

## Grand Old Day obtains support for street permit

Funds still needed to defray security costs for June 4 fest

By Jane McClure

**G**rand Old Day 2023 is marching toward its 50th anniversary on June 4 with a recommendation of approval of its street permit from the Summit Hill Association and Macalester-Groveland Community Council.

The permit would allow the Grand Avenue Business Association (GABA) to close Grand between Dale Street and Fairview Avenue for the day. Organizers are now nearing their initial fundraising goal of \$100,000. A final budget has not been announced, but they likely will need as much as \$125,000 to cover public safety costs alone, the largest single expense.

Grand Old Day co-chairs Chris Jensen and Brian Wagner said the intent is to have a safe, fun and profitable event this year. The festival was canceled from 2020-2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as a lack of time for planning and rising costs.

GABA is part of the Saint Paul Festival Association, which has almost \$38,000 on hand to help festivals defray security costs. Talks are also ongoing with city officials to address those rising expenses.

Grand Old Day public safety costs have risen sharply from about \$40,000 when the last time the festival was held in 2019.

GRAND OLD DAY ►2



**Hop on pop.** Tommy Liners straddles an inner tube with daughter Mickey, 7, and sons Valentine, 2, and Rocco William, 5, joining the downhill slide at the sledding party on February 11 at the Highland Park Community Center. Below, Richard Bamattre and kids Cosmo, 6, and Rosa, 2, could not pass up the playground equipment. The party was sponsored by the Highland District Council, Saint Paul Department of Parks and Recreation and Saint Paul Public Library. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER



UST AT HIGHLAND BRIDGE ►3

## UST's plans for Highland Bridge site progressing

Stadiums and parking lot could be shared with youth athletics leagues

By Jane McClure

**U**niversity of Saint Thomas officials and Highland Bridge master developer Ryan Companies will host a neighborhood meeting on Tuesday, February 28, on UST's plan to build new softball and baseball stadiums near Montreal and Cleveland avenues in Highland Park. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 S. Snelling Ave.

Representatives of UST and Highland Bridge master developer Ryan Companies discussed the plans on January 24 with the Highland District Council Community Development Committee. Neighbors of the Highland Bridge development continue to raise concerns about the effect the new stadiums will have on homes to the south and southwest.

The neighbors are worried about losing trees and a natural berm that provided a barrier between the neighborhood and the former Ford Motor Company assembly plant. They are concerned about lighting from the baseball and softball stadiums spilling into their yards. Parking congestion from sports fans is another concern, as is the number of people who will be cut-

## City fines Billy's on Grand a second time for license violations

High volume of police calls support claims, judge finds

By Jane McClure

**T**he Saint Paul City Council voted unanimously on February 8 to accept the ruling of an administrative law judge and impose a \$1,000 fine on Billy's on Grand, 857 Grand Ave., for license violations that were discovered last year.

Attorneys for Billy's operators, the DWD Group, and the city's Department of Safety

and Inspections (DSI) argued the case last August before Administrative Law Judge Jessica Palmer-Denig. She issued her written findings in late December.

The case was heard after Billy's appealed a May 2022 notice of license violations from the DSI in response to 128 police calls in the vicinity. Thirty-one of those were considered "quality of life" calls that police believed were connected to Billy's. They included a DUI on March 4, a shooting in the area on March 5, an assault on March 13 and a fight on March 18.

Judge Palmer-Denig concluded that the

DSI was able to prove some but not all of the claims of license violations. According to her findings, the DSI proved that Billy's failed to provide the required security footage to officials regarding the March 13 and 18 incidents. She said the department also proved that Billy's failed to "maintain the licensed premises in a manner that provides a safe environment for patrons and the public," a finding the judge concluded was supported by the number of police calls there.

However, Palmer-Denig said the DSI failed to show that patrons were permit-

ted to leave Billy's with alcoholic beverages during the March 5 incident. Her findings stated that four patrons were visible on video walking off Billy's patio with drinks in their hands, but it was impossible to determine what beverages they had.

Because the license violations came on top of others at Billy's within one year, the city could impose the \$1,000 fine, Palmer-Denig concluded. The City Council had also fined Billy's \$500 in February 2022 for license violations reported in fall 2021.

BILLY'S ON GRAND ►3

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## 14 GRAND OLD DAY

The city is now requiring that street crossings have concrete jersey barriers, among other measures, in light of incidents at other parades around the nation. Grand Old Day organizers are asking if other types of barricades can be used instead.

Security was among the issues that initially prompted the SHA to delay its permit vote. Board members and neighborhood residents said the east end of Grand Avenue has the majority of venues where alcohol is sold and amplified music is played during the fest.

"We want Grand Old Day to succeed," said SHA president Simon Taghioff. He and others noted how revenue from the festival helps with business promotions and other association events.

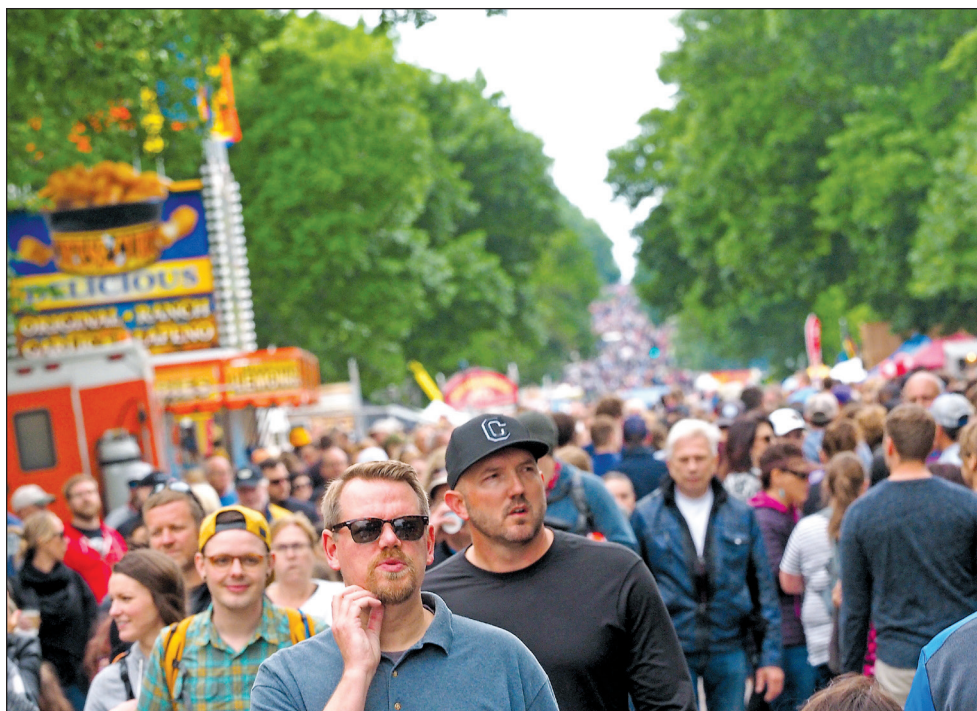
During previous festivals, Grand had two music stages in the block between Saint Albans and Grotto streets, another mid-block between Grotto and Avon streets, another at Victoria Street, and two between Oxford Street and Lexington Parkway. At least five are to remain for the 2023 Grand Old Day.

One big question is where the former Dixie's stage will go now that a new mixed-use building is going up at 695 Grand Ave. Peter Kenefick, whose family owns the property, is working with GABA to find a different parking lot for a stage.

Another issue is the Grand-Victoria stage at Billy's on Grand, which was recently fined \$1,000 for city license violations. The SHA wants that considered when an event is planned there.

The SHA wants more details on planned street barricades and portable toilets. It also wants a dedicated hotline for calls about problems on the day of the festival. And it is asking GABA to commit to volunteer or paid alley surveillance and clean up.

"You wanted us to move quickly on this," said SHA board member Dan Dodge. How-



Grand Avenue was its usual river of humanity during the 2018 Grand Old Day. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

ever, he and others said they needed more answers before they could vote on February 9.

The SHA also wants updates on GABA's fundraising progress and an estimate of the number of Grand Avenue businesses that will be open on Grand Old Day.

Past GABA presidents and Grand Old Day leaders welcome the festival's return. They cite its importance as a revenue source for GABA and as a way to bring the community together.

Chad Skally was GABA's president from 2009-2011. He recalled when the association had enough Grand Old Day income to host several business promotions each year and publish a member directory.

Bob Lawrence was part of the group that resurrected Grand Old Day in 2019 after it was initially canceled. In the space of a

few months that year, he went from being GABA board vice president to president. The association eventually had to deal with a fiscal crisis and a federal investigation of past practices.

Lawrence has spoken with the current GABA leaders and hopes they have a successful event. "These kind of events are really important, not just as a business association fundraiser, but also as a way to build community," he said.

Lawrence and Skally noted how much costs have risen and resources have diminished in the past few years. GABA had paid staff when Skally was president and in 2019 GABA hired an event planning firm to help organize Grand Old Day. Neither is the case for 2023.

And it is not just Grand Old Day. Festival costs and the COVID-19 pandemic have

*One big question is where the former Dixie's stage will go now that a new mixed-use building is going up at 695 Grand Ave. Peter Kenefick, whose family owns the property, is working with GABA to find a different parking lot for a stage.*

permanently changed Saint Paul's festival calendar.

The Highland Business Association will announce its plans soon for some type of Highland Fest, said executive director James Farnsworth. The last Highland Fest was held in 2019.

Several other festivals, including Little Mekong Night Market, Rice Street Festival and White Bear Avenue parade, are gone for good.

The Festival of Nations was canceled during the pandemic and is not coming back this May. The International Institute of Minnesota posted on its website that it is looking at ways to reimagine that event.

In January organizers of the Northern Spark arts festival announced that a closing ceremony will be held this June to mark the permanent end of that event.

Detailed plans have not yet been announced for Cinco de Mayo, Rondo Days and other events. One big event on the bubble is the Ramsey County Fair. The fair board is at odds over an estimated \$25,000 the Ramsey County Board wants it to pay for use of the Maplewood facilities. There has not been a Ramsey County Fair for the past few years.

