neighbors of the Waldmann Brewery and Wurstery must park on the street as they have no off-street parking. We worked hard to get permit-only parking after years of having United Hospitals employees taking every available space on the street. So no, it is not outmoded.

*Jack Boardman
West End*

The loudness of lawn care

Amen to letter writer Meg Fleming on the subject of lawn services (*Villager* Inbox, May 23). My neighbors’ lawn service pollutes the streets and blasts into my windows and balcony with its gas-fired blowers. The roaring mowers mean there is never a peaceful day. People, please cut down on the grass cutting. You sort your recyclables so carefully and then blast your neighbors and lay waste to the environment. Why?

*Kris Jacobs
Ramsey Hill*

Enforce the Anti-Trust Act

Three people in the United States—Warren Buffet of Berkshire Hathaway, Jeff Bezos of Amazon and Bill Gates of Microsoft—have as much wealth as half of the population of the U.S. Mr. Bezos alone made \$39 billion last year. Does this seem inequitable to you? Many employers, like Herberger’s, are going out of business because of Amazon.

Artificially concentrating wealth in a few hands through corporations, monopolies or trusts is inequitable and counterproductive given the importance of property ownership to personal development and responsibility. However, it is not new. During the colonial era, the East India Tea Company accounted for half of the world’s trade. It was a key component of the aristocracy to maintain their power. Consequently, when writing the U.S. Constitution, an anti-trust mind set implemented the Title of Nobility clauses. Many early state constitutions included anti-nobility clauses for the same reasons.

The robber barons of the mid- to late 1800s—Rockefeller, Carnegie and others—were the new aristocracy of their time. In 1890 Congress passed the Sherman Antitrust Act to address this situation. It prohibits every monopoly. However, the judicial and executive branches of the federal government refuse to enforce the act as written. They say that enforcing the act as written would be too expansive, but that is exactly what is needed.

We need to insist that Congress pass legislation for the

executive and judicial branches to enforce the Sherman Act as written, and for the Title of Nobility clauses to be enforced as they were intended.

*Stephen A. Emery
St. Cloud*

Unjust deserts

It’s been over half a year since Cooper’s Foods closed its doors in Sibley Plaza. A higher end natural foods store that would have been part of a do-over of this vintage strip mall failed in the planning and approval processes, and Sibley Plaza’s owner, Paster Properties, seems to have backed off and abandoned the strip. So we, the people in the neighborhood, are left with what is called a “food desert,” an urban area devoid of grocery stores and affordable, nutritious and sustainable food sources. This would seem to be a step backward for America’s Most Livable City.

*Tom Reasoner
West End*

The pettiness of thieves

We planted tomatoes in back of our garage only to find that on the night of May 24 four large and one small wire tomato-plant cages were stolen. Really, tomato plant cages! Please, if you return my cages, I will leave some tomato plants for you in trade. I started these plants from seeds to hold down costs only to lose over \$30 in tomato plant cages to someone with no conscience.

*J. Guettler
Merriam Park*

Finding your place in the sun

As happy as I am to walk my neighborhood and see so many neighbors installing solar electric systems, I’m troubled by how poorly some of those solar systems are positioned. For solar to be an effective and sustainable investment, it should be placed close to due south and reasonably free of shade, especially at high noon. Unfortunately, local installers will gladly provide systems that are far from optimal. Customers and salespeople should insist on finding and developing suitable sunny locations. Don’t throw this technology in a bad light.

*Todd Fink
Summit Hill*

Pro-life counsel is harassment

The May 23 issue of the *Villager* included a letter to the editor from Ann Redding of Minneapolis extolling the value of “lifesaving” by engaging in “sidewalk counseling” for “abortion-minded” people entering clinics that provide abortion services. This is complete and utter hogwash dressed up in sweet-sounding phrases.

While anti-abortion protesters have their First Amendment rights to be sure, let’s not mince words: Sidewalk counseling is nothing less than harassment and intimidation of people who have every right to make their own health care decisions. It’s an expression of appalling arrogance for anti-choice zealots to insert themselves into the private choices every person has the right to make regarding their health and their bodies. If you’re opposed to abortion, don’t have one.

*Erika Sanders
Macalester-Groveland*

Preventing abortions

I’m writing to express my disappointment with the letter, “Be a lifesaver” (*Villager* Inbox, May 23). If the writer would like to prevent abortions, the best way to do so is to advocate for affordable and accessible contraception and for comprehensive sex education.

If the writer has a passion for improving outcomes for babies and mothers, there are many systems that need attention. Our society still does not ensure access to affordable child care, paid maternity leave or paid family leave. There is very little long-term support for mothers. Free baby clothes and free ultrasounds do not suffice. Unfortunately, systemic change takes work. It’s much easier to harass women at an abortion clinic and go home to pat yourself on the back, having checked that off your bucket list.

Let’s stop assuming that we know what’s best for others, and please stop pretending that sidewalk counseling is anything other than harassment.

*Catherine Nolet
Macalester-Groveland*

Letters to the editor and longer guest editorials may be sent to the *Villager* at 757 S. Snelling Ave., St. Paul, MN 55116 or emailed to letters@myvillager.com.



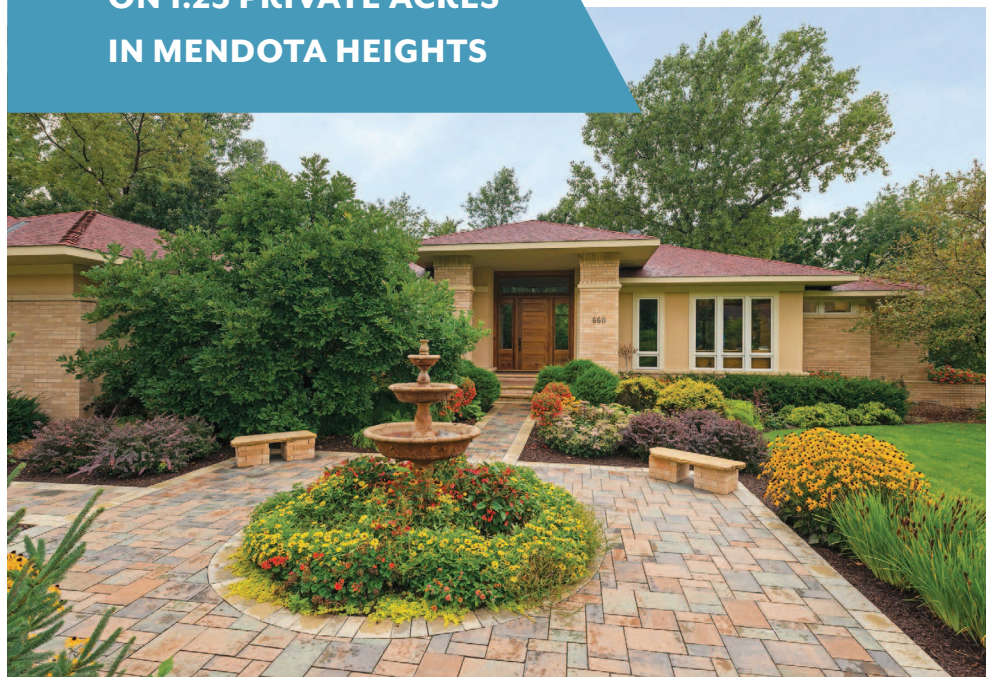
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St. Catherine University takes steps to shore up its finances

BY KEVIN DRISCOLL

Despite reports last month that St. Catherine University was looking at having to lay off dozens of employees due to rising costs, communications chief Sara Berhow said the university's finances are in good shape.

"St. Kate's is financially stable," Berhow said. "We're ending this year with a balanced budget. A thorough financial review from Moody's showed that we're in a good financial position."

University president Becky Roloff had sent an email to all students this spring warning that there was a widening gap between the school's revenue and expenses. Initial estimates were that approximately 50 employees would be affected. However, on May 15 the university took steps to balance the budget that included laying off five faculty members

and 15 other staff out of a total workforce of 326 and 426 in those positions, respectively.

"We'll also be permanently eliminating some currently unfilled positions, but all tenured and tenure-track faculty members were retained," Berhow said. "Many of our employees expressed extreme generosity by offering to permanently reduce work hours or by opting for early retirement."

Berhow said the changes are intended to realign the university's academic programs and operations to help it be more fiscally stable, meet student needs and support its strategic plan.

There also have been rumors that St. Kate's plans to close its Minneapolis campus, but Berhow said no current programs on that campus are being eliminated. Still, she said the university is working toward consolidating its two campuses on its St. Paul location over the next two years.

The St. Paul campus in Highland Park was founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet in 1905. The Minneapolis campus was founded by the sisters in 1887 as St. Mary's School of Nursing and merged with St. Catherine in 1986.

According to Berhow, the university had a total of 4,724 students on its two campuses at the start of this school year. That included 1,566 registered graduate students, 1,910 undergrads in its College for Women, 576 undergrads in its College for Adults-Bachelor and 672 undergrads in its College for Adults-Associate.

She said St. Catherine has experienced enrollment changes similar to what is being seen at other universities and colleges across the country, and has been taking steps to attract more students. That includes launching two graduate programs this academic year—a master of public health and a master of health

informatics. The latter program trains specialists to prevent security breaches, collect data and manage information technology systems.

In addition, the university is launching a master of science in management this fall that is believed to be the first of its kind in Minnesota.

"It's a one-year program designed to give recent college graduates a toolkit of business skills that will help them put their undergrad degree to work in their careers," Berhow said.

Last December, the university signed partnership agreements with St. Paul College and Minneapolis Community & Technical College to launch the St. Kate's Complete program.

"It's a bachelor's degree completion program that creates a seamless transition from an associate degree program to St. Kate's to finish a four-year degree," Berhow said.

Concerns aired over sewer project's possible impact on Coldwater Spring

BY BILL WAGNER

The Metropolitan Council's plans to upgrade the regional sanitary sewer tunnel that runs along Minnehaha Park moved a step closer to reality following a public hearing on May 22 at the Hiawatha School Recreation Center.

Hosted by Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES), the hearing was intended to elicit comments and questions from citizens. However, only a few people spoke publicly after MCES citizen liaison Tim O'Donnell and consultant Doug Henrichsen gave opening presentations.

O'Donnell said the \$31 million project does not involve replacement of the tunnel, which

runs along the north side of East Minnehaha Parkway and travels under Minnehaha Creek, Hiawatha Avenue and the light-rail Blue Line. Instead, MCES is proposing to clean 1,000 feet of the tunnel, install a new liner within the existing pipe, rework some manholes and upgrade other components.

MCES decided on rehab rather than replacement after conducting more research on the flow of groundwater in the area. The tunnel, which was built in 1935, has never been refurbished.

"It's very deep and hard to get to," Henrichsen said. "This pipe is eventually going to fail without (improvements)."

The work is expected to begin next year and be completed in 2022. A temporary con-

veyance system will be installed during construction to redirect wastewater.

Two or three ventilation shafts will be drilled into the tunnel to supply fresh air to crews who will be working 80 feet below ground. MCES officials said the shafts can be drilled without affecting the groundwater at Coldwater Spring, a historic site 1.5 miles to the south that is considered sacred by Native Americans.

Lark Wheeler, a planner for the National Park Service (NPS), said the project as proposed will have an acceptably low impact on the Mississippi River and Coldwater Spring. The NPS will monitor groundwater in the area during the project and she said if any problems surface the work would be stopped

quickly to determine the cause.

Pam Blixt, who lives on 38th Avenue South near the site and is a former board chair for the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, voiced concerns about the monitoring of the groundwater and how it will be recorded so the public will know.

Blixt was also concerned that in some locations there is a chance for sewage to mingle with storm water. "They said how they would deal with sewage, but I didn't hear them address storm water," she said.

Tom Holtzleiter, a former Minneapolis resident who now lives in Bloomington, called on the NPS to devise new methods to more

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The lush berm on the south side of St. Anthony Avenue between Fairview Avenue and Aldine Street as it appeared prior to the initial clear-cutting by Xcel Energy in 2015.

Gov't snafu wipes out Merriam Park neighbors' \$10,000 landscape project

Xcel crew clear-cuts freeway berm 2 years after it was replanted

BY LUCAS HANSEN

Merriam Park neighbors were shocked to discover on May 14 that the vegetative berm between St. Anthony Avenue and I-94 that they had landscaped less than two years before was being clear-cut by Xcel Energy tree removal personnel.

The berm's trees and bushes had all been planted by neighborhood volunteers with the support of the city of St. Paul and money from the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) following a similar clear-cutting by Xcel back in 2015.

Three weeks ago, those same neighbors could only watch as the fruit of their labor and an estimated \$10,000 of taxpayer money was laid to waste.

According to the residents of the area just north of St. Anthony between Aldine and Beacon streets, the berm had stood mostly untouched for years, providing a barrier to sound, light and carbon monoxide from the interstate freeway. Then, in September of 2015, miscommunication between the city of St. Paul and MnDOT led to a complete clearing of the area.

Devastated, the neighborhood rallied to replenish the berm, turning to MnDOT's Community Roadside Landscape Partnership Program and working with the city to plant new trees and bushes that the local residents would maintain. In June 2016, MnDOT provided over \$10,000 worth of sumac, fruit-bearing shrubs and pollinator plants, small oaks, spruce, pines and aspens. The re-landscaping began in earnest.

"I'd say at least 10 households, a couple dozen people (were involved)," said local resident Thomas Rupp. "The neighborhood rallied volunteers and supplies to plant over a long weekend during the hottest part of the sum-

mer, paid for a water meter, and watered the plants for the past couple of years."

Their hard work was paying off—until three weeks ago, when crews tore it all out.

John Marshall, director of community relations for Xcel Energy, explained that the tree removal crew was there for routine "tree trimming and vegetation management." The work that was done had been approved by MnDOT and completed as planned, according to him.

Marshall said that the trees and other vegetation were removed to prevent them from growing above 50 feet tall and interfering with the power lines above the berm. Xcel had never been notified of the landscaping project that the neighbors had carried out with MnDOT's support, he added.

The neighbors are at a loss. "The landscape design was completed by MnDOT, all approved species and types for this type of project," said Lyn Rhodes, another resident who was part of the landscaping effort. "To my knowledge, the plants would not have been able to reach a height of even 20 feet over the next 40 years. At this point, the increase of dust, noise and carbon dioxide pollution is a concern."

"I can't breathe comfortably in my neighborhood," Rupp said. "The community needs some restoring to happen from Xcel and MnDOT."

MnDOT could not be reached for comment on this story.

The neighbors said they have been contacted by the city, but no solutions have been offered. "I don't want an apology," Rupp said. "I want to have the earth restored."

City Council member Samantha Henningson, whose Ward 4 includes the berm site, said she is hoping to set up a meeting with MnDOT and Xcel Energy to find out how the miscommunication occurred and what can be done to rectify the situation.

"It's one of those situations where the left hand didn't know what the right hand was doing," Henningson said. "A situation like this makes everyone look bad, but I hope we can work together to find a solution."

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accurately measure Coldwater Spring's groundwater levels. "The way it's measured now is not the way it's been historically measured," he said, noting that one of the devices to measure groundwater is broken. "Now it just measures a fraction of the flow."

Susu Jeffrey, co-founder of Friends of Coldwater, criticized the MCES for not understanding the area's watershed. "Let's delineate the footprint of the watershed before you do any more (digging)," she said.

Friends of Coldwater had put out a press release stating that the spring now flows at a rate of about 67,000 gallons a day, compared to 130,000 gallons a day in the late 1990s.

"This belies the promise of no (water) loss that experts have repeated and repeated," the release said. It added that the number of

construction projects in the area over the years—from the Highway 55 reroute to the Blue Line to new housing at the nearby Veterans Administration—all add up to "a never-ending cycle of development."

Former Minneapolis City Council member Sandy Colvin-Roy had questions about the cost of land acquisition connected to the project and whether it was included in the 60 cent rate increase that the MCES is planning to charge households throughout the region to help pay for the work.

O'Donnell answered that it was and added that it is a one-time rate increase that will be in effect for 20 years.

The Friends' press release also criticized the MCES for having too short of a public comment period, which expired on June 1. For more information on the project, visit metro-council.org/sewerconstruction/minnehaha.

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The thrill of the hunt

New guide to finding wildflowers is a lesson in the wonders of nature

BY MARY MAGUIRE LERMAN

Imagine two women so obsessed with wildflowers that they drive to northern Minnesota in mid-April in hopes of finding some early bloomers. They encounter snow on the ground at their first stop, snow on the ground at their second stop, and snow so deep at their third stop they nearly get stuck before they finally realize that it is too early in the year to be looking for blooms in the North.

Kelly Povo of Highland Park and Phyllis Root of South Minneapolis don't have to imagine the above; they lived it. The two women first met through their husbands' friendship. Then in 2006, while Root was working on a new children's book, *The Big Belching Bog*, they learned that they shared a strong interest in wildflowers.

Root is the author of 50 children's books, and she teaches writing for children and young adults in the MFA program in Creative Writing at Hamline University. Povo has been a professional photographer for 35 years and is the chapter manager for alumnae relations at St. Catherine University.

Over the last 10 years, the two women crisscrossed the state in search of wildflowers, and the result is their newly published book,

Searching for Minnesota's Native Wildflowers: A Guide for Beginners, Botanists and Everyone in Between.

The saying, "Teach thy tongue to say I do not know and thou shalt progress," applies to their years of searching for, writing about and photographing wildflowers. When Root and Povo first set out on their book project, they didn't know that much about wildflowers. But that was the challenge. As the saying goes, "You can't love what you don't know," and they have learned to love wildflowers.

In their new book, Root and Povo lead readers to locales throughout the state that promise an abundance of wildflowers. They also encourage readers to begin their own quest. Three nearby wildflower sites they highly recommend are the Quaking Bog and the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary in Theodore Wirth Park in Minneapolis and the Black Ash Seep along the boardwalk on the south side of Minnehaha Creek below the falls.

Searching for Minnesota's Native Wildflowers is a travelogue of Root's and Povo's search through state forests and parks, Nature Conservancy sites and state Scientific and Natural Areas. The book is divided into sections on spring, summer and autumn bloom periods, and further subdivided into habitats of



Searching for Minnesota's Native Wildflowers author Phyllis Root and photographer Kelly Povo stumbled upon a bellwort and eastern false rue anemone at the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Wildflowers don't stand out in the open waiting to be observed. They require searching. Each plant has its own specific needs for sunlight, moisture and soil type. Once you find the habitat they thrive in, you often encounter glorious masses of them.

woodlands, prairies, wetlands, peat lands or bogs, northern forests and the North Shore. One chapter is devoted to Minnesota's native orchids, and there are field notes that focus on specific wildflowers.

The guide is a great resource for camping and hiking trips. Unlike garden-variety flowers, wildflowers don't stand out in the open wait-

ing to be observed. They require searching to be found. Each plant has its own specific needs for sunlight, moisture and soil type. However, once you find the habitat they thrive in, you often encounter glorious masses of them.

Wildflowers can be short bloomers, particularly in the spring. These species have to be found at the proper time. Early spring woodland wildflowers are called ephemerals, as they come into bloom before the trees fully leaf out when more sunlight can reach the ground.

Wetland wildflowers often bloom later in the spring as their preferred soil takes longer to warm. However, there is an early-spring wetland bloomer called skunk cabbage that literally breaks through the frost. You can observe these at the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and the Black Ash Seep.

Prairie wildflowers generally bloom a bit later, with their height of bloom in midsummer. However, Pasque flowers emerge from prairies in early spring.

The book includes more than 180 photographs and descriptions of Minnesota wildflowers. At the end is a glossary of common botanical terms and a color guide to wildflowers. Root and Povo have also set up a blog at mnnativewildflowers.com to relay their current adventures. Their goal in 2018 is to find the squirrel corn and lesser purple fringed orchid.

Searching for Minnesota's Native Wildflowers is an excellent resource for both new and seasoned wildflower enthusiasts. Even the more experienced enthusiasts may find a few surprises. For example, recent advances in the study of DNA have resulted in the changing of some plants' Latin binomial names. For example, *Hepatica's* genus is now *Anemone*.

Fans of wildflowers can meet Root and Povo and learn about their current bucket list of native flowers to find at a book signing beginning at 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 6, at Common Good Books, 38 S. Snelling Ave.



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Commission favors plans for senior campus on old Riverside site

By JANE MCCLURE

The transformation of the former Riverside School property into a senior housing campus continues to move forward. The St. Paul Planning Commission on June 1 recommended approval of a rezoning, conditional use permit (CUP) and variance for the 5.4-acre property at the intersection of West Seventh Street, Lexington Parkway and Montreal Avenue. The Planning Commission's Zoning Committee recommended approval of all three actions on May 24.

The rezoning from single-family residential to traditional neighborhoods three (TN3) now goes to the City Council for a final public hearing and vote in late June or early July. The Planning Commission's approvals of the CUP and variance are final unless they are appealed.

The St. Paul Public Schools still owns the property, which was home to the vacant Riverside School building until it was torn down last August. The nonprofit J.A. Wedum Foundation has an agreement to

purchase the triangular site dependent upon receiving final city approvals for the rezoning, CUP and variance.

City staff, the West Seventh/Fort Road Federation and the Highland District Council (HDC) have all recommended approval of the three requests. The property is located in Highland Park, but sits on the border with the West Seventh neighborhood.

The change to TN3 zoning would allow building heights of up to 55 feet. A CUP is needed since developers estimate that the first of the two buildings planned for the site would be about 58 feet tall.

A five-story, 165-unit market-rate senior housing complex is being proposed for the first phase of construction. The majority of the units would be for independent living, but there would also be some units for assisted living and memory care. Plans call for construction of the first building to begin later this year.

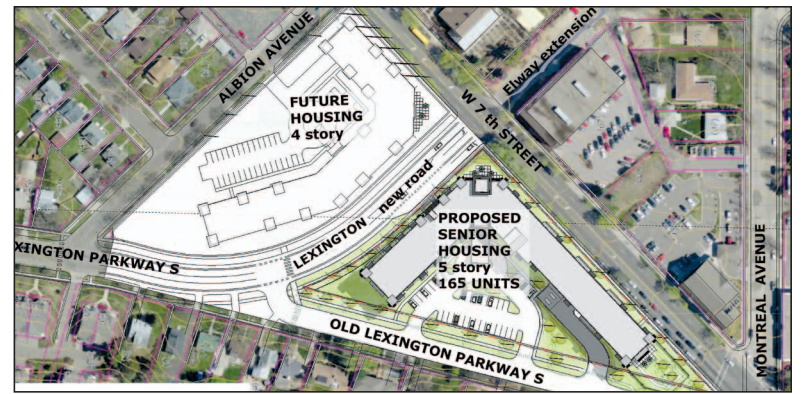
The variance was needed to bypass the zoning requirement that the building have an entrance on

a main thoroughfare. Instead, the main entry would be off of a dead-ended Lexington, with about 35 parking spaces off a driveway. A secondary entrance would be on the newly rerouted Lexington through the property. There also would be about 65 underground parking spaces.

A second senior building would be constructed closer to Albion. When that building goes up and what it looks like will be influenced by demand for the first building.

Lexington will be rerouted through the site to mitigate a long-standing traffic hazard at the Montreal-Lexington-West Seventh intersection. Only one neighbor, Kathryn Hirsch, raised objections at the Zoning Committee hearing on May 24. Hirsch, whose home will be at the end of the current Lexington after it is rerouted, said the height being sought for the first senior building was not in keeping with the rest of the neighborhood.

Planning Commission chair Betsy Reveal agreed that the development would be a huge change, but



The first phase of developing the 5.4-acre former Riverside School property at 900 Albion Ave. includes five stories of senior housing.

added it was "an ideal location for this type of project, and this type of facility is badly needed."

HDC president Kevin Gallatin spoke in favor of the development requests, focusing largely on the opportunity to reroute Lexington and the developer's willingness to do so.

The Ramsey County and St. Paul public works departments are planning to make the changes to Lexington beginning next year. A cul-de-sac would be created on Lexington north of West Seventh. Lexington

would then be rerouted through the Riverside property and across West Seventh to connect with Elway Street. Elway would be redeveloped as an extension of Lexington, which would go south to Shepard Road.

The plans for rerouting Lexington will be the focus of a public meeting hosted by the county from 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, June 19, at Summit Brewing Company, 910 Montreal Circle. More information is available by visiting ramseycounty.us/lexingtonintersection.

Fitzgerald's wants to demolish Urban League building to add parking

By JANE MCCLURE

Plans to tear down a building at 401 Selby Ave. to provide off-street parking for Fitzgerald's restaurant and other nearby businesses could provide some relief in the Selby-Western area. However, for many longtime African-American residents it would mark the end of an era for the once-vibrant St. Paul Urban League.

Madison Equities, the owner of Fitzgerald's at 173 N. Western Ave., has a purchase agreement for the league's former building. The restaurant owners want to add patio space to the west of Fitzgerald's, but that would require taking spaces from their current 13-space parking lot. Tearing down the old league building and adding parking just down the block would provide a total of about 46 spaces for Fitzgerald's and other business' customers.

The Summit-University Planning Council (SUPC) gave preliminary approval for the restaurant patio and parking plans on May 22. Later this summer, a liquor license request for the patio will come up for a district council

vote. Also needed are site plan approvals for the patio and parking lot. It is not known yet if the lot would require variances. The property is zoned for commercial use.

SUPC board member Marvin Scroggins quietly said "no" when the voice vote on the preliminary plans was taken. While agreeing that more off-street parking is needed in the area, he lamented the loss of the Urban League building, which has sat largely vacant for years.

"I just think of all of the potential programs and services we could still have there," he said.

Chuck Repke, who is working with Madison Equities, and company representative Brian Larson said they could close on the purchase of 401 Selby in early August. The new parking lot and patio would go in after that.

"We've been hearing about Selby and Western parking issues for a very long time," Repke said.

The restaurant owners are currently circulating a consent petition for extending outdoor liquor service to the patio, but have had trouble getting signatures from property

owners in the Blair House Condominiums across Selby Avenue. They have gotten about two dozen signatures out of about 98 potential signers. Because of the SUPC's support on May 22, they only need 60 percent of residential neighbors to sign the petition instead of the standard 90 percent.

Madison Equities representatives said they will continue to seek signatures and will meet with neighbors to discuss the patio and parking lot project.

SUPC members said they would like to see the parking lot and patio site plans once they are finalized. The patio would have a brick wall and plants along Selby. Music would not be offered and the hours of operation have not been set.

Some board members said the new parking lot would meet a longstanding need for more off-street parking in the Selby-Western area. A neighborhood task force came up with suggestions to help solve the parking issue months ago, but the ideas have stalled due to lack of funding.

Demolition of 401 Selby would signal the

end of the St. Paul Urban League, which was founded in 1923 and had operated at that location since 1959. Over the years, the nonprofit organization helped people find work, offered classes on a wide array of topics and promoted public health efforts. It led many civil rights efforts and had dozens of prominent St. Paul African-American residents on its board.

A decade ago the local organization began to struggle. It lost funding, including United Way support. A new executive director was brought in, but a dispute over leadership prompted several board members to resign. By 2012 its staff had been laid off and most of its operations were suspended. It also lost its affiliation with the National Urban League.

In July 2012 an agreement was reached in district court for Willie Mae and Bill Wilson to loan the St. Paul Urban League \$65,000 in order to prevent the building's foreclosure. The Wilsons, who were deeply involved in the league's operations, had sued the organization's board to stop the building's planned sale at that time.

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District Council News

Highland Park

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Lexington Parkway realignment—Ramsey County Public Works will hold an open house from 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, June 19, on plans to realign Lexington Parkway between the existing Albion Avenue and West Seventh Street. The meeting will be held at Summit Brewing Company, 910 Montreal Circle. The public is invited to comment on the realignment and to learn about a proposal to turn the former Riverside School site into a senior housing campus. For more information, visit ramseycounty.us/lexingtonintersection or call Nick Fischer at 651-266-7119.