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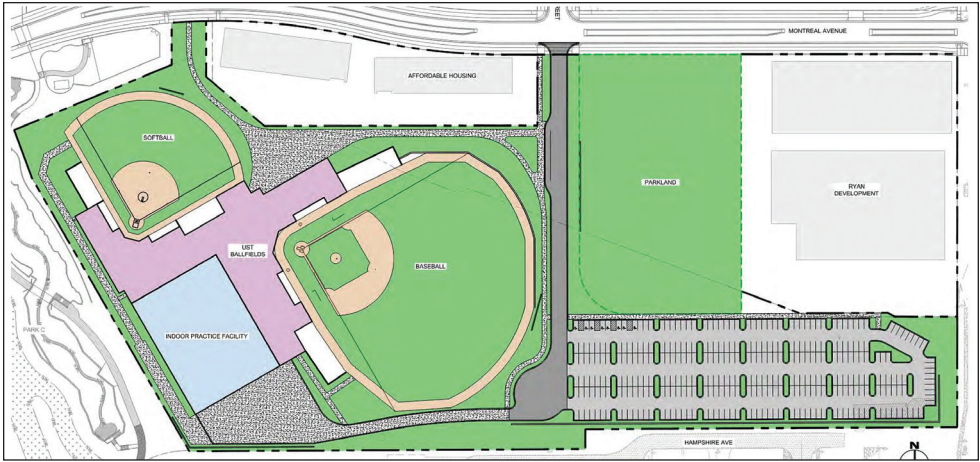
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Two stadiums, a concourse, practice facility and parking lot are planned for the University of Saint Thomas softball and baseball teams just southwest of the corner of Montreal and Cleveland Avenues.

14 UST AT HIGHLAND BRIDGE

ting through private yards to get to and from the stadiums.

Project planners are looking into those concerns and other matters, according to Tony Barranco, Ryan Companies’ North Region president. Those other matters include amendments to the Highland Bridge master development plan, amendments to an alternative urban areawide review environmental impact study, the relocation of wetlands, a relocation and reconfiguration of the city’s proposed Mica Park and an accommodation of Federal Aviation Administration requirements related to nearby Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Airport.

“(The stadiums) take advantage of one of the biggest unknowns of the Highland Bridge site,” Barranco said. That is the future of the former Canadian Pacific Rail yard, where they would be located. The proposed stadiums meet Highland Bridge master plan obligations for civic and institutional uses in the area. They preserve space for two affordable apartment buildings to the north, and they also maintain the park and multi-modal transportation uses envisioned in the master plan for the area around the old rail yard.

The plan for the stadiums is still in its early stages, according to Phil Esten, UST’s athletic director and vice president for athletics. However, the railroad tracks have been removed, and the environmental cleanup has been completed on a portion of the site.

The 1,500-seat baseball stadium and 1,000-seat softball stadium would be similar in capacity to ball fields at the Uni-

*“(The stadiums) take advantage of one of the biggest unknowns of the Highland Bridge site,” Barranco said. That is the future of the former Canadian Pacific Rail yard where they would be located.*

versity of Minnesota, according to Esten. Locker rooms, concessions and a central concourse would be located between the two stadiums. An indoor practice facility is also planned.

The collegiate softball and baseball seasons are in the spring when each team would be playing up to 20 home games. The teams also play a short fall season of two to three games each.

UST has discussed sharing the facilities with Highland Ball’s youth softball and baseball leagues, local schools and other youth leagues. Neighbors have expressed concerns about rock concerts in the stadiums, but nothing other than ball games are envisioned, UST officials say. The ballfields would be adjoined by a 330-space parking lot to the east. That, too, could be shared with Highland Ball, Esten said, possibly reducing parking on the streets during youth ball games.

For more information on the February 28 meeting at Gloria Dei, contact Amy McDonough at amcdonough@stthomas.edu. Following the meeting, UST and Ryan Companies’ presentation will be posted at highlandbridge.com/news/ and at highlanddistrictcouncil.org.

14 BILLY’S ON GRAND

Those included a fight, a patron leaving the premises with a beer and a couple who were caught on security cameras having sex on the patio.

A.L. Brown, the attorney for Billy’s, disagreed with Palmer-Denig’s findings. He also objected to what he called “racially tinged comments” made by predominantly white neighbors at the hearing. The partners in the DWD Group are Black.

Brown described Billy’s proprietors as “minority business owners who are doing their best to make the community safe.” Neighbors at the hearing contended there has been an uptick in bad behavior by Billy’s partons. One neighbor said he was sprayed with glass after a bullet came through his window.

Brown took issue with the city’s complaint about police calls, describing it as a “catchall violation” that lacked a factual basis. He said not all calls in the area should be attributed to Billy’s since it is located in an area with other businesses that could also generate calls.

He also said issues with security videos were a technical glitch and that Billy’s has repaired cameras.

Council president Amy Brendmoen cautioned Brown against relitigating the case, saying the City Council’s role is to look at

*A.L. Brown, the attorney for Billy’s, took issue with the city’s complaint about police calls, describing it as a “catchall violation” that lacked a factual basis.*

the 30-page findings of fact. Other council members agreed that racist comments are unacceptable, but that those comments did not factor in their decision.

Council member Rebecca Noecker called some of the comments “deplorable,” but said the issue at hand was whether license conditions had been violated.

“Our law is very clear that (security video) needs to be accessible when requested, and it’s clear that did not occur,” she said.

Billy’s is operating under licenses issued in mid-2020 to RJMP Group, owned by Randall Johnson and Matthew Pendergast. They took over the bar and restaurant from longtime owner Bill Wengler and operated it before entering a management agreement to have DWD Group take over in May 2021. DWD has continued to operate under RJMP’s licenses since then while continuing to seek its own.

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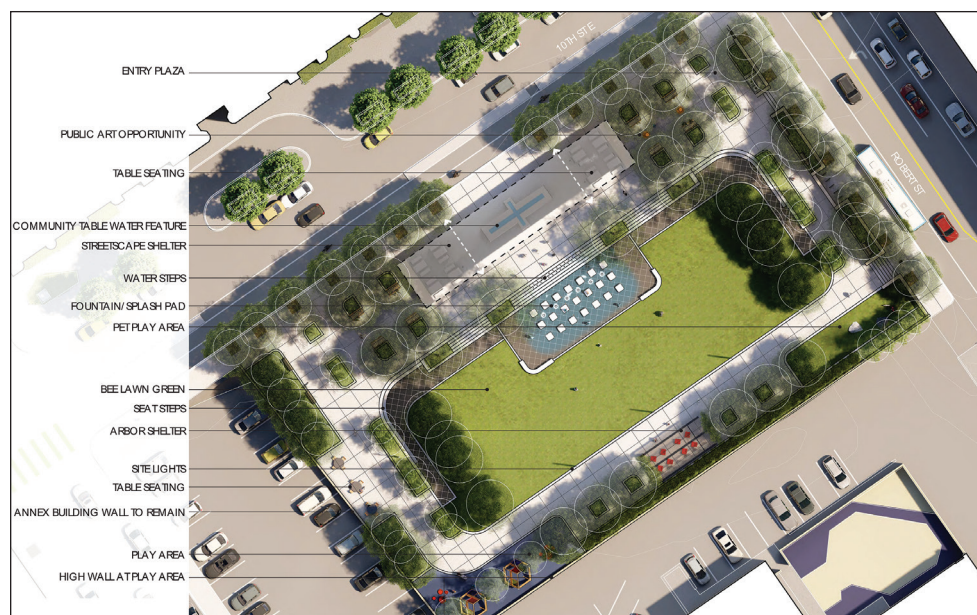


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Concept A for an expanded Pedro Park on 10th and Robert streets in downtown Saint Paul. All three options contain water features, children's and pet play areas, open shelters and other amenities.

## With annex coming down, city lays out three concepts for Pedro Park

By Jane McClure

A shelter, children's play area, pickleball courts and water features are among ideas that were unveiled at an open house on February 6 for the expansion of Pedro Park on 10th and Robert streets in downtown Saint Paul.

Before the park can take shape, however, the city's former Public Safety Annex must come down. A fence is expected to be erected around the site in late February, with building demolition taking place from early March into April.

When the park itself can be transformed remains unknown. The city has no funding earmarked for the improvements, and the soonest a request can be part of the capital budget funding process is 2025 for work starting in 2026.

The site is one of the downtown parks being considered for financial support if the city's extra 1 percent sales tax moves ahead. That proposal is in the hands of the 2023 Minnesota Legislature and could be put before voters this fall.

Still, seeing the new concepts sketched out for Pedro Park is generating excitement. "They're beautiful," said Julie Prince, a downtown resident who led the last planning process for the park.

"People are excited we're at this point," said Joe Baierl, who has lived in downtown since 2018.

More than three dozen downtown residents and business owners viewed the concepts for the park on February 6 and weighed in with comments. A written survey on park plans ended February 12.

Alice Messer, design and construction manager for the city's Department of Parks and Recreation, is grateful for the input. "We're hopeful that the comments we receive will get us to a final plan," she said.

City landscape architect Bryan Murphy and members of Aune Fernandez Landscape Architects received many compliments about the concepts. They also heard requests for additional features, including public restrooms.

Those attending the open house had no clear favorites, but liked aspects of each of the plans.

- Concept A has an entry plaza at 10th and Robert. Of the three designs, it has the most prominent water features, including a large community table with water, cascading water steps and a splash pad/fountain along 10th. It looks the most like a plan presented in 2018.

- Concept B also has an entry plaza at 10th and Robert. It has a site for a splash pad/fountain and small pocket gardens along 10th. Cafe tables and a shelter would be along a section of wall preserved from

the Public Safety Annex.

- Concept C also has a shelter along 10th, with space for a mobile movie screen. A prominent feature is an oval design featuring a splash pad/fountain and other amenities around it.

All three concepts show a heavily landscaped park, with trees throughout. All feature cafe seating, children's play areas with a high fence for safety, pet play areas, open shelters, water features, public art, space for pickleball courts and "bee lawns," which contain grasses and low-growing perennials that attract pollinators.

The three concepts would also all incorporate a section of the lower-level wall of the 1920s-era Public Safety Annex. Off-street parking would be at 10th and Minnesota streets.

Several people said they would welcome more walking trails and places to exercise their dogs in the park design. Others said they would like to see a space for events, like the one at Mears Park. Space for children's play equipment and a splash pad received favorable comments, as did the pickleball courts.

A park for that area of downtown has been discussed for more than two decades. Originally dubbed Fitzgerald Park, the name was changed to Pedro Park in 2009 when the Pedro family closed its longtime luggage shop and donated the site to the city on the condition that it be combined with adjacent land for a park bearing the family's name. The five-story Pedro building was demolished in 2011.

The annex was long eyed as part of the park, but earlier plans stalled due to lack of funding. Instead of tearing down the annex, the City Council voted in 2018 to sell the building to the Ackerberg Group, which planned to convert it into retail and office space.

Along with the purchase, Ackerberg was going to work with the city to develop the land next to the building as a park. It also agreed to provide \$40,000 annually for 20 years to maintain the park.

The proposed sale of the annex angered supporters who wanted a larger park. Ackerberg dropped the project in 2020 due to the pandemic and a lawsuit that was filed against the city by the Friends of Pedro Park. Meanwhile, the deteriorating annex continued to sit empty.

The expanded Pedro Park is expected to eventually occupy two-thirds of the block bounded by 10th, Robert, 9th and Minnesota streets. The rest of the block is privately owned and used for parking and the Union Gospel Mission Child Development Center.

For more on the concepts for the park, visit [tinyurl.com/pedroparkplans](https://tinyurl.com/pedroparkplans).



# UST acknowledges many unknowns regarding new arena

## Traffic, parking studies may have some answers

By Jane McClure

The University of Saint Thomas' plan to build a new 4,000- to 5,000-seat arena on its south campus at Grand and Cretin avenues has Macalester-Groveland residents worried about increased traffic and parking congestion. More than 40 residents filled a Merriam Park Library meeting room on February 13 to address their concerns with UST officials. Organizers of the meeting said that while they are not necessarily against the project, they are concerned about its potential impact.

"I don't want to categorize us as NIMBYs," said Meg Grove, a member of the group Neighbors United. She and others said the issue is one of balance between the needs of UST and those of the surrounding neighborhoods.

Amy McDonough, chief of staff to UST president Rob Vischer, acknowledged that the project has many unknowns. Those include traffic and parking, which are a top concern for UST officials too, she said.

McDonough and others from UST explained that the new Lee and Penny Anderson Arena would raise the profile of Saint Thomas nationally and attract prospective students at a time when many colleges and universities are experiencing declines in enrollment. UST is in its second season of competition in NCAA Division I, after being asked to leave the Division III Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

The capacity of the proposed arena and the UST's ability to handle the campus expansion dominated the discussion on February 13. The \$175 million facility would hold 4,000 spectators for hockey, 5,000 for basketball and up to 6,000 for other university events such as commencement exercises.

The city recently eliminated its off-street



The \$175 million Lee and Penny Anderson Arena would be built at the center of the old Saint Paul Seminary campus just west of the Anderson Parking Ramp at Grand and Cretin avenues.

parking requirements for new developments like the proposed arena. However, UST will be required to conduct a detailed parking and traffic study before the project can move forward, according to Mark Vangsgard, UST's chief financial officer and vice president for business affairs.

The parking and traffic study will be reviewed by the city as part of the site plan and an environmental assessment worksheet (EAW) for the arena. The EAW will assess the impacts of the project and recommend ways to mitigate those impacts. Citizens will be allowed to comment on the EAW. Site plan reviews are usually conducted by city staff, but citizens can request that the site plan for the new arena be reviewed by the Saint Paul Planning Commission following a public hearing.

UST wants sports fans and other campus visitors to have a good experience, said Phil Esten, the university's athletic director and vice president for athletics. That means being able to accommodate the demand for parking, he said.

UST officials said that in addition to following the recommendations of the traffic and parking study, they plan to handle arena parking in the same way they handle parking for football games. That includes use of the Anderson Parking Ramp's 750 spaces and the surface parking lots throughout the campus. Campus lots are largely open during weekend football games. UST officials believe that about 80 percent of the 2,700 campus parking spaces are available after 6 p.m. on weekdays.

According to McDonough, UST officials

are considering the use of buses to shuttle hockey and basketball fans from remote parking lots. They also intend to promote the use of mass transit. About half of UST's students in Saint Paul live on campus, they said. Those students will walk to games, and so will the students who live near campus, they said.

The men's and women's hockey teams now play their games at Saint Thomas Academy in Mendota Heights. Students must drive to the games there. Basketball games are played in Schoenecker Arena on the north campus.

Neighbors are concerned about traffic congestion on Cretin Avenue, especially at Grand Avenue where cars enter and exit the Anderson Parking Ramp. UST officials anticipate that buses and service vehicles headed to the arena will enter and exit the south campus from Summit Avenue, using a service drive to access designated parking south of the new facility.

Traffic has increased in recent years on Cretin, and local residents are worried that congestion will grow with the arena and the ongoing redevelopment of the former Ford Plant in Highland Park. Some have called for the city and UST to consider how Cretin could be reconfigured to handle more traffic.

McDonough and Jim Brummer, UST's vice president for facilities management, said efforts are already underway to mitigate the impacts of the arena on the neighborhood. For example, the facility is planned near the center of the south campus, as far from the neighborhood as possible. The ice-making equipment would be inside the building, possibly in the basement, to mitigate any mechanical noise.

Updated information on the proposed facility is regularly posted at [stthomas.edu/neighbors](http://stthomas.edu/neighbors). There, answers are provided to frequently asked questions. An email address is also provided for local residents who would like to submit questions of their own.

## Redesign would reduce Snelling from two lanes to one south of Ford

### Parking would be replaced by median, pedestrian trail

By Jane McClure

Snelling Avenue between Montreal Avenue and Ford Parkway is slated for reconstruction in the spring and summer of 2024. The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) wants to install a center median to provide a safer crossing for pedestrians. Traffic would be reduced from two lanes to one lane in each direction and on-street parking would be eliminated.

More than 60 people attended a February 9 open house at the Highland Ice Arena to review the plans and comment on the

\$3.5 million project. The landscaped median would have openings at Saunders and Bohland avenues. Motorists northbound on Snelling would no longer be able to make left turns at Rome, Beechwood or Hillcrest avenues or any of the alleys on that stretch of Snelling. The traffic signals at Snelling and Montreal would also be reconfigured.

MnDOT project engineer Beth Burton said the public response at the open house varied greatly. Some people were pleased to see measures being taken to slow traffic on Snelling and make the street safer for pedestrians, especially for all of the children getting to and from Highland Park High School and Middle School, the Highland Ice Arena and the Highland 18- and

9-hole golf courses.

However, other people questioned what the changes would mean for a state highway that carries a lot of truck traffic. Some were not happy that they would lose convenient access to the streets where they live. That stretch of Snelling carries more than 13,000 vehicles per day.

The sidewalks on the west side of Snelling between Montreal and Ford Parkway would be widened from 5 to 6 feet. Ramps that comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) would be installed at all corners. The reconstruction project would also include a 10-foot-wide recreational trail on the east side of Snelling, according to Reuben Collins, a transportation planner for the city.

"We're excited about the trail," Collins said. "It will help people, especially kids, going to and from the ice arena."

The city's long-term plan is to install a recreational trail all around Highland National Golf Course and driving range and Highland Arena. The trail would follow Snelling, Highland Parkway, Hamline and Montreal avenues. A trail along Hamline was recently funded by the City Council. The city also has a long-term plan to install playing fields on the east side of Snelling just south of the historic Highland Water Tower. Saint Paul Regional Water Services recently removed a large reservoir there.

For more information on the Snelling reconstruction project, visit [tinyurl.com/bjwc6cne](http://tinyurl.com/bjwc6cne).

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# Gathering no moss

## Justus Ramsey House comes down a stone at a time to be stored until reassembled later

By Jane McClure

The historic Justus Ramsey House was dismantled over the last week on the patio at Burger Moe's, 242 W. Seventh St. Deconstruction of the stone home was required to be completed by February 20, including removing its limestone walls piece by piece and storing them.

The two-room cottage, built circa 1852, was believed to be the oldest surviving home in its original location in Saint Paul. The disassembly and move saved it from demolition, but when and where it will rebuilt remains unclear.

Last month, Don Kohler and Rita Dalbec came forward with a proposal to move the house to a vacant lot Kohler owns at 1072 W. Seventh St. They would like to reuse it as a home and law office. City Council member Rebecca Noecker, who represents the West Seventh neighborhood, said she would help find additional resources for the move.

However, Meg Duhr, who

chairs the West Seventh/Fort Road Federation's Transportation and Land Use Committee, said it is possible that another site for the house could be found, as interest has been expressed by other parties. The district council, which is working with Historic Saint Paul on the project, hopes to issue a request for proposals for reassembling the house in the near future, Duhr said.

The fate of the house took several turns late last month. Mayor Melvin Carter signed orders on January 23 calling for the house to be torn down due to its deteriorated condition. That was just two days before the City Council was expected to hear an appeal by Burger Moe's owner Mojtaba Sharifkhani, aka Moe Sharif. He had sought a city permit to demolish the house, but was denied by the Historic Preservation Commission and was appealing that decision.

Members of the Fort Road Federation, Historic Irvine Park Association, Little Bohemia Neighborhood Association and Historic



A worker sweeps up on February 16 as the Justus Ramsey House is dismantled on the Burger Moe's patio. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Saint Paul rallied to attempt to save the structure. They went to Ramsey County District Court to get a temporary restraining order against demolition on January 24.

The next day the City Council, acting as the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA), whittled down a request for \$115,000 and allocated \$84,000 from a city emergency business fund for the house's deconstruction and removal. Then on a 6-1 vote on February 8, the council reduced the amount to \$34,000 based on actual estimated costs.

A building permit was approved during the first week of this month and deconstruction began on February 10.

While the Fort Road Federation is the fiscal agent for the project, the February 8 action absolves it of any liability if the house is not reassembled. The sole vote against the funding change at that meeting came from council member Mitra Jalali, who questioned how the city was handling the request. Jalali was absent for the initial January vote.

The house was built by Justus Ramsey, the brother of Minneso-

ta's first territorial governor, Alexander Ramsey. Justus Ramsey never lived in the house, but rented it out. It has been cited as a longtime home for members of the city's Black community. The structure later served as an antique shop before Burger Moe's built its patio around it.

The house has both local and national historic designations, and is part of a historic district of stone houses. Because the house is being disassembled and moved, it will lose its designation on the National Register of Historic Places.

## Oxford reopens one month after shooting critically injures teen

### Measures are being taken to increase safety at rec center

By Jane McClure

The Oxford Community Center, along with its Jimmy Lee Recreation Center and Great River Water Park, reopened at 270 N. Lexington Pkwy. on February 18 with a free open swim, gym games and other recreational activities.

The reopening came one month after a shooting that critically injured a 16-year-old boy outside the center. The teen was shot by Exavir Binford Jr., 26, who was a

member of the center staff. Binford's position was terminated by the city and he was charged with second-degree attempted murder and first-degree assault.

Binford had worked for the city's Department of Parks and Recreation for several years. The incident occurred following a fight by students at Central High School and then at Jimmy Lee. The center was closed, but two teens began fighting with Binford afterward and he shot one of them in the head.

"The decision to close Oxford Community Center as the result of a shooting incident last month was both difficult and unprecedented, but a necessary step to center

our focus on healing and recovery for our community, our youth and our staff," said Parks and Recreation director Andy Rodriguez in a statement. "We appreciate your patience and support throughout this process, and we continue to hold close everyone impacted by this event."

Parks and Recreation has spent the past few weeks looking at its operations and procedures there. While conversations remain ongoing, several measures are being undertaken at Oxford to increase safety and security. The building is being modified with a new access control system, security camera upgrades and improved common areas. Staff will receive additional

training and onsite support. Changes will be made to the staffing model itself.