Come for the music—The Friends of Highland Arts and the Highland District Council will kick off Highland's Summer Music Series with a free "Pool House Rock" concert, weather permitting, at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, June 14, at the former pool house on Montreal Avenue and Edgumbe Road. There will be music by the local band The Rivermen, food trucks and children's activities. Participants are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and blankets.

Stay for the movie—Following the concert on June 14, there will be an outdoor showing of the Academy Award-winning film *La La Land* (PG-13) from 9-11:00 p.m. at the pool house.

Jazzed about Highland—The HDC and Highland Business Association will present their fourth annual summer jazz concert at 7 p.m. Thursday, June 21, in the parking lot of Langford & Karls Chiropractic on Cleveland Avenue and Highland Parkway. Returning by popular demand will be the McNasty Brass Band. Food and beverages will be available for purchase beginning at 6 p.m. There will also be prizes and family activities sponsored by local businesses.

Upcoming meetings—HDC board of directors, 7 p.m. Thursday, June 7; Transportation Committee, 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 12; Community Development Committee, 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 19. All of the meetings will be held at the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. For other meetings, see the calendar on the website.

Macalester-Groveland

macgrove.org • 651-695-4000

Alley gardens—Nominations are not being accepted this year for the Macalester-Groveland Community Council's annual Alley Garden Awards, since all gardens will be viewed during the June 21-28 judging period. Residents are being encouraged to prepare the land alongside their alleys in time for the awards. Visit macgrove.org/what-we-do/aga.

Macgrove Moves—A new season of MacGrove Moves is taking place through June 30. To participate, people are asked to leave their cars at home and walk, jog, bike or take public transit to their destinations at least 15 times. They may turn in up to three log sheets by the end of June (or a total of 45 trips) to be entered in a drawing to win prizes. Download log sheets at macgrove.org/mgm.

Mac-Grove Fest 2018—Exhibitors are now being accepted

for Mac-Grove Fest, which will run from 2-6 p.m. Saturday, September 8, at the Groveland Recreation Center fields on St. Clair and Prior avenues. The day will feature exhibits, music, food and children's activities. The registration deadline is July 13. Visit macgrove.org/what-we-do/macgrovefest.

Get involved—The community council has an opening on its board for an at-large faith representative. It also has four standing committees that meet once a month. Those who attend three consecutive committee meetings can become voting members. Visit macgrove.org/who-we-are/board.

Mark your calendar—Community Building Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, June 11; Environment Committee, 7 p.m. Thursday, June 21; Transportation Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, June 25. The meetings will be held at the Edgumbe Recreation Center.

Summit Hill

summithillassociation.org • 651-222-1222

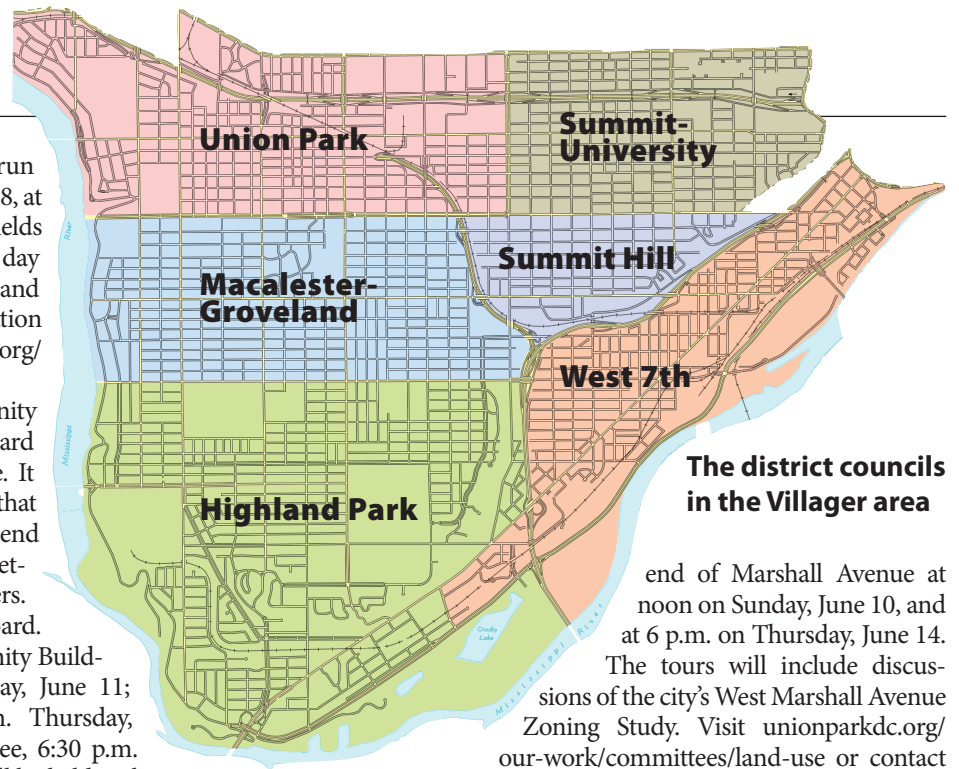
Linwood rain garden—A WaterStories painting unveiling and artists' talk will be held from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 13, at the Linwood Recreation Center, 860 St. Clair Ave. The special guest will be local artist Annie Hejny, who is working with 2nd-grade science students at Linwood Monroe School to create art using paint mixed with rainwater and sediment collected from the Linwood rain garden. Hejny will give a short presentation on the WaterStories activity with student artists adding their comments and revealing the finished canvases at 6 p.m. Master Water Stewards will be on hand for informal questions on residential water stewardship. The event is sponsored by the Summit Hill Association's Environment Committee with funding from the Capitol Region Watershed District. For details, call executive director Monica Haas at the SHA office or email director@summithillassociation.org.

Union Park

unionparkdc.org • 651-645-6887

New executive director—The Union Park District Council will welcome its new executive director, Brandon Long, on Monday, June 11. Long moved to the Highland Park neighborhood in 2012 to begin work on his master's degree in occupational therapy at St. Catherine University. He began working at the Minnesota Autism Center as an occupational therapist in 2015. He currently serves as an at-large board member of the Highland District Council and helped found the neighborhood nonprofit group Sustain Ward 3.

Marshall Avenue walking tours—The UPDC's Land Use Committee members will lead walking tours of the western



The district councils in the Villager area

end of Marshall Avenue at noon on Sunday, June 10, and at 6 p.m. on Thursday, June 14.

The tours will include discussions of the city's West Marshall Avenue Zoning Study. Visit unionparkdc.org/our-work/committees/land-use or contact alexa@unionparkdc.org for information.

Upcoming meetings—Transportation Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, June 11, Griggs-Midway Building, 1821 University Ave., Suite 330; Land Use and Economic Development Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, June 18, Central Baptist Church, 420 N. Roy St.; Environment and Parks Committee, 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 20, Merriam Park Recreation Center, 2000 St. Anthony Ave.

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

West 7th

fortroadfederation.org • 651-298-5599

Housing survey—The West Seventh/Fort Road Federation has received about 200 responses to its housing survey, but wants to hear from more residents—both renters and owners. The survey can be taken online in English at z.umn.edu/West-7survey or in person in English, Spanish, Hmong or Somali at the West Seventh Community Center, 265 Oneida St.

Garden tour and plant sale—The 11th annual West End Neighbors' Garden Tour will be held from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, June 9. The tour will feature 14 gardens between Jefferson and Randolph Avenues from West Seventh Street to Lexington Parkway. Printed guides with maps of the gardens and a history of the neighborhood can be picked up at the start of the tour at the federation office, 974 W. Seventh St. Tourgoers can also shop at a plant sale there.

Upcoming meeting—The next board of directors meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, June 11, at 974 W. Seventh St. The board will hear a presentation from city staff on highlights of St. Paul's draft 2040 comprehensive plan.

Stay in touch—Neighbors are invited to "like" the West Seventh/Fort Road Federation on its Facebook page and subscribe to its e-newsletter on its website.

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Crime Report

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

Highland Park

Burglary—The Laundry Depot, 2575 W. Seventh St., was broken into at 3:38 a.m. Friday, May 18.

—A home burglary was reported on the 1700 block of Hampshire Avenue at 6:40 p.m. Monday, May 28.

Theft—Several items were stolen from a handful of vehicles between 8-8:40 a.m. Thursday, May 17 at St. Catherine University. The stolen items included hockey equipment, Ultimate frisbee discs, electronic equipment, a Keurig, Pokemon cards, tennis shoes and toiletries. Felony criminal damage to property also was reported there around that time.

—A woman said her former roommate stole her iPad from her home on the 2200 block of Benson Avenue at 1:19 p.m. Thursday, May 17.

—Two vehicles were reported stolen from Hertz Rent-a-Car, 1420 Davern St., at 5:11 a.m. Thursday, May 17.

—Stolen vehicles were reported on the 2300 block of West Seventh Street on May 19 and on the 1400 block of Davern Street on May 21.

—A man reported that his keys and phone were taken from his home on the 1000 block of Otto Avenue and his car was stolen from the driveway at 12:26 a.m. Sunday, May 20.

—A laptop computer was stolen from a room at the Highland Chateau, 2319 W. Seventh St., between May 21-26.

—A vehicle was reported stolen at Enterprise Rental, 2500 Stewart Ave., at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, May 24, but was later recovered. An attempted auto theft also was reported there at 12:30 p.m. the next day.

—A bicycle valued at more than \$1,000 was reported stolen from Walgreens, 2099 Ford Pkwy., at 3:18 p.m. Thursday, May 24.

—A jet ski and trailer were reported stolen from the Highland Ridge Apartments, 2285 Stewart Ave., at 7:44 p.m. Sunday, May 27.

—Carpet cleaner, lamps, clothes and prescription medication were stolen at the Highland Ridge Apartments, 2285 Stewart Ave., between 12:55-1:24 p.m. Monday, May 28.

Sex crime—A rape was reported on the 700 block of South Mississippi River Boulevard at 9:11 a.m. Friday, May 18.

Assault—An assault occurred on the 1200 block of Montreal Avenue at 8:19 p.m. Tuesday, May 22.

—A 58-year-old woman was cited for assaulting a man at the Capital City Gas Station, 1205 Homer St., at 7:19 p.m. Friday, May 25.

Weapons—Gunfire was heard on the 1900 block of Sheridan Avenue at 12:17 a.m. Saturday, May 19.

Lexington-Hamline

Burglary—A residence was broken into on Carroll Avenue and Syndicate Street between 6:10-8:31 p.m. Tuesday, May 22.

—St. Paul Plastic Surgery, 393 N. Dunlap St., was burglarized between May 25-29.

Theft—A 32-year-old woman was arrested for trying to steal more than \$500 in merchandise from the Midway Target at 7:03 p.m. Saturday, May 19.

—A 65-year-old man was arrested for driving a stolen vehicle at 1:10 a.m. Tuesday, May 22, on Hamline and University avenues.

Macalester-Groveland

Burglary—The SuperAmerica station at 232 S. Fairview Ave. was broken into at 3:59 a.m. Friday, May 18.

—A vehicle was stolen from a garage on the 2100 block of Lincoln Avenue between 9:41-10:28 a.m. Sunday, May 20.

—A purse and iPhone were stolen from an occupied residence that was broken into on

the 1900 block of Palace Avenue at 3:10 p.m. Wednesday, May 30. The owner said three black males ages 12-14 slit the screen on a locked storm door. They were wearing black hoodies and long pants, and one had on a red baseball cap. The suspects claimed to be collecting money for a basketball team through Webber Park in Minneapolis. Police said there were multiple reports of the teens casing the neighborhood and entering backyards.

Theft—A package containing a Kindle was stolen from the front steps of a residence on the 200 block of Brimhall Street between 6 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday, May 18.

—Eight microphones were stolen from Immanuel Lutheran Church, 104 S. Snelling Ave., between 12:30-8 p.m. Saturday, May 19.

—Thefts from two vehicles occurred at Plums, 480 S. Snelling Ave., between 8 p.m.-12:38 a.m. May 20-21.

—Vehicles were stolen on the 400 block of South Saratoga Street on May 23-24 and on the 1200 block of Sargent Avenue on May 30.

—An attempted theft of a motorcycle occurred on the 1400 block of Palace Avenue at 4:24 p.m. Thursday, May 24.

—A truck was stolen on the 1800 block of Princeton Avenue during the evening of May 26-27. The vehicle was recovered, but personal property was missing.

Mendota Heights

Theft—A purse was reported stolen from a vehicle on the 1000 block of Highway 13 at 9:49 p.m. Saturday, May 12.

Miscellaneous—An intoxicated driver was arrested after he was found sleeping in his vehicle in the middle of the road near Lexington Avenue and Victoria Curve at 3:17 a.m. Saturday, May 12.

—Someone tried to pry open the door of a truck at a construction site on the 700 block of South Plaza Drive between 11 am.-12:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 15.

—A driver was arrested for DWI and driving after cancellation of his license after striking two parked cars on the 2100 block of Mendakota Drive at 6:56 p.m. Tuesday, May 15.

—While doing a premise check on a residence that was supposed to be unoccupied on the 1000 block of Highway 13, police discovered two people inside and cited them for trespassing at 12:15 a.m. Wednesday, May 16.

Merriam Park

Robbery—An attempted robbery at knife-point occurred on the 1700 block of Ashland Avenue at 12:34 a.m. Saturday, May 26.

Burglary—Tools were reported stolen from a garage on the 1600 block of Laurel Avenue at 8:36 a.m. Tuesday, May 29.

Theft—A car was stolen at Town & Country Club, 300 N. Mississippi River Blvd., between 4:04-4:50 p.m. Friday, May 18. Surveillance footage showed a male suspect enter the locker room and take the victim's car keys. The suspect exited the parking lot on foot and another male came in and drove the car away.

—All four wheels were reported stolen from a vehicle on the 1700 block of Marshall Avenue at 9:53 a.m. Sunday, May 20.