During the weeks Oxford was closed, city officials worked to relocate the child care and aquatics programs that operated there. Winter sports seasons were winding down when the shooting occurred.

"We are working closely with our police department, Saint Paul Public Schools, violence prevention groups and other community stakeholders as we continue to improve the Oxford Community Center experience for all," Rodriguez said. "We will provide updates on these changes on the facility website and encourage feedback from neighbors and users of the facility."

## Rezoning recommended for Co-Operative Plating expansion

### Old crematorium would be replaced by parking

By Jane McClure

Co-Operative Plating's request for rezoning to allow for the expansion of its industrial operations in Merriam Park was recommended for approval on February 17 by the Saint Paul Planning Commission. That has some residents of Carroll Avenue concerned about the possibility of the metal electroplating plant encroaching on their neighborhood.

The company wants to rezone 1598 Carroll Ave. from traditional neighborhoods 2 to light industrial. The property was most recently home to a crematorium, which moved in August 2021. It is north of Co-Operative Plating's existing plant, east of a company parking lot and adjacent to a neighborhood of mostly single-family homes. The Carroll Avenue property was rezoned from commercial to traditional neighborhoods 2 in 2017 as part of a South

Snelling zoning study.

Co-Operative Plating would also like to rezone its one-story office building at 271 N. Snelling Ave. to light industrial. The office building was zoned for commercial use for many years. It was rezoned to industrial-transitional in 2017 as part of the South Snelling zoning study. Its proposed rezoning to light industrial has met no opposition.

Plans call for demolishing the old crematorium at 1598 Carroll and adding 11 more surface parking spaces. That parking would replace the parking that will be lost when Co-Operative Plating's manufacturing plant at 1605 Iglehart Ave. expands to the south.

Co-Op Plating has 115 employees working in three shifts five days per week. A 7,700-square-foot addition to the existing 38,000-square-foot plant is planned to improve efficiency and potentially make room for another 10 to 12 employees. Last year, the City Council vacated the short stretch of Iglehart that separates the company's main plant from its offices to allow for the plant's expansion.

Co-Op Plating has operated in Merriam Park for more than 50 years. It runs 18 separate metal plating coating lines. In the 1980s the company ran afoul of environmental regulations and faced penalties. It has since made many changes, including entering a voluntary compliance program with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, adding a scrubbing system to control emissions and dropping the use of trichlorethylene as a degreaser. That chemical has been linked to certain forms of cancer.

The Union Park District Council has made no recommendation on the rezoning request. However, three neighbors sent letters in opposition. Doni Hamann, who has lived on Carroll since 1978, told of the days when green sludge ran down the alley near the plant. She is concerned about the possibility of manufacturing expanding closer to homes. She and other neighbors want assurances that the Carroll Avenue property would be used for parking only.

"This will directly impact our property values if we have manufacturing of plating on Carroll Avenue," Hamann stated.

"I have been selling real estate since 1984, and I can assure you this would have a grave impact on neighboring homes. Having new office space or a parking lot would not have the same impact."

Planning Commission members asked if conditions, such as parking use only, could be placed on the Carroll Avenue property. According to senior city planner Kady Dadlez, the city may not impose conditions in conjunction with a rezoning. However, conditions on the lot, such as screening and vehicular access, can be made during site plan review, she said.

David Birkemeier, president and CEO of Co-Op Plating, said plant officials have had many discussions with neighbors about the rezoning. According to him, the company wants to keep employees' cars off of neighborhood streets. "And practically speaking, there isn't a good business reason" to expand the plant to the north, he added.

The two rezoning requests have been forwarded to the City Council for a public hearing and a final vote. No date for the hearing has been set.



# Neighbors review latest draft of Summit Avenue trail at Feb. 27 meeting

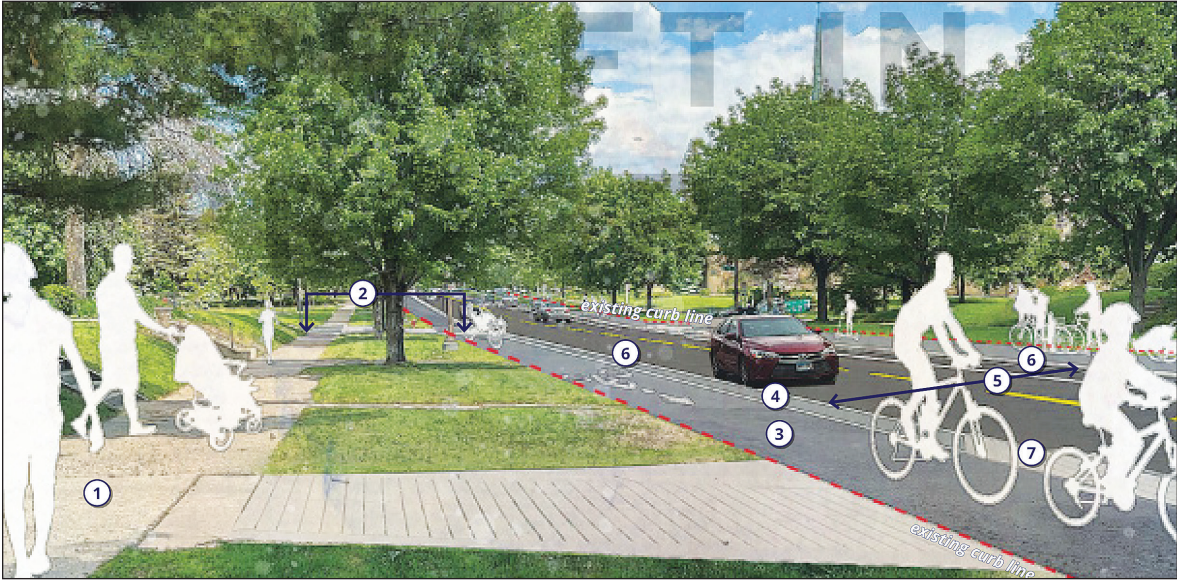
By Jane McClure

The Summit Hill Association and Summit-University Planning Council will co-host a neighborhood meeting on Monday, February 27, on the proposed Summit Avenue Regional Trail. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. at House of Hope Presbyterian Church, 797 Summit Ave. It will include a brief overview by the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Department followed by a question-and-answer session.

Given the expected size of the audience, the district councils are only allowing questions that are emailed in advance to [questions@summit-university.org](mailto:questions@summit-university.org). “We’ll do our best to get as many questions answered as possible,” the hosts announced. More information about the February 27 meeting, its guidelines and a zoom link to the meeting will be available online at [tinyurl.com/t5sstutf](https://tinyurl.com/t5sstutf).

The city has released for public comment a draft plan on the 4.7-mile-long recreational trail that is reportedly 90 percent complete. The plan is to construct one-way trails on either side of Summit from Kellogg Boulevard to Mississippi River Boulevard.

The 6- to 8-foot-wide trails would be built 6 inches above the street on the outside of the traffic lanes and any parking lane, but within the existing curb lines of Summit. A 2- to 4-foot buffer



An artist’s rendering of the proposed Summit Avenue Regional Trail as it would appear between Lexington Parkway and Kellogg Boulevard with parking on one side of the street.

would be provided between the raised trails and the parking or traffic lane. On-street parking would be removed on one side of Summit between Lexington Parkway and Kellogg Boulevard.

City officials caution that the project has no funding and will need city as well as Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission approval. The improvements would be made in conjunction with the scheduled reconstruction of Summit. It is likely the street will be reconstructed in sections, so the completion of the trail could be many years away.

The project is intended to improve public safety along Summit. The avenue carries between

3,500 and 11,000 vehicles per day, depending on the section. In the 10 years between 2012 and 2021, there were 31 traffic accidents involving bicycles on Summit. Ninety percent of the accidents resulted in injury or death.

Complicating the project are the many players involved. Five district councils about the street—the CapitolRiver, Summit-University, Summit Hill, Macalester-Groveland and Union Park councils. Summit is also in two historic preservation districts—Historic Hill and Summit Avenue West—that are governed by the city’s Heritage Preservation Commission.

The latest draft of the regional

trail plan was released at the end of January for 30 days of public comment. Many comments have already been received, according to Saint Paul Parks and Recreation director Andy Rodriguez. “We’re seeing a lot of, ‘we’re for the plan’ or ‘we’re against the plan,’” he said. City staff are also looking for more specific criticisms of the trail design which could be addressed through revisions, he said.

The regional trail has pitted advocacy groups against each other. The project has the support of the Saint Paul Bicycle Coalition and other cycling groups. The coalition met on February 15 to discuss the latest plan and urge its mem-

bers to show their support for the trail plan at the Saint Paul Parks Commission meeting at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 9, at the Arlington Hills Community Center, 1200 Payne Ave.

The ad hoc group Save Our Street (SOS) has collected more than 2,000 signatures in a petition against the regional trail. Among its concerns are the loss of trees and the harm the trail would do to the historical character of Summit. Summit is touted as the longest and best-preserved stretch of Victorian architecture in the United States. The city has estimated that as many as 221 trees could be impacted by the regional trail project. SOS maintains that as many as 950 trees could be impacted, or more depending on the placement of new curbs.

SOS is asking the city to consider alternatives to the trail, such as reducing Summit Avenue’s speed limit, narrowing the traffic lanes, creating a wider buffer between the existing on-street bike lanes and the traffic lanes and restriping the bike lanes with higher-visibility paint.

Comments on the 90 Percent Draft Regional Trail Plan are being accepted until February 28 at [engagestpaul.org/summit](https://engagestpaul.org/summit). A link to the plan, a summary of the plan and a video about the plan are all available at that website.

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# VIEWPOINT

## Off the rails: The state of transportation after COVID-19

Minnesota's transportation agencies ignore the current climate and at a steep cost

By Randal O'Toole

Minnesota's public transportation systems need to reevaluate and reinvent themselves if they are going to survive. Data from the U.S. Department of Transportation reveal that the Twin Cities' light-rail system sees more crimes per billion passenger miles than any other light-rail system in the country. In addition, transit has been the slowest mode of travel to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. It is unlikely that it will ever capture more than 75 percent of the ridership it carried in 2019.

This is largely due to ongoing public safety issues and the change in employment patterns in the downtowns of Minneapolis and Saint Paul, with more companies adopting work-from-home or hybrid work strategies. Plans for light-

rail lines, bus-rapid transit and other improvements should all be reevaluated in light of lower ridership.

In a 48-page report, I have analyzed various aspects of Minnesota's transportation system, including transit and safety, motor vehicles and highways, intercity travel, transportation finance, and light-rail myths and realities.

The report also chronicles some of Minnesota's biggest transportation boondoggles, such as the Southwest light-rail transit project, also known as the Metro Green Line Extension. Among my key findings and recommendations are the following:

- Metro Transit should modify the Southwest light-rail project as a dedicated busway. A busway would cost less and allow for more flexibility.

- To better serve Twin Cities employees who do not work in downtown Minneapolis or downtown Saint Paul, Metro Transit should revamp its bus system to serve multiple hubs with multiple spokes.

- Metro Transit should address the lack of rigorous fare enforcement by installing fences and turnstiles around every light-rail stop and forbid people from entering the train unless they have paid their fare.

- The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) should build upon data collected by the National Highway Traffic Safety Commission to develop a data-driven system of identifying safety issues on state and local highways, roads and streets.

- After safety, MnDOT should make cost-effective congestion reduction its top priority.

- Advocates of transportation equity for people with low incomes need to refocus their efforts away from public subsidies for mass transit, which few low-income people use, to providing low-interest loans to help low-income people buy cars.

These loans could help people out of poverty by giving them access to far more economic resources than they can reach on mass transit.

- Minnesota should reject proposals

by Amtrak to help fund an expansion of passenger train service. Such funding creates unfair competition for bus companies and airlines.

Most routes where Amtrak has proposed such state-funded services are already served by buses that offer more frequent service at lower fares than Amtrak. Many are also served by airlines that offer much faster service, often at competitive fares.

- Rather than fund transportation out of general funds, Minnesota should find better ways to fund transportation out of user fees. That would result in better infrastructure maintenance and discourage expensive megaprojects that provide few transportation benefits.

*Randal O'Toole is the director of the Transportation Policy Center for the Independence Institute. This article is reprinted from the website of the American Experiment, a Minnesota think tank. O'Toole's full 48-page report may also be found at [americanexperiment.org/reports](http://americanexperiment.org/reports).*

## INBOX

### Reject 36% cap on interest rates

Recently, legislation was introduced in the Minnesota Legislature (House File 290) which would place a 36 percent cap on the rate that lenders could charge consumers for short-term and small-dollar loans. This is terrible news for Minnesota consumers, especially those who have difficulty accessing credit. What rate-cap activists don't want consumers to know is that the core element of their messaging just doesn't work when you apply basic math.

Annual percentage rate (APR) is not the only way to evaluate financial products. Annualizing the interest rate on a loan repaid in less than a year artificially inflates the interest rate to eye-popping numbers.

On cost basis alone, very few people would insist that a \$100 loan with \$10 in interest repaid in 30 days is unreasonable. However, when the interest rate on that loan is annualized, it amounts to more than 121 percent—well above the artificial threshold that rate-cap activists decry as usury.

Rate cap legislation would make short-term and small-dollar lending unprofitable in the state and thus would

eliminate what is often the only source of credit for many Minnesota consumers. Clearly, Minnesota lawmakers would be wise to reject House File 290.

*George Merkt  
Dinkytown, Minneapolis*

### Conspiracy theory on Summit

Regarding: "Save Our Street accuses city of hiding harm from Summit trail" (*MyVillager*, February 8):

Save Our Street (SOS) is an ideological fringe group advancing conspiracy theories. With no evidence, SOS claims that switching the position of the bike lanes and parked cars on Summit Avenue will destroy hundreds of trees. This despite the fact that the street isn't being widened. Then they claim to be champions of bicycle safety even though none of them have ever shown up for a public meeting about bicycle issues in Saint Paul or lifted a finger for bike infrastructure in this city in any way, at least not in the 15 years I've been involved.

SOS members constantly bring up the number of driveways on Summit. Yes, there are driveways on Summit. Cyclists currently have to deal with them and

will have to deal with them in the future. But if the city's plan is approved, cyclists will actually have more room to safely react to cars entering or exiting those driveways.

SOS claims that switching the position of the bike lanes and parked cars will destroy the historical character of Summit Avenue. But when Summit was built, there were no bike lanes and no cars, let alone parked cars. If they want to accurately preserve the historical character of Summit, they should travel exclusively by horse and carriage or penny-farthing (an 1880s-style safety bicycle), and they should rip up the pavement on Summit and just have a dirt road.

Now SOS is accusing city staff of committing some bizarre conspiracy against them. I don't understand why *MyVillager* gives SOS so much ink. Does the editor believe them, or does he just like to stir the pot and create a little controversy? If folks want the facts on the Summit Avenue planning proposal, they should watch the city's short video about it at [youtube.com/watch?v=Ok9UnKOu6-o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ok9UnKOu6-o) or read the entire plan at [engagestpaul.org/summit](http://engagestpaul.org/summit).

*Andy Singer, Volunteer Co-Chair  
Saint Paul Bicycle Coalition*

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# District Councils

## Highland Park

highlanddistrictcouncil.org • 651-695-4005

**Workshop day**—The Highland and Macalester-Groveland district councils will host a day of home improvement workshops from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, March 11, at Cretin-Derham Hall, 550 S. Albert St. Workshop topics include solar panels, aging in place, window restoration, creating an accessible home and electric vehicle charging solutions. Learn more at [macgrove.org/events/hiwd](http://macgrove.org/events/hiwd).

**Snowplow meeting online**—The Highland District Council hosted the Saint Paul Department of Public Works on February 7 for a meeting about city snowplowing. Visit [highlanddistrictcouncil.org/transportation-committee](http://highlanddistrictcouncil.org/transportation-committee) to view a recording of the meeting.

**UST ballfields at Highland Bridge**—The University of Saint Thomas and Ryan Companies will host a public meeting at 6 p.m. Tuesday, February 28, at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 S. Snelling Ave., regarding the university’s proposed ballfields at Highland Bridge. Afterward, the presentation will be posted at [highlanddistrictcouncil.org/ford-site](http://highlanddistrictcouncil.org/ford-site). For more about the meeting, contact Amy McDonough at [amcdonough@stthomas.edu](mailto:amcdonough@stthomas.edu).

**Board candidates sought**—The HDC is seeking candidates for its board of directors. Up for election from March 29-April 3 will be one representative each from all odd-numbered grids (see map at [highlanddistrictcouncil.org/hdc](http://highlanddistrictcouncil.org/hdc)) and two at-large representatives. Virtual meetings for prospective board members will be held from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 15, and from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday, March 20. Find links to the meetings on the HDC website. Applications for the board positions are due by March 22. Learn more at [bit.ly/HDCelection23](http://bit.ly/HDCelection23).

**Upcoming meetings**—Community Engagement Committee, 7 p.m. Monday, February 27; board of directors, 7 p.m. Thursday, March 2; and Transportation Committee, 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 14. All three meetings will be held at the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy., with the option to join online. Get the Zoom link and agendas at [highlanddistrictcouncil.org/calendar](http://highlanddistrictcouncil.org/calendar).

## Macalester-Groveland

macgrove.org • 651-695-4000

**Century building plaques**—The Macalester-Groveland Community Council is offering engraved plaques to identify century-old structures in the neighborhood. Any property that will be at least 100 years old by 2028 is eligible. Order and pay at [macgrove.org/100years](http://macgrove.org/100years) by March 31.

**Home improvement workshops**—The Macalester-Groveland and Highland district councils will hold a newly titled Home Improvement Workshop Day from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, March 11, at Cretin-Derham Hall, 550 S. Albert St. Residents can choose among 10 workshops being offered every hour throughout the day. Learn more by visiting [macgrove.org/events/hiwd](http://macgrove.org/events/hiwd).

**Annual meeting and elections**—The community council will host a virtual annual meeting and board elections on Thursday, April 20. Learn more about the open seats and running for the board by visiting [macgrove.org/boardelections](http://macgrove.org/boardelections) or emailing [alexa@macgrove.org](mailto:alexa@macgrove.org).

**Upcoming meetings**—Housing and Land Use Committee on Wednesday, February 22; Transportation Committee on Monday, February 27; board of directors on Thursday, March 9; Community Building Team on Monday, March 13; and Inclusivity Task Force on Wednesday, March 15. The meetings will be held via Zoom at 6:30 p.m. For log-in details, visit [macgrove.org/participate](http://macgrove.org/participate).

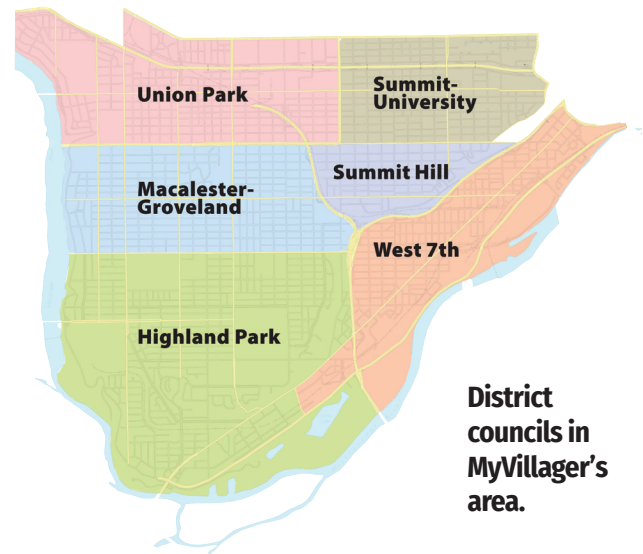
## Summit Hill

summithillassociation.org • 651-222-1222

**SHA plant sale**—The Summit Hill Association is holding its annual online plant sale. Go to [gertensfundraising.com](http://gertensfundraising.com) to make your selections and use store number 191. Plants can be picked up from 4:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, May 4, at the Linwood Recreation Center, 860 Saint Clair Ave.

**Summit trail meeting**—The SHA and Summit-University Planning Council will hold a public meeting on the master plan for the Summit Avenue Regional Trail from 6-7:30 p.m. Monday, February 27, at House of Hope Church, 797 Summit Ave. For details, visit the website.

**Linwood Park cleanup**—Volunteers are sought to help clean up Linwood Park and celebrate Earth Day with the Summit Hill Association from 10 a.m.-noon on Saturday, April 22. Gloves, bags and other supplies will be provided. For information, email [info@summithillassociation.org](mailto:info@summithillassociation.org).



## Summit-University

summit-university.org • 651-228-1855

**History in lights**—The Summit-University Planning Council will host “Light Play,” a family-friendly outdoor activity, at 6 p.m. Saturday, February 25, at Central Village Park. The event will showcase experimental art projections that reflect the neighborhood’s history as well as the residents who call it home. For information, call the SUPC office or email [jens@summit-university.org](mailto:jens@summit-university.org).

**Spring cleanup**—The SUPC will host an Earth Day spring cleanup from 9-11 a.m. Saturday, April 22, in Central Village Park. A celebration will follow.