—A utility trailer was stolen on the 1800 block of Marshall Avenue on May 27-29, but later recovered. Around \$500 in scaffolding planks also were stolen.

Sex crime—A rape was reported on the 1900 block of University Avenue at 11:40 a.m. Wednesday, May 16.

Miscellaneous—Felony criminal damage to property occurred on the 1800 block of Ashland Avenue the evening of May 25-26.

Snelling-Hamline

Theft—The catalytic converter was stolen from a vehicle at Concordia's Gangelhoff Center, 235 N. Hamline Ave., between noon-4 p.m. Wednesday, May 23.

—A Stanley tool box was reported stolen from a vehicle on the 1300 block of Selby Avenue at 11:54 a.m. Saturday, May 26.

—More than \$1,000 in merchandise was reported stolen from the Sprint Store, 1360 University Ave., at 6:50 p.m. Tuesday, May 29.

Miscellaneous—An off-duty officer saw a group of people spraying graffiti on the concrete wall near the I-94 entrance ramp at Pascal Street at 1:04 a.m. Friday, May 18.

—A 31-year-old woman was arrested for two active warrants and was cited for leaving the scene of an accident and driving after revocation of her license following a hit-and-run crash at Portland and Snelling avenues at 1:46 p.m. Monday, May 21.

—Police received a call about a male panhandler who appeared to be passed out and lying in the street at Snelling and St. Anthony avenues at 6:08 p.m. Saturday, May 26. The 33-year-old man told police he was fine, but while he was speaking to them he stepped into the street to take money from a passing vehicle and was cited for obstructing traffic.

—Police responded to a report of a slumped-over driver near the Midway Cub Foods and arrested a 46-year-old man for felony DWI and driving after cancellation of his license at 8:48 p.m. Saturday, May 26.

Summit Hill

Theft—A Stihl pruning saw was reported stolen from the front lawn of a residence on the 700 block of Goodrich Avenue at 11:44 a.m. Thursday, May 17.

—Stolen vehicles were reported on the 800 block of Grand Avenue on May 18 and on the 300 block of Grand Avenue on May 28.

Summit-University

Robbery—A 58-year-old man was arrested for robbing another man of cash on Selby Avenue and Dale Street at 1:46 a.m. Saturday, May 26. The victim said he grabbed the suspect, who tried to gouge his eyes out and was able to break free. The suspect was later arrested in front of the Muddy Pig bar and restaurant.

Burglary—A 26-year-old man was arrested for breaking into an apartment on the 600 block of Dayton Avenue at 8:33 p.m. Saturday, May 26. The suspect said he was looking for money to buy drugs.

Theft—Items were reported stolen from a storage room at the Learning Center, 175 N. Victoria St., at 2:46 p.m. Monday, May 21.

—A vehicle was reported stolen on the 400 block of Selby Avenue at 12:03 p.m. Thursday, May 24.

—Numerous items were reported stolen from an apartment on the 300 block of Laurel Avenue at 8:36 a.m. Sunday, May 27.

—Several pictures valued at more than \$1,000 were reported stolen from Fabulous Fern's, 400 Selby Ave., at 6:39 p.m. Sunday, May 27.

Assault—A 58-year-old man was arrested for felony assault of his girlfriend at 8:19 p.m. Sunday, May 20, at the Dale Street Place Apartments, 313 N. Dale St. He also was wanted on a warrant for theft.

—A felony assault was reported on the 400 block of Iglehart Avenue at 1:56 p.m. Tuesday, May 22.

—Two suspects were arrested for felony assault after police responded to a weapons call at 1:53 p.m. Sunday, May 27, on the 600 block of Selby Avenue.

—A 23-year-old man and a 39-year-old man were booked for felony assault at 4:21 p.m. Sunday, May 27, on the 600 block of Selby Avenue. Their victims said they were chased by the two suspects and that one of the men had a gun.

Weapons—Gun shots were fired on the 300 block of Pleasant Avenue at 4:17 p.m. Monday, May 21.

West End

Robbery—A strong-arm robbery occurred on West Seventh and Walnut streets at 1:45 a.m. Tuesday, May 22.

Burglary—A suspect cut a window screen on a residence, but was scared away by the owner's dog at 4:15 a.m. Thursday, May 24, on the 300 block of St. Clair Avenue.

Theft—An iPhone 7, suitcase with clothes, leather jacket, ATM card, 15 CDs and check-book were stolen from a vehicle on the 500 block of James Avenue on Tuesday, May 15.

—A purse, iPhone, credit cards, keys and cash were stolen from a vehicle on Douglas Street near Forbes Avenue at 11:30 a.m. Friday, May 18.

—Police were called to SuperAmerica, 1445 W. Seventh St., at 6:46 p.m. Monday, May 21, regarding the theft of a Metro Mobility bus. They stopped the bus heading east on Sheppard Road and arrested a 29-year-old man for motor vehicle theft.

—Cash and documents were stolen from a purse inside a residence on Leech Street and McBoal Avenue between 8-9 a.m. Thursday, May 24.

—A vehicle was stolen between 5-6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 24, at DeGidio's, 425 W. Seventh St.

Assault—A man used his fists and a tree branch to assault a 21-year-old woman in a wooded area near Smith Avenue and Kellogg Boulevard at 4 p.m. Monday, May 21. The suspect was described as a black man, 28 years old, 6-foot-4, with a thin build, and wearing a white shirt and black pants. Police said the woman's injuries were not life-threatening.

Fire Calls

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

Macalester-Groveland—A boy was injured by a vehicle while crossing Edgumbe Road and Jefferson Avenue at 4:34 p.m. Saturday, May 5. The driver was cited for failing to yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk. The boy was taken to the hospital for treatment of abrasions and bruises.

Merriam Park—Police saw a vehicle bump a male pedestrian near Snelling and Shields avenues at 4:51 p.m. Thursday, May 3. No injuries were reported.

—A male bicyclist was struck by a vehicle at the intersection of Cleveland and Marshall avenues at 4:10 p.m. Friday, May 4. He was taken to the hospital.

—A female pedestrian was in critical condition after she was struck by a westbound light-rail train, which knocked her into an east-bound train while she was crossing University and Snelling avenues at 5 p.m. Wednesday, May 24.

Snelling-Hamline—A female pedestrian was injured by a vehicle in the parking lot of the Midway McDonald's, 1570 University Ave., at 1:52 p.m. Sunday, May 13.

—A female bicyclist was struck by a vehicle near the Starbucks on Snelling and Marshall avenues at 5:01 p.m. Tuesday, May 15.

Summit-University—A 69-year-old female pedestrian who was struck by a vehicle was cited for not using the crosswalk at 9:56 p.m. Saturday, May 26, on Concordia and Western avenues.

West End—A bicyclist was struck by a vehicle on Monroe Court and Victoria Street at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, May 3. Citizens stabilized the cyclist until medics arrived and took the victim to the hospital.

—Two pedestrians were struck by a vehicle on the 1300 block of Pleasant Avenue around 5:45 p.m. Friday, May 18. Citations were given for careless driving and no proof of insurance.

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The Kiosk

Wednesday, June 6

ST. PAUL'S UNITED Church of Christ, 900 Summit Ave., is hosting a series of conversations from 6:30-7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays using the Living the Questions 2.0 DVD series. "A Kingdom Without Walls" is the topic today. Call 651-224-5809.

Thursday/June 7

THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE on Mental Illness will introduce its services during an open house from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at NAMI Minnesota, 1919 University Ave. Meet NAMI staff and volunteers and hear firsthand how NAMI's work has affected the lives of children and adults with mental illnesses and their families. For reservations, call 651-645-2948 ext. 113.

WANT TO IMPROVE your speaking skills in a light-hearted and supportive atmosphere? Join Midway Toastmasters. The club meets from 6-8 p.m. every Thursday at Seventh Street Social, 2176 W. Seventh St. No reservations are necessary.

VETERAN NATURALIST David Crawford will present "The Importance, Care and Feeding of Native Pollinators" at 7 p.m. at the North Garden Theater, 929 W. Seventh St. Crawford's program will include photographs and videos to illustrate the diversity of bees and other pollinators and what is needed to maintain their numbers with pollinator-friendly habitats. Admission is free and open to all.

Friday/June 8

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

DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN Revolution state regent Faye Leach will discuss the work of the DAR and the historical monuments and memorials it has erected across the state at 6 p.m. at the Sibley House Historic Site, 1357 Sibley Memorial Hwy. in Mendota. The event will open with a social at 5:30 p.m. Admission is \$20 and that includes a free drink for those who are 21 or older. Light food and other beverages will be available. For reservations, call 651-452-1596.

RETURN TO 1859 when newspapers across Minnesota were covering the murder trial of Ann Bilansky, a St. Paul woman accused, convicted and executed for poisoning her husband. Learn about those involved in the case, hear excerpts from court testimony, see articles chronicling the events and discover what role forensic evidence played. The 75-minute program will be offered at 7 and 8:30 p.m. at the Alexander Ramsey House, 265 S. Exchange St. The cost is \$11, \$10 for seniors and college students. Visit cart.mnhs.org or call 651-296-8760.

Saturday/June 9

ST. PAUL'S 2040 Comprehensive Plan, the city's blueprint for development over the next 20 years, will be the subject of an



A wonderland of adventure. Surrounded by giant white rabbits, Annie Kahn and her twin daughters Molly and Dinah Bliss, 2, pet a fluffy Holland Lop named Louise during the Flint Hills Family Fun Festival last Friday on the Landmark Center Plaza in downtown St. Paul. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

open house from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Rondo Library, 471 N. Dale St. Mayor Melvin Carter and city staff will make a brief presentation at 11 a.m. on this latest draft of the comprehensive plan. The public is invited to review the plan and learn how they can help shape it prior to its adoption. To read the plan, visit stpaul.gov/saintpaul4all.

THE 11TH ANNUAL WEST END Neighbors Garden Tour, featuring close to 15 gardens in the West Seventh area, will be held from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Guides that show the way to the gardens and include a history of the neighborhood may be picked up at the office of the West Seventh/Fort Road Federation, 974 W. Seventh St. There, tour-goers may also shop for plants, chat with master gardeners, and check out the St. Paul Park Bee Cart. For information, contact Joe Landsberger at 651-297-9000 or joe@josfland.com. For plant sale donations, contact jocraighead@gmail.com.

DEUTSCHE TAGE (German Days) will be celebrated from 10 a.m.-10 p.m. today and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. tomorrow at the Germanic American Institute, 301 Summit Ave. Traditional German food and drink will be served throughout. Saturday's lineup includes the Lederhosenlauf 5K and Fahrradtour 27K runs; live music by the Bavarian Musikmeisters, Narren of New Ulm and the Balkan Ensemble; a children's carnival and puppet show. Sunday will feature performances by

Hermann the German, Alpensterne and the Edelweiss Dancers; German model train demonstrations and a train ride. Admission is free. Visit gai-mn.org.

Sunday/June 10

"TURKEY: A PARTNER IN CRISIS," the latest installment of the Great Decisions series, will be presented at 1:30 p.m. at the Waters, 678 S. Snelling Ave. The free program will feature a 20-minute film on the impending dictatorship in the once democratic nation of Turkey followed by a discussion of what is at stake for the Turkish people and the long-standing alliance between Turkey and the U.S. For information, call 651-363-3040.

Monday/June 11

THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE will hold an open house on the proposed revitalization of Historic Fort Snelling and how that project will comply with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. The free program will run from 4-6 p.m. at Historic Fort Snelling.

Tuesday/June 12

THE ADVANTAGES of breastfeeding for mother and child will be discussed from 7-8:45 p.m. by the Como-Midway group of La Leche League. Pregnant women, mothers and their children are invited. For more information, call Heidi at 651-659-9527.

A TOWN HALL MEETING on ways to make Summit Avenue safer for pedestrians and bicyclists will be presented from 6:30-8 p.m. in the Lecture Hall of the Campus Center at Macalester College. Free and open to all, the meeting is sponsored by Safety on Summit, an ad hoc group that is calling for a redesign of Summit by moving the bike lane between the curb and the parking lane, installing a raised barrier between the two and improving the avenue's intersections with striped crosswalks and traffic signal intervals that favor pedestrians and bicyclists.

Wednesday/June 13

ST. PAUL'S UNITED Church of Christ, 900 Summit Ave., is hosting a series of conversations from 6:30-7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays using the Living the Questions 2.0 DVD series. "Social Justice: Realizing God's Vision" will be discussed today. "Incarnation: Divinely Human" will be the topic on June 20. Call 651-224-5809.

Saturday, June 16

THE NOKOMIS EAST Neighborhood Association will present its annual garage sale from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. in yards and garages throughout the Minnehaha and Keewaydin areas of Minneapolis. Printed guides to the garage sale locations will be available at the NENA office, 4313 E. 54th St. Call 612-724-5652 or visit nokomiseast.org.

A RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE will be held from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at Holy Spirit Church, 515 S. Albert St. For an appointment to donate blood, please visit redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code COHS or contact Chris Lyons at cssmlyons@gmail.com.

Thursday/June 21

A RUMMAGE SALE will be held from 9 a.m.-6:30 p.m. today and tomorrow and 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, June 23, at St. Albert the Great Church, East 29th Street and 32nd Avenue South in Minneapolis. Featured will be a huge selection of clothing, jewelry, linens, housewares, furniture, yard and garden products, toys, sporting goods, books, collectibles and miscellaneous. Saturday is bargain day with items sold by the bag—\$3 small and \$5 large. Call 612-724-3643.

A JIGSAW PUZZLEPALOOZA will be presented from sunup to sundown in the atrium of Building 19 at the Minnesota Veterans Home, 5101 Minnehaha Ave. S. in Minneapolis. A group of local Alzheimer's Association volunteers and master puzzlers will share their passion for jigsaw puzzles. Drop by for 10 minutes to observe or stick around and solve a puzzle. Admission is free. Complimentary cookies and water will be available.