**Block club**—Neighbors of Central Village Park are forming a block club to address a variety of local issues. For information, call the SUPC office or email [jens@summit-university.org](mailto:jens@summit-university.org).

**Stay informed**—The public is invited to like the SUPC on Facebook and sign up for its e-newsletter, “The Porchlite,” by visiting its website.

## Union Park

unionparkdc.org • 651-645-6887

**Upcoming meetings**—Committee on Land Use and Economic Development with University of Saint Thomas chief of staff Amy McDonough presenting plans for a multipurpose on-campus arena, 6:30 p.m. Monday, February 27; board of directors, 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 1; Transportation Committee with Jimmy Shoemaker on Safe Routes to School, 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 13; and Neighborhood Sustainability and Vitality Committee, 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 21. All of the meetings will be held via Zoom. For access information, email [info@unionparkdc.org](mailto:info@unionparkdc.org) or see the calendar on the website.

**Contact us**—The public is invited to “like” the Union Park District Council on Facebook, follow it on Twitter at @UnionParkDC, and subscribe to its e-newsletter, “Neighborhood Matters,” by emailing [info@unionparkdc.org](mailto:info@unionparkdc.org).

**Office hours**—The Union Park office hours are currently by appointment only. Contact executive director Leah Timberlake Sullivan at [leah@unionparkdc.org](mailto:leah@unionparkdc.org).

## West Seventh

fortroadfederation.org • 651-298-5599

**Board updates**—The West Seventh/Fort Road Federation is seeking board candidates for its annual meeting and elections that will be held at 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 25, at Summit Brewing, 910 Montreal Circle. Informational sessions for prospective board members will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 4, via Zoom, and 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 8, at Shamrocks, 995 W. Seventh St. For more information, email [fortroadfed@fortroadfederation.org](mailto:fortroadfed@fortroadfederation.org).

**District plan forum**—An in-person public forum to discuss the Fort Road Federation’s updated district plan will take place from 1-3 p.m. Saturday, February 25, at the Palace Community Center, 781 Palace Ave. To register, visit [fortroadfederation.org/calendar](http://fortroadfederation.org/calendar).

**Utility workshop**—An educational workshop on “Why are Energy Costs So High and What Can I Do?” will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 2, via Zoom. The Citizens Utility Board of Minnesota has been invited to lead the discussion. To register, visit [fortroadfederation.org/calendar](http://fortroadfederation.org/calendar).

**Upcoming meetings**—board of directors, 7 p.m. Monday, March 13; and Community Engagement and Outreach Committee, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 16. All meetings will be held via Zoom. Visit [fortroadfederation.org/calendar](http://fortroadfederation.org/calendar) for log-in details.

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Volume 70, Number 25

Maurice F. Mischke, 1920-1991

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# BOOMERS & BEYOND *Living on the upside of 55*

## Survivors' story

Author pays tribute to her parents and the music that helped them move beyond trauma of WWII

By Anne Murphy

Janet Horvath always knew there were chapters missing from her parents' story. As survivors of the Holocaust, George and Katherine Horvath never talked much about their experiences during World War II, and Janet never really questioned them. One day, however, she asked her father if he had ever played the cello with famed pianist and conductor Leonard Bernstein. His answer led to the writing of her new memoir, *The Cello Still Sings: A Generational Story of the Holocaust and of the Transformative Power of Music*.

Like her late parents, Horvath is an accomplished musician. She served as the associate principal cellist of the Minnesota Orchestra from 1980-2012. A resident of Ramsey Hill, she will introduce her new book in a conversation with poet and retired Hamline University professor Deborah Keenan at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Febru-

ary 28, at the University Club, 420 Summit Ave.

Like other Holocaust survivors, Horvath's parents were reluctant to discuss the horrors they experienced. "They wanted to protect their children from the trauma, and they wanted to put their lives back together and move beyond those horrible memories," Horvath said. "But I gleaned little hints of what had happened, and the Holocaust hovered over us."

The children of Holocaust survivors are known for being among the best-behaved children, according to Horvath. "We didn't want to give our parents any further pain," she said. Horvath clung to that attitude until her father's health began to fail. She asked him about Bernstein. "Suddenly, he puts his palms to his face, and he looks up and he says, 'Yes, it was a very hot day,'" she said.

Horvath's father told of how he played with Bernstein in a Jewish orchestra that visited the camps

of persons displaced after World War II. "He remembered that Bernstein played Rhapsody in Blue on the piano and conducted. He remembered other music on the program, and then it was as if the memory left him."

From that day on, Horvath pieced together the story of her parents' trauma and her own story as the daughter of Holocaust survivors who were professional musicians. "We have a word for that, a Jewish word," Horvath said. "It's *besht*, meaning 'everything falling into place' or 'it was meant to be.'"

With the little information she received from her father, Horvath visited Bernstein's website and found a record of the orchestra her father described. She located a printed program from one of the camp concerts at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York City. Horvath visited the museum when the Minnesota Orchestra played in New York in 2009. "The archivist put on white gloves and



Janet Horvath holds up photographs of her parents George and Katherine along with a portrait of herself at age 9. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

brought out these tiny little old photos from a black box," she said. "And there was my father with a full head of hair and a mustache standing next to Bernstein with the other members of the

group. I couldn't believe my eyes. "As it turned out, my father played two concerts with Leonard Bernstein in 1948," she said.

JANET HORVATH ►11

## Have shoes, will tap: Seniors discover joy of percussive dance

By Carolyn Walkup

Stroll by the northeast corner of University Avenue and Vandalia Street and you may hear the clicking of tap shoes emanating from the studio at Keane Sense of Rhythm. Ellen Keane moved her tap dancing school to 2161 University Ave. last year, and she and her staff of teaching artists are conducting tap dance classes for children and adults several times a week.

Among Keane's more popular classes are

tap dancing for people age 55 and older. Learning something new can be challenging, especially as we age, but it can be good for the brain. And getting up off the couch and moving is an obvious benefit to the body.

"The classes (for people 55 and older) are low-impact, which means no jumping or hopping," Keane said. "There's some dancing on one foot, which is good for balance, and the percussive movements build bone calcium." In fact, three of her students with

bone-density issues have seen improvement after a year of tap dancing, she said.

Keane, the school's cofounder and executive director, grew up in an Irish-American family who loved to dance. She switched to tap dancing at age 28 and has never looked back. Now over 55 herself, Keane found that people in her age group were interested in tap dancing but at a somewhat slower pace than younger dancers. So she created a tap dancing curriculum designed especially for those over 55 and another for

those over 65.

The classes for older adults are offered on weekday mornings and afternoons. No experience is necessary. Tap shoes are the only required equipment, and they are sold to students at a discount.

Many students first learned about Keane's studio through the Saint Paul Public Schools' Community Education program. Registration for the spring session of her

TAP DANCING ►11

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**10◀ JANET HORVATH**

"But this 17-member orchestra played 200 concerts to boost the morale of the displaced persons who were languishing in camps waiting for news of loved ones and for the paperwork to be able to emigrate."

George and Katherine Horvath were among those awaiting the paperwork that eventually allowed them to settle in Toronto where their daughter and son were born and raised. The couple first met when George was a 20-year-old cellist in the Budapest Symphony. "My mother was a budding actress and singer and pianist," Horvath said. "They were both at the famed Liszt Academy in Budapest, which has hatched a number of amazing artists."

The Nazis in occupied Hungary began deporting men to work camps and sending unmarried women to concentration camps, so George and Katherine married. "So many people were married overnight," Horvath said. "My mother was only 17. They said they were Catholic and were married in a judge's office on May 26, 1944. The next day, they took my father to slave labor in the copper mines of Yugoslavia."

Horvath left the Minnesota Orchestra in 2010 to devote more time to her book. "I went to Hamline University in 2012 to pursue a master's degree in creative writing," she said. "My first adviser at Hamline was Keenan. She saw this manuscript in its infancy."

Horvath had already published a book,

*Playing (Less) Hurt: An Injury Prevention Guide for Musicians*, which addressed the physical demands of a professional musician, including solitary practice, hectic rehearsal schedules and the pressures of performing challenging repertoire. "But I realized that to put a story like the memoir together, which is massive in its 70 years of history, I needed the help of the writing community," she said.

In addition to highlighting the importance of music as a source of joy and healing, Horvath hopes her memoir fosters a heightened awareness of the Holocaust, the struggles of refugees and the fact that humanitarian crises are still happening. It was this concern that led her to include in the back of her book a glossary of Nazi euphemisms. "For every letter of the alphabet, I have a euphemism that was used to hoodwink people, to pull the wool over people's eyes," she said. "I weave in euphemisms that are still used today."

"My parents were blessed," Horvath said. "Yes, they started out working in factories and cleaning office buildings. My mother worked in a sweatshop. But they had music. They were able to use music to make a more beautiful world. It was a transformative power in their lives and in the lives of people they were eventually able to touch."

Horvath's February 28 program at the University Club is sponsored by SubText Books. For more information, visit [subtextbooks.com](http://subtextbooks.com).



Carla Bode leads a session of Tappy Hour, a class designed for tap dancers age 55 and older held at Keane Sense of Rhythm, 2161 University Ave. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

**10◀ TAP DANCING**

Tap Dance for Wellness Ages 55-Plus class opens on March 14. The six-week session begins April 20. The cost is \$80, and class size is limited to 20.

Lea Hall of Macalester-Groveland has been taking tap dance lessons at Keane for the past two years. She is a retired professional dancer who first learned tap and ballet in childhood. "Tap generates endorphins," Hall said. "It's also one of the few dances native to North America."

Tap dancing was first developed in the late 1800s among Americans of West African and Scottish, Irish and English descent. It reached its peak in popularity in the 1920s in vaudeville variety shows, at nightclubs and in Broadway musicals.

Jane Sevald of Highland Park said she is glad she added tap dancing to her physical fitness routines, which also include yoga and rowing. She started taking tap dance classes last fall through the Community Education program. She said she enjoys it much more than the ballet she did in the 1960s and 1970s. Ballet, she added, is too competitive and not as much fun.

Wendy Dean of Macalester-Groveland is now taking the beginners' class in tap dancing at Keane. "Two of my neighbors asked me if I wanted to do it, and I said, 'No, I'm not a dancer.'" However, she was

persuaded to give it a try and has been having a lot of fun. "Anybody can do it," she said. "The teacher is excellent and makes everything accessible."

Although Dean still works full time, she was able to squeeze the class into her schedule. She and friend and classmate Elizabeth Evans will even practice at home on tap dance floor mats.

Evans, 83, had not tap-danced in 50 years. The class, she said, "has expanded my horizons. It's wonderful. We do little routines. The instructor is good at tailoring the class to everyone. I recommend it for anybody."

Though the majority of Keane's students are women, most classes include between one and three men. However, the men typically stick with it and enroll in continuous classes, Keane said.