"HOW THE TIN CAN Transformed St. Paul and America will be discussed by local historian Brian McMahon in an illustrated lecture from 7-8:30 p.m. at Bethlehem Covenant Church, 3141 43rd Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Sponsored by the Twin Cities Bungalow Club, the program will cover the technological, economic, social and architectural impact of the tin can, many of which were made by the American Can Company in St. Paul's Midway area. Admission is \$5. For information, visit bungalowclub.org.



Hot Dish

By Morgan Smith

Grand Catch: Red hot fare from the deep blue

Sitting at the curved bar at Grand Catch, 1672 Grand Ave., I met a couple from the North Loop of Minneapolis. Joe and Staci had befriended Grand Catch owners Saed and Sameh Wadi at their now-defunct Saffron Restaurant & Lounge in downtown Minneapolis and had driven across the river to support the brothers in their latest endeavor.

Joe looked a little peaked, and soon I understood why. He and Staci had just finished sharing the Head-On Shrimp (\$17.95/lb.)

“What spice level did you get?” I asked.

“Extra hot,” he replied.

“I admire you,” I said. “I could barely handle the mild.”

“I try not to be too Minnesotan when it comes to spice,” Joe said, looking at Staci.

Sadly, relief in the form of the Grand Catch’s Milkjam Creamery soft-serve ice cream would not be forthcoming because the dispenser was broken. Instead, the server brought Joe a dish of vegan Raspberry Lychee (\$6) on the house. As Joe spooned up the frozen treat, the color came back to his face and the sheen of sweat disappeared from his forehead.

Grand Catch is a seafood boil restaurant inspired by partner Thien Ly’s Cajun Deli in Brooklyn Park. Leo and Beth Judeh of Grand Avenue’s nearby Shish Mediterranean Cafe are also part owners.

The seafood at Grand Catch may be ordered at any of five levels of spice: mild, medium, hot, extra hot and insane ghost. “How many people order the insane ghost level of heat?” I asked a staffer behind the bar.

Not too many, he replied. “Mostly they order it on the side for an extra couple of bucks just to try it,” he said.

This was my second visit to Grand Catch. I learned about the spiciness of the dishes on my first visit, soon after the restaurant opened in April. My wife Mecca and I had been accompanied by John, Gloria, Stu and Mel. On that lovely Sunday evening, the 80-seat restaurant was almost full and the patio out back was not yet open for the season.

For appetizers, we tried the Chinese Shrimp Toast (\$8.95), Fried Green Tomatoes (\$8.95) and Snow Crab Dip (\$13.95). My Southern wife thought the crust on the fried green tomatoes slipped off a little too readily, but the fact that they disappeared before I had a chance to try one tells me the others in the group liked them—either that or I was talking too much, since I missed the Snow Crab Dip as well.

I did get enough of the Chinese Shrimp Toast to realize it had a little kick. That turned out to be an important observation; it gave me the foresight to ask our server how the spice level of the toast compared to the “mild” level of the various seafood boils.

“The mild is spicier than the toast,” she said.

At that point, the three of us ordering seafood boils changed our spice level from medium to mild.

First-time diners at Grand Catch will want to take a few



The Crawfish in Garlic Butter (left) comes with a tasty side of potato and corn on the cob at Grand Catch, where a housemade cocktail called the Hurricane, is blended with a shot of blue Curacao (below).

PHOTOS BY
BRAD STAUFFER

extra minutes to navigate the selections. The restaurant has a main menu as well as a smaller card listing that day’s shellfish specials. On the evening we were there, Grand Catch had as daily specials Alaskan King Crab (\$49.95/lb.), Crawfish (\$23.95/lb.) and P.E.I. Mussels (\$16.95/lb.).

All of the shellfish entrées at Grand Catch must be ordered in one-pound increments. Diners then choose a sauce: garlic butter, Louisiana, awesome (a mixture of the previous two), spicy isaan, or no sauce. Then they choose the spice level.

I went with the Peeled Shrimp (\$22.95/lb.), Mecca chose the Manila Clams (\$18.95/lb.), and Stu picked the Snow Crab (\$16.95/lb.) We all selected the awesome sauce.

Mel ordered a Green Salad (\$7.50) with Snow Crab (\$7), while John settled on the Fried White Fish Sandwich (\$10.95) with lettuce, tomato and buttermilk pickle sauce. Gloria had the Grilled Cheese sandwich (\$6.95) with Lobster (\$9) and Marinated Tomato (\$2).

The seafood boils are served on a platter that is about the size of a bassinet. The servers bring out plenty of bibs, surgical gloves and napkins to keep diners as neat as possible. Though I didn’t order the Jumbo Shrimp (\$29.95/lb.), the shrimp I got was at least as big as the jumbo shrimp at the supermarket. They were firm and perfectly cooked. I was also glad I ordered a side of Steamed White Rice (\$2.95) to absorb some of the heat.

I gave everyone at the table a shrimp or two, ate plenty myself and still took home enough to share for another meal. What also amazed me is that the potato and corn on the cob that came with the boils were actually good and not just mushy backdrops.

Stu polished off his Snow Crab with satisfaction. Mel commended her salad. John and Gloria were both pleased with their sandwiches. Mecca agreed with me that a more mild level of spiciness would have been a welcome accompaniment for her clams.

I was feeling pretty full, but the mention of some soft serve sounded good, so we ordered two twists of Milkjam and Raspberry Lychee (\$6). I was just hoping for something to cool my palette, but the soft serve was a delightful, creamy, fruity blend.

My second visit to Grand Catch was for lunch. I had wanted



to try the Crispy Fried Chicken Sandwich (\$9.50), and I’m glad I did. The big hunk of chicken had a crispy coating that didn’t slide off. It came with lettuce, pickles and buttermilk pickle sauce on a milk bun and was very nice.

Now when my spice-craving friends ask me to recommend a restaurant, I can say, “Let’s go to Grand Catch.” They’ll be happy, and I’ll gladly order the Crispy Fried Chicken Sandwich and graze a little off their plates since they’ll have way more food than they can eat.

Diners can feel right at home at Bungalow Club on East Lake

BY BILL WAGNER

The Bungalow Club opened for business last month in the space formerly occupied for many years by the Craftsman restaurant at East Lake Street and 43rd Avenue in Minneapolis. The new ownership group, a threesome with a lot of restaurant experience, believes that the Bungalow is off to a promising start.

“We’ve been really well-received,” said general manager Jeremiah Dittmann. “We’ve been getting a lot of repeat business from the neighborhood.”

One thing for sure is that the Bungalow’s menu will not be confused with that of the former Craftsman (which was Molly Quinn’s before that). Dittmann said he will be reaching out to local diners who would rather sup in “shorts and a T-shirt.” The restaurant, which has indoor seating for 66 plus a dog-

friendly patio that can accommodate about 30, states on its website that it features “comfortably adventurous cuisine, cocktails and wine” in a relaxed atmosphere.

“When you enter a restaurant and see a white table cloth, it gives off a certain vibe,” Dittmann said. “We try to build our menus to appeal to a wide swath of people.”

Andrew Kraft and Sam Rosen are partnering with Dittmann, who noted that all three bring specific skills to the job. Dittmann takes care of running the bar, while Kraft handles the kitchen and Rosen is the service manager.

The three have known each other for years, even though they have sometimes held jobs outside the Midwest. Locally, Dittmann was last at the Capital Grille and worked in New York City for a few years. Kraft, who is Dittmann’s brother-in-law, got his start in the pizza business in Pequot Lakes. Rosen met Dittmann when they were both at the

Grand Cafe.

The partners said there will be a heavy emphasis on handmade pastas at the Bungalow, and browsing the menu reveals a definite bend in that direction. Ranging between \$15-\$17 are tortelli with peas, ricotta cheese, conserved mushrooms, brodo (bone broth) and spring veggies; whole wheat maltagliati with artichoke, radicchio and saba (an Italian syrup); stella with turkey meatballs and calabrian chili; rigatoni with alfredo and arugula; bigoli with pig’s head and clams; and lasagna with oxtail and bechamel sauce.

However, further delving into the Bungalow’s menu reveals a variety of other dishes. Jumping out among the appetizers are a chicken liver plate with raisin and apple mostarda (\$6) and Italian sausage with bread and butter pickles (\$7). Those who want to sample a little bit of everything can opt for the smorgasbord (\$16).

Diners can order a spring bean salad (\$9) or a helping of octopus and fennel (\$12). Also on the menu is a short rib tartare with horseradish, pickled shallots, alfalfa sprouts and seeded crackers (\$13).

The entrees include a buvette steak with charred eggplant (\$23), a cornflake chicken with dandelion greens and rhubarb barbecue (\$19), and a patty melt with Cecil’s rye, fontina cheese, roasted pickled peppers and smash fries (\$14).

For group dinners, the Bungalow offers a “feast for the table” at \$50 per person. The restaurant also offers brunch and children’s menus, along with desserts, wine, beer and cocktails.

According to Dittmann, all of the partners are in the restaurant business because it excites and motivates them. “This is a labor of love for us” he said.

On the Town

Tracking art in the public realm

'Slow Riding the Green Line' exhibit reinterprets art along the way

BY LARRY ENGLUND

Of all the museums in the Twin Cities, the humblest may be the repurposed firehose cabinet outside the entrance to the Workhorse Coffee Bar at 2399 University Ave. The 2-by-3-foot case is called the Smallest Museum in St. Paul, and in June it is displaying the collaborative art of Macalester-Groveland writer James McKenzie and photographer Andy Clayton-King.

Appearing side by side are McKenzie's prose poems and Clayton-King's black-and-white photographs of public art found at or near the stations of the light-rail Green Line. Eight different images and their accompanying poems will be displayed over the course of the month. The images and poems form complementary squares, according to McKenzie. "We end up with a square of pixels and a square of words," he said. "It's two pages that face each other."

The exhibit, titled "Slow Riding the Green Line," coincides with the fourth anniversary of the light-rail line.

Shannon Forney, the owner of Workhorse Coffee Bar, created the Smallest Museum in St. Paul with the help of a grant from the Knight Foundation. "We were the smallest dollar amount requested," Forney said of her 2014 grant application. "It doesn't take that many resources to run the Smallest Museum. To me, it was reminiscent of the Little Free Libraries, but it's a gallery. We've had an exhibit there every month since June 2015."

Forney, who is the curator of the museum, issues a call for proposals every fall and spring for the month-long exhibits. "We usually get about 30 proposals for the six slots," she said. "I ask about five people from the community to help. We read all 30 proposals, rank them and then choose the exhibits. They must be St. Paul relevant, engage the audience and not be too fussy."



Jim McKenzie and Andy Clayton-King's collaboration "Slow Riding on the Green Line" comments on the public art that can be found along the light-rail line, including the Raymond Avenue Station's "Red River Oxcart." PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Though the museum is small, it has "run the gamut in terms of subject matter," Forney said. "We hosted a microcinema built to scale. The artist made movies, and he put them on a screen and ran them on a loop. Another exhibit was micro-letterpress printing. I couldn't believe it, but some of the text was smaller than the type on a dime."

McKenzie and Clayton-King, who are neighbors, have been collaborating on and off since 2014. Clayton-King has been working as a free-lance photojournalist for three decades. McKenzie is professor emeritus of English at the University of North Dakota. The pair are hoping to publish a book on the public art of the Twin Cities. In the meantime, they came up with the idea for an exhibit at the Smallest Museum.

"I happened on this place, and was just taken by the space," McKenzie said. "So we made a proposal."

Forney suggested they focus on public art on or near the Green Line. "Shannon, in her enthusiasm, suggested we use the coffee shop's gallery wall as well," McKenzie said. "The museum will have 'Slow Riding the Green Line' while the coffee shop is displaying the other work we've done on public art in the Twin Cities."

"I used to shoot in a 2¼-inch black-and-white format," Clayton-King said. "I got away from that when I stopped shooting film. But then the Instagram world came along, and I started using a square format once again. I wanted to use the square format in black-and-white to make it as simple as possible."

I always liked shooting details, and so that's what I've done on this. Sometimes the images match up with Jim's words, but most of the time they don't."

McKenzie picked up one of the images, a close-up of the scales of a dragon. "Do you know the dragon at the Green Line's Western Avenue station? It's two blocks long! I didn't know if it was going to work, and look what Andy did. It's beautiful."

McKenzie's poems are all exactly 200 words long. As much as he admires Clayton-King's images, McKenzie's writing process is independent of the photos.

"Andy's not illustrating what I'm writing, and I'm not always writing about what he's photographing," he said. "It's different for different pieces. Sometimes I'll concentrate on the artist, sometimes on the subject. I think what interests me most might interest the public, and I never know where it'll go. Since our ultimate goal is an art book, I had in mind people coming to understand the major issues around public art."

"We just want to bring light to public art in St. Paul and Minneapolis," Clayton-King said. "We want to make a piece of thought-provoking art ourselves to draw interest in these pieces."

Forney is especially enthused about the exhibit. "When a Green Line proposal comes across for the museum, I get super-excited," she said, "especially when it's about art and encouraging curiosity about our neighborhoods."

McKenzie credited Forney for her vision in turning a firehose cabinet into a museum. "A lot of people had this building over the years," he said, "and no one else saw a museum there."

McKenzie and Clayton-King's work will remain on view through June 30. A free, public reception for the artists will be held at Workhorse Coffee Bar from 10 a.m.-noon on Saturday, June 16.

Bur Oaks

Trees — mute, stationery, at the mercy of passing humans most could easily outlive—perform a kind of witness; as if attentive — present. Oak savannas of the Midwest, dominated by bur oak, once fifty million acres from central Texas to southern Manitoba, looked on for millennia as successive cultures built burial mounds, stampeded bison, and set fires, a supplement to lightning strikes in regulating plains and prairie life. These oaks presided over the landscape Cloud Man's Dakota band passed through, now called Midway, on its way to harvest wild rice at Forest Lake.

Solitary, scattered in savannas, or clumped in more canopied thickets, these trees have seen it all. Tens of thousands of small gem-like cut glass tiles, no two alike, celebrate the stages of oak life in Nancy Blum's Fairview Station mosaics. Catkins bursting from swollen buds join outsized acorns, brown and round, not far from cut, stacked logs, ready for sawing into planks or turning into fuel to warm winter homes. A walk in any direction from this station soon reveals 21st Century bur oaks, some of which sprouted during the Civil War. Find one with characteristic long, horizontal, gnarled lower limbs — supplicant. Try Merriam or Newell Park. Witness.

Text by James McKenzie and photography by Andy Clayton-King.



On the Town Briefly

Theater

Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill, playwright Lanie Robertson's intimate look at the life of blues singer Billie Holiday through the songs that made her famous, is playing through June 26 at the Jungle Theater, 2951 Lyndale Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Directed by Marion McClinton, the drama stars singer Thomasina Petrus as Holiday as she looks back at her career on the evening of one of her last public performances. Petrus will be backed by a live trio. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays and 2 and 7:30 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$37-\$47. Call 612-822-7063 or visit jungletheater.com.

Dead Man's Cell Phone, Lex-Ham Community Theater's production of the comedy by Sarah Ruhl about modern technology and relationships, will close with shows at 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, June 7-9, at Dreamland Arts, 677 N. Hamline Ave. Directed by Natalie Novacek, it stars Barcy Bergstrom, Lois Estell, Jakob Guizor, Katie Kaufmann, Erika Kuhn and Craig Turino. Ticket are \$19, \$15 for students, and whatever you can afford on June 7. Visit lexhamarts.org.

Dat Black Mermaid Man Lady, an interactive performance piece by Sharon Bridgforth that celebrates the multiple ways of embodying gender and spirit, is being presented through June 24 at Pillsbury House Theatre, 3501 Chicago Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Directed by Ebony Noelle Golden, it stars Aimee K. Bryant, Florinda Bryant, Pavielle French and Kenyai O'Neal. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, June 10, and 3 p.m. Sundays, June 17 and 24. Tickets are \$5-\$25. Call 612-825-0459.

Postmortem is playing through June 24 at Theatre in the Round, 245 Cedar Ave. S. in Minneapolis. The play by Ken Ludwig tells of an actor who draws on his 30 years of experience portraying Sherlock Holmes on stage to solve a real murder at his castle home. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$22 with discounts for students and seniors on Fridays and Sundays. Call 612-333-3010 or visit theatreintheround.org.

The Awesome '80s Prom, an interactive drama that brings audiences back to



Chase Adelsman and Anna Hermanson star as Petruchio and Kate in Cromulent theater's summer production of Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Shakespeare's 'Shrew' plays in parks

The Shakespearean comedy *The Taming of the Shrew* will be performed free of charge in Twin Cities parks in June by the Cromulent Shakespeare Company. Pack a picnic supper and a blanket or lawn chairs and sit back and enjoy the bard's take on the folly of greed.

Show times are 7 p.m. Thursday, June 7, in Highland Park, 1200 Montreal Ave.; 7 p.m. Friday, June 8, at the Como Streetcar Station, 1224 N. Lexington Pkwy.; 7 p.m. Saturday, June 9, in Veterans Park, 6335 Portland Ave. in Richfield; 2 p.m. Sunday, June

10, in Minnehaha Park, 4801 S. Minnehaha Drive, Minneapolis; 7 p.m. Friday, June 15, in Merriam Park, 2000 St. Anthony Ave.; 7 p.m. Thursday, June 21, outside St. Anne's Episcopal Church, 2035 Charlton Road in Sunfish Lake; 7 p.m. Friday, June 22, in Indian Mounds Park, 10 Mounds Blvd.; 2 p.m. Sunday, June 24, in Lake Nokomis Park, 4955 W. Lake Nokomis Pkwy., Minneapolis; 7 p.m. Friday, June 29, in Newell Park, 900 N. Fairview Ave.; and 7 p.m. Saturday, June 30, in Powderhorn Park, 3400 15th Ave. S., Minneapolis.

Wanaget High School's 1989 senior prom, is being presented at 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, June 8-23, at Camp Bar Cabaret, 490 N. Robert St. From the cocky captain of the football team to the awkward geek to the hottie head cheerleader, all of your favorite 1980s movie characters will be there, dancing, flirting and doing whatever it takes to get elected king or queen of the prom. Tickets are \$29 and \$39. Call 800-838-3006.

The Minotaur, or *Amelia Earhart is Alive and Traveling Through the Underworld* will open on June 14 at In the Heart of the Beast

Puppet and Mask Theatre, 1500 E. Lake St. in Minneapolis. A production of Sheep Theater, the drama tells of the odyssey of Earhart and her copilot, Snook, after they crash their plane on a mysterious island and inadvertently unleash a beast that has been locked away for eons. The curtain will rise at 7:30 p.m. June 14, 15, 16, 20, 21, 22, and 23, and at 2 p.m. June 17 and 23. Tickets are \$15-\$30 or whatever you can afford on June 20.

The game's afoot in a hilarious thriller that's anything but elementary. Playwright Ken Ludwig's *Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes*

Mystery will open on June 22 on the proscenium stage at Park Square Theatre, 20 W. Seventh Place. Directed by Theo Langason, the comic mystery stars Eric Sumangil, Sara Richardson, Marika Proctor, Ricardo Beaird and McKenna Kelly-Eiding. Following the previews from June 15-21, the curtain will rise at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays through August 5 and also at 2 p.m. Saturdays, June 23 and 30. Call 651-291-7005.

Books

Common Good Books, 38 S. Snelling Ave., will play host to free readings and discussions with writer Phyllis Root and photographer Kelly Povo and their new guidebook, *Searching for Minnesota's Native Wildflowers*, at 7 p.m. June 6; and Macalester-Groveland author and University of St. Thomas history professor William Cavert and his book, *The Smoke of London: Energy and Environment in the Early Modern City*, 7 p.m. June 13. Call 651-225-8989.

SubText Books, 6 W. Fifth St., will play host to free readings and discussions with editor M.L. Cavanaugh and his book, *Strategy Strikes Back: How Star Wars Explains Modern Military Conflict*, at 7 p.m. June 7; author Bryan Bliss and his book, *We'll Fly Away*, June 12; authors Edgar Cantero and Benjamin Percy and their books, *Meddling Kids* and *The Dark Net*, respectively, 7 p.m. June 13; author Timothy Young and his book, *Portraits of Rodeo Clowns and Royalty*, 7 p.m. June 14; poets Donna Isaac and Janna Knittel and their books, *Footfalls* and *Fish & Wild Life*, respectively, 7 p.m. June 20; and author Ahmed Ismail Yusuf and his book, *The Lion's Binding Oath*, 7 p.m. June 21. Call 651-493-2791 or visit subtextbooks.com.

Seven writers with diverse talents will take part in the Reading by Writers program at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 19, at the University Club, 420 Summit Ave. Emceed by poet Carol Connolly, the free readings will feature poet Nicole Borg and her new book, *All Roads Lead Home*; poet and essayist Taiyon J. Coleman; poet and essayist D.E. (Doug) Green; National Poetry Slam champion Kyle "Guante" Tran Myhre; poet and lawyer Tim Nolan; Minnesota poet laureate Joyce Sutphen; and spoken-word artist Eric Tu.

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The Merriam Park Book Club will meet on Monday, June 25, to discuss *In the Lake of the Woods*, the novel by 1968 Macalester College graduate and Vietnam veteran Tim O'Brien. The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. at the Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave. New members are welcome. Call 651-642-0385.

Film

Dream Big: Engineering Our World is being screened through October 11 in the Omnitheater at the Science Museum of Minnesota, 120 W. Kellogg Blvd. A celebration of human ingenuity and the compassion and creativity that drive engineers to create a better world, the film introduces four people who make their living as engineers: Menzer Pehlivan, a geotechnical engineer from Turkey; Angelica Hernandez, a Mexican immigrant whose interest in engineering was sparked by a high school robotics club; Steve Burrows, a structural engineer who takes his inspiration from the marvels of the ancient past; and Avery Bang, a young Midwestern woman who builds footbridges in underdeveloped countries. Admission is \$9.95, \$8.95 for seniors and children ages 4-12. Call 651-221-9444 or visit www.smm.org.

Bring a blanket or lawn chair and enjoy the following films under the stars compliments of the St. Paul Department of Parks and Recreation: *The Emoji Movie* on June 8 at the Martin Luther King Recreation Center, 271 N. Mackubin St.; *The Princess and the Frog*, June 9, Griggs Recreation Center, 1188 Hubbard Ave.; *La La Land*, June 14, Highland Pool House, 1313 Montreal Ave.; *The Nut Job 2*, June 15, Jimmy Lee Recreation Center, 1076 Iglehart Ave.; and *Moana*, June 22, El Rio Vista Recreation Center, 179 E. Robie St. All of the movies are free and will begin around dusk.

Music

The plaza in front of Northrop Auditorium will resonate with the live music of local bands from noon-1 p.m. on Wednesdays. The free concerts will feature Siam's Congo Roots on June 6; Sawyer's Dream and its modern take on classic rock, June 13; and the Caribbean dance band Socaholix, June 20. In case of rain, the concert will be moved inside Northrop's Best Buy Theater.

Seward Concert Band will present a free concert at 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 6, at the Minnehaha Falls Bandshell.

Israeli vocalist Shuly Nathan will join the St. Paul JCC Symphony in a free concert at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 6, at Mount Zion Temple, 1300 Summit Ave. The program includes "Jerusalem of Gold," which Nathan helped make famous, other songs by Naomi Shemer, and Mendelssohn's "Scottish" Symphony No. 3 in A minor. Conductor Amir Kats will offer a concert preview at 7 p.m.

Groovin' in the Garden, a series of free outdoor concerts by some of the best bands in the Twin Cities, will continue from 6-8 p.m. on Wednesdays in front of the Conservatory in Como Park. The schedule includes the reggae band Innocent on June 6; the blues, country, punk and folk of Flowtus, June 13; and Crankshaft & the Gear Grinders, June 20. Music lovers are invited to pack a picnic supper, dancing shoes and blanket. And bring the children. A climbing wall, bouncy house and lawn games will be available along with vendors selling hot dogs, ice cream, beer, wine and soda. In case of rain, the event will be moved inside the Conservatory.

Como Lakeside Pavilion's Spring Cafe,

1360 N. Lexington Pkwy., will play host to free concerts by the following performers, all at 7 p.m. unless otherwise indicated: Tina Schlieske singing songs of Frank, Nina and Billie, June 6; Siam Matuzungidi, June 8; Cider Fest with the Pistol Whippin' Party Penguins, 1-4 p.m. June 9; Erik Koskinen, June 9; Como Pops, 3 p.m. June 10; Capri Big Band, June 10; Calhoun Isle Community Big Band, June 11; Centennial Community Band, June 12; Robbinsdale City Band, June 14; the Dollys, June 15; Dirty Shorts Brass Band, 3 p.m. June 17; Brass Lassie, June 17; Saints of Swing, June 18; Star of the North Concert Band, June 19; and the Minnesota Sinfonia and Mandolin Magic with Richard Kriehn, June 20. Visit stpaul.gov/musicintheparks.

Fleetwood Mac's 1977 studio album "Rumours" will be performed in its entirety by the eight-man vocal ensemble Cantus in concert at 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, June 7 and 8, at the Cowles Center, 528 Hennepin Ave. in Minneapolis. The program will open with a few other pop tunes before the singers—backed by Lee Blaske on keyboards and woodwinds, Jeremy Boettcher on bass and David Schmalenberger on drums—present their original arrangements of the 11 songs on "Rumours." The show will close with covers of songs by Destiny's Child, Queen and Daft Punk. Tickets are \$27-\$37. Visit cantussings.org or call 612-435-0055.

It's back to the '60s and '70s in the coming fortnight at Xcel Energy Center. Paul Simon will bring his Homeward Bound Farewell Tour to the arena at 8 p.m. Friday, June 8. (Tickets start at \$49.50.) Steely Dan and the Doobie Brothers will co-headline a concert there at 7:30 p.m. Friday, June 15. (Tickets start at \$39.50.) James Taylor and His All-Star Band and special guest Bonnie Raitt and Her Band will play the Xcel at 7:30 p.m. Friday, June 22. (Tickets start at \$69.) Visit xcelenergycenter.com or call 800-745-3000.

Heartbeat of the World, a benefit concert for the Women's Drum Center, will be held on Saturday, June 9, in Sateren Auditorium at Augsburg College, 1977 S. 7½ St., Minneapolis. A silent auction will open the affair at 6 p.m. The concert will follow at 7 p.m. with performances by the bands drumHeart, djoyful djuns, grooveHeart, Women Who Groove, Taikollaborative, WDC West African ensemble and guest artist Karin Rau on the West African marimba. Tickets are \$20, \$10 for children, at the door, \$15 and \$5 in advance. Visit womensdrumcenter.org.

Aizuri Quartet, grand prize winner at the 2018 International M.Prize Competition in Ann Arbor, Michigan, will join the Chamber Music Society of Minnesota in concert at 7 p.m. Sunday, June 10, in Sundin Hall, 1531 Hewitt Ave. The program includes Madrigals by Carlo Jesualdo and Hildegard von Bingen, "Lift" by Paul Wianko, "These Memories May Be True" by Lembit Beecher, and Quartet in E-flat Major by Beethoven. Tickets are \$25, \$20 for seniors. Call 651-450-0527 or visit chambermusicmn.org.

Jazz pianist and singer Diana Krall will bring her "Turn Up the Quiet" world tour to the Ordway Music Theater at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 12. The Grammy Award winner will be backed by Anthony Wilson on guitar, Karriem Riggins on drums, Robert Hurst on bass and Stuart Duncan on fiddle. Tickets start at \$68. Call 651-224-4222.

Two Motown legends, the Temptations and the Four Tops will perform together at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, June 17, in the Ordway Music Theater. Tickets start at \$58. Call 651-224-4222 or visit ordway.org.