Keane is once again planning to produce a public performance at the Como Pavilion on May 27 as part of National Tap Dance Day. She invites her students to join in the show. "We encourage students to get on stage," she said, "but only if they want to. There's no pressure."

Saint Paul Community Education offers several dance classes, including Boomer Ballet, line dancing and modern dance. For more information, visit [comm.ed.spps.org](http://comm.ed.spps.org).

For information on Keane Sense of Rhythm's classes, visit [tapcompany.org](http://tapcompany.org).

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# Crime Report

*The following criminal incidents were compiled from Saint Paul and Mendota Heights police reports. For car and catalytic converter thefts, along with other crimes not mentioned in this print edition, go to MyVillager.com.*

## Highland Park

**Burglary**—Seven suspects broke into Speedway, 1580 Ford Pkwy., at 12:08 a.m. on February 4.

—A break-in was reported at a commercial building at 502 S. Lexington Pkwy., at 10:32 a.m. on February 6.

**Theft**—Several items were reported stolen from vehicles at Hidden Falls Park on January 29 and February 2, Crosby Farm Park on January 31 and February 4, and Highland National Golf Course on February 13.

—An employee reportedly stole more than \$1,000 from a safe while working at Dairy Queen, 1959 Ford Pkwy., at 11:11 a.m. on February 5.

—Items valued at more than \$1,000 were reported stolen from vehicles on the 1000 block of South Howell Street on February 11-12, and the 1900 block of Beechwood Avenue on February 13.

—A bicycle valued at more than \$1,000 was reported stolen on the 2200 block of Ford Parkway between 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. on February 8.

—A gun was reported stolen from a vehicle at AT&T, 2132 Ford Pkwy., at 6:43 p.m. on February 13.

**Assault**—Two males were reportedly shot at by a suspect in an orange sedan on the 700 block of Mount Curve Boulevard at 12:01 a.m. on February 6. No injuries were reported.

—A felony assault was reported at Life Time, 2145 Ford Pkwy., at 6:44 p.m. on February 7.

**Miscellaneous**—Criminal damage to property was reported at Crosby Farm Park at 10:05 a.m. on February 11.

## Lexington-Hamline

**Robbery**—A strong-arm robbery was reported near the Concordia University bookstore, 1282 Concordia Ave., at 3:30 p.m. on February 4.

**Theft**—Items valued at more than \$1,000 were reported stolen from a vehicle on the 300 block of North Hamline Avenue at 2 p.m. on February 3.

**Assault**—An assault was reported at Central High School at 6:39 p.m. on February 3.

**Miscellaneous**—Someone drove into an unoccupied squad car and then took off at Central High School between 6:42-11:18 p.m. on February 1.

—A hit-and-run accident was reported on Dunlap Street and University Avenue at 5:47 a.m. on February 1. Damage also was possibly done to the retaining wall near the light-rail tracks.

—Felony damage to property was reported at the Midway Target at 2:50 a.m. on February 8.

## Macalester-Groveland

**Burglary**—A burglary was reported at the Groveland Tap, 1834 Saint Clair Ave., at 6 a.m. on February 9.

—A suspect broke through a door and stole items at Estelle, 1806 Saint Clair Ave., at 12:06 a.m. on February 10.

**Theft**—A snowblower was reported stolen on the 1700 block of Grand Avenue between 2:57-4:28 p.m. on February 1.

**Miscellaneous**—Felony damage to property was reported on Wheeler Street and Lincoln Avenue on January 31, and the 1200 block of Grand Avenue on February 6.

**Weapons**—A loaded gun was found in the restroom at the Merriam Park Library, 1831

## Knife-wielding man fatally shot by police on West End

A man with a knife was fatally shot by a Saint Paul police officer around 5 p.m. on February 11 at Winslow Commons, 160 S. Western Ave. He was identified as Yia Xiong, 65, a resident at the apartment complex.

Multiple callers reported that a male was threatening people with a knife in the building's community room. Police located the suspect in a first-floor hallway and attempted to get him to drop the knife. When he advanced toward them one officer deployed a taser and another fired his gun, striking the man.

Medics provided aid, but the man was pronounced dead at the scene. The Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension was investigating the incident.

The videos from police body cameras were released on February 17. They can be viewed at [youtu.be/Bbq77uXeoY](https://youtu.be/Bbq77uXeoY).

Marshall Ave., at 4:15 p.m. on February 3.

## Mendota Heights

**Theft**—Three vehicles were broken into on the 1200 block of Lilydale Road between 11:11 a.m.-12:34 p.m. on February 11. A purse was taken in at least one of the incidents.

—Items were reported stolen from two vehicles on the 1300 block of Acacia Boulevard at 1:31 p.m. on February 11.

## Merriam Park

**Burglary**—A break-in was reported at CCI Properties, 1599 Selby Ave., at 1:58 a.m. on February 15.

**Theft**—Alcoholic beverages were reported stolen at Breakthru Beverage Minnesota, 489 N. Prior Ave., between 4:15-6:10 p.m. on February 2.

—Items worth more than \$1,000 were reported stolen from a vehicle on the 1800 block of Roblyn Avenue on February 7-8.

**Weapons**—Gunfire was reported on the 1900 block of Dayton Avenue at 10:12 p.m. on February 8.

**Miscellaneous**—An intoxicated 33-year-old man was arrested for an outstanding DWI warrant after he was found banging on doors and urinating in the hallway of the Days Inn, 1964 University Ave., at 4:26 p.m. on February 10.

## Snelling-Hamline

**Robbery**—Robberies at gunpoint were reported at the Midway Cub Foods between 2-3 p.m. on February 2, and at the Speedway at 56 N. Snelling Ave. at 7:30 a.m. on February 5.

—A strong-arm robbery was reported on University and Snelling avenues at 10:49 p.m. on February 10. Three suspects fled the scene and the victim was taken to the hospital.

—A 41-year-old man was arrested for trying to rob the Midway Cub Foods armed with a stun gun at 11 p.m. on February 12. He was also cited for drug possession and giving false information to police.

**Theft**—Items were reported stolen from a locker room at LA Fitness, 1370 University Ave., between 3:48-5 p.m. on February 3.

**Assault**—An 18-year-old man was arrested for felony assault at the Liffey on Snelling apartments, 304 N. Snelling Ave., at 4:18 p.m. on February 7.

**Miscellaneous**—A 25-year-old woman was arrested for outstanding warrants from three counties after she was found slumped over in a U-Haul truck at the Holiday Station, 1345 Marshall Ave., at 10:56 a.m. on February 3.

—A driver was taken to the hospital after being injured in a hit-and-run accident

involving a truck on Snelling and Concordia avenues at 3:01 p.m. on February 7.

## Summit Hill

**Burglary**—Suspects broke a rear window to get inside and damaged water pipes in the basement of a residence on the 1100 block of Summit Avenue between 11:49 a.m.-1:40 p.m. on February 8.

—A burglary was reported at Pure Barre, 1045 Grand Ave., at 1:25 a.m. on February 13.

—A break-in was reported at Salut Bar Americain, 917 Grand Ave., at 5:21 a.m. on February 13.

**Theft**—A theft from a vehicle and criminal damage to property was reported at the Pleasant Ice Arena, 848 Pleasant Ave., at 10:48 p.m. on February 3.

**Assault**—An assault was reported at Billy's on Grand, 857 Grand Ave., at 2 a.m. on February 12.

## Summit-University

**Robbery**—A strong-arm robbery was reported on the 500 block of Selby Avenue at 8:43 p.m. on February 5.

**Theft**—A theft of items valued at more than \$1,000 was reported at an apartment on the 800 block of Laurel Avenue on February 2-3.

**Assault**—A 31-year-old woman was arrested for felony assault and interfering with a 911 call at the Dale Place Apartments, 313 N. Dale St., at 3:11 a.m. on February 7.

—A 23-year-old woman was arrested for felony assault of another woman on the 600 block of Portland Avenue at 12:22 p.m. on February 8.

**Miscellaneous**—Two windows were broken at an apartment on the 400 block of Marshall Avenue on February 3-4.

—A 23-year-old man was arrested on a felony burglary warrant after he was found in a building where he did not live on the 200 block of Dayton Avenue at 12:31 a.m. on February 7.

—Police received a call of multiple people causing a disturbance in the street near a vehicle on the 700 block of Iglehart Avenue at 8:35 a.m. on February 7. The owner of the vehicle drove off, but later reported that someone had slashed her tire.

—A 28-year-old man was arrested for several outstanding warrants, including felony robbery, following a vehicle crash on Dale Street and Saint Anthony Avenue at 9 p.m. on February 7.

—Police received a report of someone breaking windows at an apartment on the 400 block of Marshall Avenue at 7:09 a.m. on February 10.

—A 45-year-old woman was cited for disorderly conduct after police responded to a report of a person with a weapon on the 100 block of North Oxford Street at 6:40 a.m. on February 11.

## West End

**Robbery**—A man said he was robbed at gunpoint of his wallet, cellphone and keys on the 300 block of Chestnut Street at 5:30 p.m. on January 30.

—A robbery at gunpoint was reported on the 200 block of Forbes Avenue at 3:16 p.m. on February 3.

—A 33-year-old man was arrested for strong-armed robbery of a vehicle at the parking ramp at 145 N. Smith Ave. at 2:17 p.m. on February 7.

—A man was carjacked at gunpoint on Jefferson Avenue and Arbor Street at 6:38 p.m. on February 8. He said two males approached him while he was inside his vehicle.

—A strong-arm robbery was reported on West Seventh and Ramsey streets at 9 a.m. on February 3.

**Burglary**—A break-in was reported at Soapy Joe's Car Wash, 1340 W. Seventh St., around 7:37 a.m. on February 13.

**Theft**—Multiple items were reported stolen from a storage unit at the Victoria Park 2 Apartments, 750 Otto Ave., between January 28-February 1.

—A woman reported being pick-pocketed on West Seventh and Goodrich streets at 11 a.m. on February 5.

—Items valued at more than \$1,000 were reported stolen from vehicles at the Holiday Inn at 175 W. Seventh St. on February 9, and on the 500 block of West Seventh on February 13.

**Assault**—An assault was reported at Tom Reid's Hockey City, 258 W. Seventh St., at 11:25 p.m. on February 4.

—A felony assault was reported on the 200 block of Wilkin Street at 11:13 a.m. on February 8. A woman said a 32-year-old man threatened to shoot her with a gun. A pickup and hold was issued for the suspect.

—An employee was reportedly assaulted at the Hampton Hotel, 200 W. Seventh St., at 10:49 a.m. on February 9.

—A man reported being stabbed by the mother of his children in an apartment on the 200 block of Wilkin Street at 8:32 p.m. on February 10.