The award-winning singers in the Jorgensen Tagg Duo will kick off the third annual Summer in Shepard Park music series from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 20, on the grounds of the Wellington, 2235 Rockwood Ave. Admission is free. Bring a lawn chair or blanket for seating. Chili dogs will be available along with wine and beer from Bad

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Jazzed About Highland, a live performance by the McNasty Brass Band, will be presented at 7 p.m. Thursday, June 21, in front of the Langford & Karls Chiropractic clinic at Cleveland Avenue and Highland Parkway. The free concert is sponsored by the Highland Business Association and Highland District Council. Bring a lawn chair for seating. Refreshments will be available for purchase beginning at 6 p.m. Family activities and prizes will also be part of the fun.

Dance

Katha Dance Theatre will be joined by the king of Kathak dance, Pandit Birju Maharaj, Grammy Award-winning tabla player Ustad Zakir Hussain and other musicians in "Parampara—The Tradition" at 5 p.m. Sunday, June 10, in the O'Shaughnessy at St. Catherine University. Although the concert program is preset, it promises to give way to spontaneous improvisation and one-of-a-kind jam sessions. Tickets are \$25, \$40, \$60, \$75 and \$100. Call 651-690-6700 or visit oshag.stkate.edu.

Exhibits

"Towers of Tomorrow," 20 of the world's most astonishing skyscrapers recreated with breathtaking detail in Lego bricks by Ryan McNaught of Australia, are being displayed through September 3 at the Science Museum of Minnesota, 120 W. Kellogg Blvd. These marvels of engineering and design have been reconstructed at a scale of 1:200 with more than half a million Legos weighing over 3,000 pounds. Admission is \$18.95, \$12.95 for seniors and children ages 4-12. Call 651-221-9444 or visit smm.org.

"St. Croix and Namekagon Rivers: The Enduring Gift," a showcase of the work of nature photographer Craig Blacklock, is being displayed through June 24 at Mill City Museum, 704 Second St. S., Minneapolis. The exhibit marks the 50th anniversary of the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Admission is free. Call 612-341-7555.

"Summit Avenue Walking Tours highlighting the Gilded Age mansions that line the street and the people who built them and owned them, are being offered by the Minnesota Historical Society on weekends through September. The 90-minute tours step out at 10 a.m., noon and 2 p.m. on Saturdays and noon and 2 p.m. Sundays



"Art and Healing: In the Moment."

The ceramic piece "Why" by Angie Renee will be among 15 sculptures, paintings, videos, posters and textile works by Twin Cities artists, created in response to the fatal shooting of Philando Castile in a traffic stop in Falcon Heights in 2016, that will be displayed from June 17 through July 29 at the Minneapolis Institute of Art, 2400 3rd Ave. S. Some of the works were given to the Castile family to foster their healing and are being shared by the family for the exhibit. Admission is free. On Fridays during the run, workshops and discussions will be held in the gallery around the issues of injustice and healing. They, too, are free, but reservations are recommended. Call 612-870-3280.

from the James J. Hill House, 240 Summit Ave. The cost is \$14, \$12 seniors and college students, \$10 for children ages 5-17. Visit mnhs.org/calendar.

Raymond Avenue Gallery, 761 Raymond Ave., is exhibiting the pottery of Nick Earl and the paintings of Sandra Peterson through July 20. Earl's wheel-thrown pots are influenced by Korean, Japanese and English folk traditions. Peterson projects human emotions in her renditions of wild animals. Call 651-644-9200.

AZ Gallery, 308 Prince St., is displaying the paintings of members Laura Toth and Amy Clark through July 1. The gallery is open from 5-8 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays and from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

"St. Paul ReViewed," a look at Minnesota's capital city through the eyes of its artists, is being displayed throughout the summer at Landmark Center. The show includes three installations: "Our St. Paul: Celebrating 125

Years of the St. Paul Camera Club" in the North Gallery; "Explorations," photographs by Michelle and Brad Daniels, in the second floor gallery and third floor balcony; and "All About St. Paul: A City in Watercolors" by painter Jeanne Kosfeld, which will not open until July 19 in the North Gallery. Several pieces from Landmark Center's permanent collection are being shown, including Bill Hosko's oil on canvas "Daybreak in Rice Park," Anna Metcalfe's porcelain and iron work "Letters to Landmark," and Norbert Marklin's photo mural "St. Paul Skyline Triptych." Landmark Center is also offering a series of related arts workshops, including The North Shore: Photographing Lake Superior with Bob Lundquist of the St. Paul Camera Club from noon-1 p.m. Thursday, June 7, in Courtroom 326; Getting Started in Nature Photography with Peggy Boike of the St. Paul Camera Club from 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, June 16, in Courtroom 326; Introduction to Night Sky Photography with Terry Butler of the Saint Paul Camera Club from 10

a.m.-noon Saturday, June 23, in Courtroom 326; St. Paul Photography Field Trip with Michelle Daniels and Brad Daniels from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Thursday, June 28; and Sketching St. Paul, a primer on rendering architecture and nature, from 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, August 11, and from 1-3 p.m. on Sunday, August 19. The exhibits and workshops are free and open to all, but reservations are required for some of the programs. Contact Judy Brooks at jbrooks@landmarkcenter.org or 651-292-1239.

The murals, sculptures and lavish decorations of Minnesota's century-old Capitol and the artists who created them will be examined in 90-minute guided tours beginning at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Saturday, June 9. Visit the House and Senate chambers, Governor's Reception Room, Rathskeller Cafe and new third floor exhibit space where works by Kenyon Cox, Edwin Blashfield, John LaFarge, Elmer Garnsey, Howard Pyle and

others are displayed. Hear stories about the artists, learn about the muralist movement, and see how the art, architecture, and overall decorations of the Capitol harmonize to make it one of the premier public buildings in the U.S. The cost is \$10, \$8 for children ages 5-17. For reservations, call 651-296-2881 or visit cart.mnhs.org.

Explore St. Paul's historic downtown or riverfront areas on free, guided walking tours beginning at 10 a.m. on Wednesdays, June 13 through September 26. The area around Rice Park will be explored on June 13 and the second Wednesday of every month. On June 20 and the third Wednesday of each month, the Heart of the City Tour will travel down St. Peter Street past some of the city's most famous landmarks and influential buildings. The Great River Tour will follow the mighty Mississippi on June 27 and the fourth Wednesday of each month, highlighting the role the river played in St. Paul history. Reservations are required for the tours. Call 651-292-3063 or visit landmarkcenter.org.

"Everything is Everything Else," an exhibit of paintings, collages and photographs by Kerry Pennings and Larry Nelson, will open with a public reception with live music from 6-9:30 p.m. Saturday, June 16, at Vine Arts Center, 2637 27th Ave. S. in Minneapolis. The exhibit will remain on view from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays and from 5:30-6:45 p.m. Thursdays through July 7. Call 612-728-5745 or visit vineartscenter.org.

Family

Dodge Nature Center, 1701 Charlton St. and 365 W. Marie Ave. in West St. Paul, will offer the following: Creatures of the Pond, netting and releasing tiny critters, for ages 3-8 accompanied by an adult, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 14 (the cost is \$7 per child); and Summer Solstice Campfire with a family hike through prairie and forest and around pond from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday, June 25 (\$7 per person, \$20 per family). To register, call 651-455-4531 or visit DodgeNatureCenter.org.

Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave., will offer the following free programs: Paw Pals, a chance for children ages 6-12 to read with a dog and its mistress, 6-7 p.m. Thursday, June 7; Family Storytime, 10:30-11 a.m. every Friday; You Can Build It, a drop-in program for children ages 7-11 to construct with Legos, PVC pipes or surprise materials, 3-4:30 p.m. every Friday. Call 651-642-0385.

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Sports



The Wright Call By Dave Wright

New kid on the block hits the ground running

New St. Thomas Academy head football coach Dan O'Brien chuckled at the question. "How many plays do you have in your playbook for this fall?" he had been asked.

"Well, if we do it right, five should be enough," he replied.

The reality, of course, is the Cadets' playbook will be a bit bigger than that. However, in the two decades since he was last a head coach, O'Brien has learned to simplify things.

"You have to go with what you believe in, but you also have to be able to take advantage of your team's strengths," he said. "Both sides have to adapt to each other and that takes time."

O'Brien has just started the lengthy process of finding out just what those strengths are. He is inheriting a team that went 3-5 in the regular season last fall. The Cadets then won a pair of sectional games before getting flattened by Apple Valley 42-7 in the section final.

"Last year's team had about 40 juniors on it," O'Brien said. "I don't know how many of them are going to come out this year. The sophomore class was a little smaller. I'm hoping we get about 65-75 in the top two classes. That would be a good start."

O'Brien, who played football for the University of St. Thomas, started his coaching career at Bemidji High School. He moved to Concordia University-St. Paul as head football coach when that school made the transition from the NAIA to NCAA Division II. His final season as coach was the Golden Bears' first in the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference and in the middle of that season the Bears rocked perennial power Minnesota-Duluth 35-27.

They didn't win another game after that, finishing the season with a 21-6 loss at Mayville State. At that point, O'Brien handed the football reins to Shannon Currier.

O'Brien spent several years away from coaching as an athletic director at Concordia and later at Hamline, but the lure of the sidelines remained strong and he went back on the field as an assistant in several capacities at the University of Minnesota for both Jerry Kill and then Tracy Claeys. When new coach P.J. Fleck came in, he brought along a lot of new people and there was no room for O'Brien.

O'Brien then went to work full time for Sun Country. He volunteered last year as an assistant football coach for St. Agnes, a school where you have to do a lot with a little. And dealing with roughly 30 players, you have to be flexible.

"It was an eye-opening experience," O'Brien said of his season with the Aggies. "The biggest adjustment for me was learning what they didn't know and finding out the best way to teach them. It made me a better coach."

There was another revelation, one that wouldn't be readily apparent. "High school football has changed quite a bit," O'Brien said. "A lot of these kids have personal trainers, for example. They already have ideas in their heads on how to train."

Although he doesn't know many of his new players at STA personally yet, O'Brien does know a few things about them. "For the seniors, this will be their third defensive coordinator in four seasons. That's quite an adjustment to make," he said.

He also knows he will be getting intelligent athletes. How that translates on the field remains to be seen, but the Cadets will have some impressive mentors working with them. Rickey Foggie, a former Gopher great, will be the team's quarterbacks coach. The 2018 Cadets aren't likely to know his name since Foggie's last season at Minnesota was in 1987, but a quick check on YouTube should answer any questions about his credentials. Not many high schools have QB coaches

WRIGHT CALL ► 27



CDH senior Elise Hitchcock eludes a defender on her way to scoring in the first period of the Raiders' 20-7 win over Woodbury in the Section 3 quarterfinals on June 1. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

On the attack—CDH continues to be ranked among state's best in girls' lacrosse

BY BILL WAGNER

The Cretin-Derham Hall girls' lacrosse team cleared the first hurdle in its attempt to return to the state tournament for the third straight year this spring by beating Woodbury 20-7 in the Section 3 quarterfinals at home on June 1.

The Raiders, who are the top seed in the section and won the state consolation title last season, were set to host Rosemount on June 5. The winner of that contest would face either Minnehaha Academy or Park in the section final at 7 p.m. Thursday, June 7, at East Ridge. The state tournament is set for June 12-16 in Minnetonka and Chanhassen.

CDH has been consistently ranked among the state's top 10 teams throughout the season and were 9-2 and riding a five-game winning streak heading into sections. The team sometimes puts coach Joe Moss through an emotional wringer, but its convincing win over Woodbury allayed any fears that he might have had about laying a first-round egg.

"They showed up and they looked pretty good," Moss said about his players. "We set the tone right away. We got the ball into our offense's hands and our defense responded well. We still have a long way to go, but we want to play like that."

The Raiders are a tough squad to score double digits on, which was proven in the section quarterfinals as the Royals never could develop any cohesion on offense. CDH senior midfielder-attacker Elise Hitchcock was a demon in controlling six draws, which are used to start or

resume play. Junior attacker Megan Reis also won five draws.

Meanwhile, the Raider attackers were clicking on all fronts. Senior Mia Quigley drove home four goals and added three assists to lead the team with seven points. Sophomore Kiera Ryan and junior Anne Marie Rhoda each scored five goals in the game.

CDH had plenty of hands on deck when it came to taking the ball away, too. Reis forced three turnovers, while senior defenders Grace Altier and Megan Commers created two each.

Against Rosemount, Moss said the Raiders would be taking on a squad that had a lot of the same traits as they do.

"They have a well-balanced offensive attack, kind of like us," he said. "We have to get through Tuesday to get to Thursday (for the section final), but I think we're right where we belong."

The Raiders have proven as much all season. Their only losses have come against Blake and Wayzata, and they have shown they can win tight games, including wins over Stillwater, Mounds View, Roseville, Park and Forest Lake. They also have kept opponents to single-digit scoring nine times this spring.

There just simply aren't any serious holes in this squad. The team has four talented seniors playing defense. Alexis Parker, who has committed to play at Division I Ohio University next year, is a true defensive specialist who never seems to make a mistake. Fellow defenders Grace Altier, Commers and Sophia Wackman all fulfill their roles well. The quartet has been together so long that it seems to play and think as one.

Junior goalie Kaelie Smith won the

regular spot early this spring. She had big shoes to fill following last year's stellar netminder, Elle Crawford, who has gone on to play at Regis in Denver. Smith has acclimated well and gotten it done with a nice .415 save percentage.

Quigley, who next year is also expected to play college lacrosse at Regis, has had a solid season and draws the most attention from opposing players. When she gets the ball good things usually happen, whether she passes or shoots it.

Rhoda, who leads the team in goals with 26, has a quick and accurate shot, and knows how to get open to do some damage. Reis, who leads the team in assists with 18 and overall points with 38, plays with her head on a swivel and has a knack for spotting the open player. And sophomore Kiera Ryan also knows how to create space on the field.

CDH achieved several notable milestones in 2018. It won the Suburban East Conference championship outright with an 8-0 record. Its 10-9 triumph over Stillwater in the season opener was the first time the Raiders had beaten the Ponies. And the team came from behind to defeat Park by scoring four goals in the final seven minutes.

Moss still worries, but with every clutch performance the Raiders make him breathe easier.

"We have the ability to be fantastic," Moss said. "Everybody is making contributions and doing what they can. You could see them getting better as the season went along last year."

But is this the season when the team puts it all together at state? Moss answered as one might expect. "It depends on whether they show up," he said.

Deep, solid SPA gets another shot at state boys' tennis title

BY BILL WAGNER

St. Paul Academy is headed back to the state boys' tennis tournament for the third straight year following a 6-1 home win over Academy of the Holy Angels in the Section 4A final on May 18.

"We're a very deep squad," said Spartans coach Viet Pham. "It's good to see that we've got parity among the guys on the team. We win with that depth. We don't have guys who are nationally ranked this year."

SPA was to face Virginia in the first round of state Class A team competition on June 5-6 at the Reed-Sweatt Tennis Center in Minneapolis. Individual state competition follows on June 7-8.

The top-ranked Spartans got to state by beating fourth-seeded Red Wing 7-0 and then second-ranked Holy Angels in the section playoffs. SPA is heading into the state tournament with a 7-3 overall record, and Pham said his players will have to be ready if they want to achieve postseason success.

Two of the team's losses this spring were to Burnsville (5-2) and Mounds Park Academy (4-3). But the one that really brought the Spartans down to earth, Pham said, was the 7-0 thumping they took from Blake.

"They beat us soundly," Pham said of the Bears, who are an Independent Metro Athletic Conference foe of the Spartans. One consolation is that Blake plays in Class AA, so the two teams won't have to face each other at state.

The Spartans have experienced more high points than lows this spring. They have several impressive victories on their resume. "We've lost our share, but we've played some rugged competition," Pham said.

SPA has posted shutouts over Breck and Red Wing, 6-1 victories over Providence Academy and Holy Angels, and 5-2 triumphs over Class AA teams from Cretin-Derham Hall and St. Thomas Academy.

Pham was concerned about this year's opening-round contest against Virginia. "We're not taking anything for granted," he said, noting that Virginia defeated SPA 5-2 in the second round of last year's state tournament.

The Spartans have been consistently ranked among the top five teams in Class A this season. Rochester Lourdes was ranked No. 1 in that poll, and Pham said his team would likely face the Eagles in the second round if the Spartans get past Virginia. He said that Rochester Lourdes also has an experienced group.

"They're all year-round tennis players," he said.

The Spartans have some assets of their own. Senior Duke Nguyen and junior Jeffrey Huang at No. 1 doubles and sophomore Brennan Keogh and freshman Liam Lynch at No. 2 have played their way into the state individual tournament. The two duos faced each other in the section final on May 23, with Nguyen/Huang coming out on top 6-1, 6-2.

Pham said the tandems engage in



SPA doubles players heading to this week's state tournament include, from left, senior Duke Nguyen, sophomore Brennan Keogh and freshman Liam Lynch. Not pictured is junior Jeffrey Huang. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

some healthy intra-team competition. "(Nguyen/Huang) have some firepower," he said. "They both have big serves and have a first-strike mentality."

The Keogh/Lynch duo are more textbook. "They make (the plays) they're supposed to make," he said.

Earlier this spring, Pham split up the two doubles teams and allowed them to play with different partners in an effort to bring a new dimen-

sion to their overall games. Still, the plan all along was to reunite them by the playoffs and he likes the way they compete for the top with each other.

"The No. 1 doubles players call themselves 'the Dream' and the No. 2's call themselves 'the Nightmare,'" Pham said.

When they faced each other in sections last month, Pham said it was a little bit more like the tortoise

and the hare. "We know what the tortoise had to do to win," he said with a chuckle, "but in this case the hare was running on all cylinders."

Pham also has a strong pair of sophomore players in Nathan Sobotka and Max Soll, who are virtually interchangeable at the No. 1 and 2 singles spots.

"They're solid players," he said. "If you're going to beat them, you're going to have to work for it."

Highland volleyball coach leaves behind a winning legacy

Kathleen Kramer is retiring after 29 years as the varsity volleyball coach at Highland Park High School. She is the winningest volleyball coach in the St. Paul City Conference, with a record of 233-123 in the league and 389-281 overall.

Her teams claimed the conference title in four of the last six years and currently has a 25-game conference winning streak. She was named Section 4AA Coach of the Year in 2014, City Conference Volleyball Coach of the Year seven times, including this year, and received the Minnesota State High School Coaches Association 2017 Lifetime Achievement Award in 2017.

Kramer graduated from Highland in 1980, where she was a gymnast and track athlete, played softball and was part of the dance team. She grew up in the gym, as her father, Bob Ryan, was head football, track and wres-

tling coach at Humboldt, as well as a physical education teacher there for most of his career. She and her siblings have all carried on their father's talents, with her sisters both teaching fitness classes, one brother spending 40 years as a gym teacher and cross-country and track coach at Hill-Murray, while the other brother has been the equipment manager for the Minnesota Vikings for four decades.

Kramer played club volleyball at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, where she majored in physical education, followed by a master's in health education at Mankato State. She has coached more than 1,300 athletes and taught more than 7,500 students in physical education classes at Highland. She still lives in Highland with her husband, Jesse, and son Michael, a senior at Cretin-Derham Hall.

She has a long list of winning traditions, including the team's traditional Highland scav-

enger hunt, which ranges all over the neighborhood. Kramer started a Junior Olympic Volleyball Program in 2000 to begin to build talent at a younger age in the neighborhood.

Here is her response when asked about the secrets to her success: "My dad said, get the kids on your side, get them to want to work hard, play hard, for you. I did this by showing respect, caring about them as individuals on and off the court," she said. "I hope that the kids (when they graduate) have life skills that they bring to their own families and work ethics. It's not just the wins and losses."

Kramer is looking forward to a little more family time now at the cabin and on vacation. She has not had an August or fall without 14-hour days and 60-hour weeks since 1989. She said she will miss the players and the thrills, but has a few plans up her sleeve, ready to take up the slack.



Kathleen Kramer

Highland disc golf will try 18-hole format

BY JANE MCCLURE

The Highland Park disc golf course will be expanded from nine to 18 holes on a trial basis this summer. St. Paul Parks and Recreation staff walked the course on May 23 with neighbors, Highland District Council members and Ward 3 City Council legislative aide Melanie McMahon. The group discussed where the new holes could go and how to address any neighborhood concerns.

Parks and Rec special services manager Susie Odegard said the new holes will go in soon. Residents and disc golfers will then be able to weigh in on any concerns. A date for any permanent changes has not been set.

The notion of expanding the course to 18

holes was raised last year. The course is showing its age and disc golfers are clamoring for improvements. It is the only disc golf course in St. Paul. A professional disc golfer who lives in Highland Park has given parks staff a proposal to redesign the course.

Some neighbors have raised objections, saying that expanding the course would take away green space used by others in the park. Others raised concerns about pedestrian safety and discs sometimes hitting motor vehicles on nearby streets. Concerns also have been raised about loitering and crime in the parking lot used by disc golfers.

Those who use the course said that the improvements would attract more users and be a deterrent to crime.

St. Paul funds changes near soccer stadium

BY JANE MCCLURE

Modifications to the infrastructure around the Allianz Field soccer stadium now under construction on Snelling and St. Anthony avenues got a green light on May 23 from the St. Paul City Council.

A big change, which was been debated in area neighborhoods for several months, is to move the traffic signal at Snelling Avenue and Spruce Tree Drive a block south to Snelling and Shields Avenue, which will be extended east through the superblock bounded by St. Anthony, Snelling and University avenues, and Pascal Street. Median changes would be made on Snelling, and traffic signal changes

at St. Anthony and Pascal Street.

The council allocated an additional \$355,000 in Municipal State Aid (MSA) funds toward the project, which is also drawing on \$750,000 in tax increment financing and \$612,000 in Minnesota Department of Transportation trunk highway funding.

Bike and pedestrian trails along Johnson Parkway and Como Avenue also were funded. The city has an additional \$1.2 million in MSA funds for 2018. It is not unusual for the city to receive additional funding after the budget is set so projects can be added.

The city's Capital Improvement Budget committee in May recommended approval of the changes.

Sports Shorts

Highland Park High School senior Jack Branby qualified for the state golf tournament by medaling at the Section 4AAA meet. He is the only boys' golfer from the St. Paul Public Schools to make state, which will be held June 12-13 at Bunker Hills. The Scots won the St. Paul City Conference championship on May 22 for the third year in a row. Gabe Mattick was the medalist. All-conference honors went to Highland's Mattick, Branby, Lee Froelich and Billy Wengler, and Central's Otto Emmings and Ricardo Martinez.



Jack Branby

Take a kid fishing for free from noon-3 p.m. Sunday, June 10, at Thompson County Park in West St. Paul. Fishing poles, tackle, bait and all supplies are provided. Adults do not need a fishing license when fishing with a child. Participants are invited to bring their own pole or borrow one from the county. There will be lots of hands-on fishing stations to practice tying

knots, casting, baiting a hook and more. Attendees can trade in their lead tackle or fishing line for earth-friendly options, and there will be door prizes, giveaways, games and an art activity. Concessions will be available for purchase. For information, visit Dakota County Parks at co.dakota.mn.us/parks.

Free yoga classes taught by professionals from Studio925 are being offered from 9-10 a.m. on Saturdays this summer outside the St. Paul Union Depot on Fourth and Sibley streets in Lowertown. In case of inclement weather, the classes will move indoors. The classes are open to participants at a variety of fitness levels. Participants are asked to bring a yoga mat, water and towel if needed. Visit uniondepot.org for information.

The Lexington-Hamline Community Council will hold a bike rodeo for kids ages 5 and older, accompanied by a parent or older sibling, from 1-3 p.m. Saturday, June 30, at the Dunning Recreation Center, 1221 Marshall Ave. Kids can learn bike safety skills led by St. Paul bicycle police, receive bike fit help and safety checks from trained mechanics, get a free helmet and helmet fit checks for those who don't own a helmet and water bottles, and enjoy light snacks provided. Volunteers are needed. For information, visit signup.com/go/XMedCvF.

25◀ WRIGHT CALL

who have won the Grey Cup, the Canadian Football League's version of the Super Bowl.

O'Brien is doing more than just coaching at STA this year. He is also serving in the school's new position of director of community partnerships and outreach. "It's not your traditional fundraising role," he said. "We're reaching out to businesses. The corporate world was OK, but it's great to be back in an educational setting."

Creating those partnerships is a direction that both private and public schools are heading in. Expenses rarely go down and schools at all levels are constantly scrambling to find new ways to enlist financial help.

In a situation like this, a fellow might be inclined to turn to family for support. That could be tough to do in this case. O'Brien's father-in-law is Mal Scanlan, a longtime football coach and director of development at Cretin-Derham Hall and one of the founders of that school's Athletic Hall of Fame.

A big loss for the Tommies

This time of year always brings big losses for colleges. Top seniors graduate and talented assistant coaches get head jobs elsewhere. However, the University of St. Thomas is losing somebody who will be very hard to replace. Michelle Morgan is departing the school in June to become the athletic director at John Carroll, a Division III school in northeastern Ohio that has 23 intercollegiate sports.

Morgan's official title at St. Thomas was associate athletic director and senior women's administrator, but that barely scratched the surface of her duties. She had been UST athletic director Steve Fritz's right hand for just about everything. That ranged from helping negotiate the deal for

the St. Thomas vs. St. John's football game at Target Field, to garnering partnerships with outfits like Nike, to finding ways to boost attendance at home basketball and hockey games. Two people might not be able to handle the workload she cheerfully handled there.

She will encounter new challenges at JCU—the school has varsity lacrosse—but it doesn't have the sport she played at St. Thomas—hockey. "I'll miss that," she admitted.

Gophers stand up for northern baseball

A remarkable occurrence took place last weekend at Siebert Field in Minneapolis. The University of Minnesota welcomed UCLA, Gonzaga and Canisius for a four-team regional baseball tournament. Of the 64 teams that made the NCAA Division I field, only 14 come from north of the Mason-Dixon line and many of those are in only because they won their conference tournament. Minnesota, the 14th seed after winning the Big Ten Tournament, was the only school north of that line hosting a first-round series.

The Gophers were able to play 13 games indoors at U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis, but still struggled with the weather, moving one snowed-out series to Purdue in April on a moment's notice. In all, they played just nine games at Siebert this spring and two more at Target Field.

No matter what happened over the weekend, it was a major reward for coach John Anderson and the perseverance of his team. Next year could even be dicier for the Gophers. Due to preparations needed to host the NCAA Division I Final Four men's basketball tournament, U.S. Bank Stadium won't be available for any other games next spring.

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

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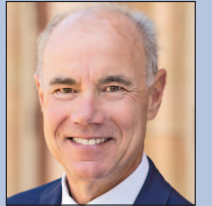
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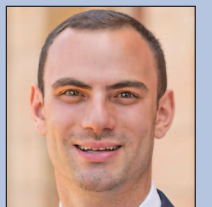
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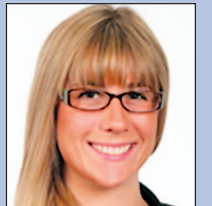
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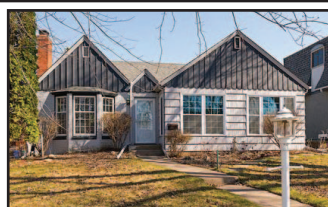
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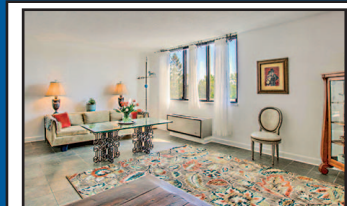
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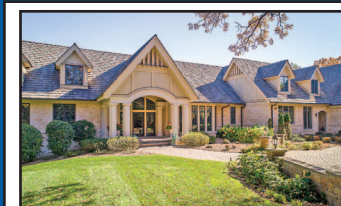
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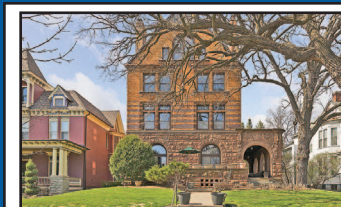
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