—A woman said her ex-partner came to her residence despite having a no-contact order, tried to strangle her and stole her phone on the 1300 block of West Seventh Street at 10:21 p.m. on February 11.

—A 27-year-old man was arrested for felony domestic assault and violation of a no-contact order on the 800 block of Armstrong Avenue at 5:06 p.m. on February 13. He also had two felony warrants.

—A 49-year-old man was arrested for felony domestic assault by strangulation on the 1300 block of West Seventh Street at 8:23 p.m. on February 14.

**Weapons**—A bullet reportedly traveled from one apartment, across a hallway into another unit at the Riverview at Upper Landing Apartments, 400 Spring St., at 4 p.m. on February 1. No injuries or arrests were reported.

—Police responded to a report of a large group of juveniles being disruptive and refusing to leave a room at the Residence Inn by Marriott, 200 Grand Ave., at 10:30 p.m. on February 3. After they were cleared out, five guns were discovered hidden throughout the room.

—The window of a vehicle was shattered by a BB gun while parked at Waterford Bay Apartments, 380 Randolph Ave., at 6:40 a.m. on February 8.

—Gunfire was reported near the High Bridge dog park on Randolph Avenue at 7:40 p.m. on February 12.

—A 17-year-old boy was arrested for felony possession of a BB gun at Saint Paul College, 235 Marshall Ave., at 10:01 a.m. on February 14.

**Miscellaneous**—A 24-year-old homeless woman was arrested on an outstanding felony warrant after she was found in the entry of the Victoria Park 2 Apartments, 750 Otto Ave., at 9:28 a.m. on February 5.

—A male suspect reportedly damaged a camera in the parking ramp at United Hospital at 6:04 a.m. on February 6.

—Felony damage to property was reported on the 300 block of Daly Street between February 4-7, the 300 block of James Avenue on February 7-8, on James and Randolph avenues on February 8, and the 200 block of West Kellogg Boulevard on February 9.

—Police responded to a call about an individual yelling at passers-by and arrested a 33-year-old man for outstanding felony warrants at 8:26 a.m. on February 8 on Kellogg Boulevard and West Seventh Street.





A city plow plies the streets of Saint Paul.

## Public Works takes the heat for condition of Saint Paul's streets

By Jane McClure

It has been a rough winter for Saint Paul's aging streets. More than 50 inches of snowfall, the wear and tear of five snow emergencies, and extreme freeze-and-thaw cycles have led to some of the worst potholes motorists have seen in the city, according to Sean Kershaw, director of the Saint Paul Department of Public Works.

However, potholes are just part of the problem. Public Works has been criticized for the poor plowing of Saint Paul's streets this winter, particularly its residential streets. Kershaw and Public Works' public information manager Lisa Hiebert cited several challenges at a public meeting on snow operations held on February 7 at the Highland Park Community Center.

For one thing, the city is short of workers to drive snowplows and write snowbird tickets. Public Works needs about 70 workers out writing tickets both overnight and during the following day of a snow emergency. This winter it has had between 20 and 30 workers out ticketing each shift.

"We also need more equipment—that's the bottom line," Kershaw said. The city needs a greater variety of snowplows, he said, and more graders or "belly plows," which have the plowing blade on the bottom of the truck. More single-axle trucks are also needed, as well as equipment to clear bike lanes.

This month, Public Works staff will be meeting with other city departments to see if there are any other city-owned pickup trucks that can hold plows and if there are any other city workers who are licensed and available to drive snowplows.

About two dozen citizens attended the public meeting on February 7. Several people asked about the heavy snowfall from January 2-4. The city declined to declare back-to-back snow emergencies on those days and, as a result, some residential streets became impassable and many cars and delivery vehicles got stuck.

Saint Paul typically does not declare back-to-back snow emergencies, Hiebert said, because of the confusion that can cause motorists who have to move their cars off the street. The weather forecast also changed. "Two to four inches of snow became eight inches overnight," she said.

Another person asked why the city does not use more salt on the streets. "Salt poisons our lakes and streams," Kershaw said, though Public Works did make an exception recently and salted more residential streets.

Saint Paul has a total of 1,950 lane miles of streets. That includes 122 miles of state highway, 246 miles of county roads, 396 miles of arterial streets and 1,186 miles of residential streets. The city is also responsible for clearing 186 sidewalks, medians and public stairways of snow, in addition to 97 bridges and 145 miles of bike lanes. Saint Paul also has 2,235 miles of alleys, but

those are plowed by private contractors or abutting property owners and not the city.

Saint Paul averages 25 to 30 "winter events" per season, according to Hiebert. These may include a layer of frost, which requires two to seven trucks to prevent ice or treat ice on bridge decks; a snowfall of 3 inches or less, which can involve 10 to 30 trucks treating and plowing arterial streets and problem spots such as hills and curves; and a snowfall of 3 or more inches, which triggers a snow emergency with 70 to 80 trucks plowing every street in the city.

The city has had five snow emergencies so far this winter, or only two shy of the record seven snow emergencies in the winter of 2018-19. The city had only two snow emergencies in the winter of 2020-21. Snow emergencies cost between \$400,000 and \$800,000 each. The city budgets for four snow emergencies per calendar year, but can adjust that as needed. Six snow emergencies were declared in the 2022 calendar year. Two have been declared so far in 2023.

However, when it comes to clearing streets of snow, Saint Paul has a parking problem, not a plowing problem, according to Hiebert. She cited the lack of off-street parking at many apartment buildings and the low level of compliance with the city's snow emergency rules. Then there are abandoned vehicles that have been stolen and dumped or simply left behind by their owners. Recycling and trash carts that are left in the street are another problem.

Narrow streets, multiple street and alley intersections, and limited and variable snow-storage space on boulevards are other challenges for snowplows. Residents, business owners and private contractors who plow snow or blow snow into the streets also cause problems.

Snow emergencies are declared in Saint Paul by 3 p.m. on any day. Parking restrictions and plowing begin at 9 p.m. on that day. Residents may register with the city to receive email or text-message alerts about a snow emergency. The city also relies on television and radio stations, social media platforms and on-street dynamic display boards to get the word out. People may call 651-266-PLOW to learn if a snow emergency has been declared. More information is also available at [stpaul.gov/snow](http://stpaul.gov/snow).

Major arterial streets and Night Plow Routes are plowed between 9 p.m. and 7 a.m. on the first night of a snow emergency. East-west residential streets are plowed from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. the following day. However, the parking restrictions remain in force until the street has been plowed from curb to curb.

The city issued an average of more than 2,200 snowbird tickets during the five snow emergencies in 2022-23. It towed an average of more than 700 vehicles to its two impound lots on Barge Channel Road and at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds. A parking ticket costs \$56, and the impound fee is \$275 plus \$15 per day.

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**February 8-21, 2023**

Click below to view the current issue of MyVillager, complete with active links and archive from April 2020 until now!

**City officials take steps in wake of Oxford shooting**

Changes in staffing, gun policies sought after teen employee injuries teen

By Jane McClure

Saint Paul Mayor Michele Carter is looking to hire more police officers and increase the number of officers on duty in the wake of the January 18 shooting that left a 16-year-old boy critically injured.

**Save Our Street accuses city of hiding the harm that will result from Summit trail**

By Jane McClure

The city of Saint Paul has released its latest proposal for a new residential trail along the entire length of Summit Avenue for 30 days of public comment. The master plan for the Summit Avenue Trail is a 300-foot wide path, according to the city, and

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# ON THE TOWN

## A joyful finale

### Jacobson takes his final bows as Baroque Orchestra's flutist

By Anne Murphy

Summit Hill flutist Paul Jacobson will make his final appearance on March 12 with Lyra Baroque Orchestra, an ensemble he cofounded nearly 40 years ago. "I want to retire on a crescendo, not a decrescendo," he said, and because of that he has chosen the program, "Vivaldi Among Friends."

"I suppose if you asked me what composers I'm particularly in love with, I'd say J.S. Bach and Mozart," Jacobson said. "I just adore their music. But Vivaldi is sheer fun. With Vivaldi, I'm going to be able to end on a joyful note. And I want to play Vivaldi while I can still play Vivaldi."

The concert will begin at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 12, in Sundin Music Hall, 1531 Hewitt Ave. It will celebrate Jacobson's musicianship on Baroque and classical flute with a program of chamber works and solo concerti for wind and string instruments.

It was an ever-growing interest in the music of the 17th and 18th centuries that led Jacobson to cofound Lyra. "Baroque music in itself is very conversational, very expressive," Jacobson said. "It has a lot of emotion—happy, sad and everything in between. And it's very rhetorical. It speaks. New audiences are often surprised at how this music touches them. Once they hear it, they just eat it up."

Jacobson pursued music composition as a graduate student at Columbia University and Union Seminary School of Sacred Music in New York City. "My early background was in flute and piano as well as composition," he said. His interest in the Baroque began with playing the recorder. "It was so darn much fun," he said. "I started studying recorder with a woman who was in the avant-garde of American early music. I ended up doing a lot of freelancing as a recorder player. Then I started studying Baroque flute and freelancing as a Baroque flutist."

Jacobson was busy composing music, playing recorder and teaching in New York in 1982 when his wife, Diane, got the call to become a professor of Old Testament at Luther Seminary in Saint Paul. "She actually became the first woman to teach Old Testament in any of the Lutheran seminaries in the United States," he said. "I knew there would be something waiting for me to do in Saint Paul."

That something was Lyra, which he helped found after meeting Randy Bourne, the producer of the early music program at Minnesota Public Radio. "(Bourne) was a virtuosic organist and harpsichordist," Jacobson said. "He had one of the only harpsichords in town. We were joined by Cindy

Marvin, a very important violin teacher around town. The three of us and oboist Peter Kelly, who is not around anymore, decided we needed to band together and form a Baroque orchestra. That was around 1984. There were hardly any Baroque orchestras in the U.S. at that point.

"None of us had any experience in arts management," Jacobson said. "We were neophytes. But we put together a plan and a season and within a few months were in the process of incorporating as a nonprofit and getting a 501(c)3."

Jacobson and the other founders did most of the administrative work for many years with help from "wonderful but small boards of directors," he said. "I was the first president of the board, then business manager and executive director."

Lyra flourished from the beginning, thanks to remarkable musicians and enthusiastic audiences for Baroque orchestra and chamber concerts. Early on, it received the support of a physician at Mayo Clinic who believed in music as an integral part of healing. The neurologist was behind an arrangement that has had Lyra playing companion concerts in Rochester each season.

After Bourne's retirement in 2000,

*"Paul is a passionate player," Ogg said. "He's full of musical ideas. And his suggestions are always about the music, never showing off."*



Lyra Orchestra cofounder Paul Jacobson at home with his Baroque flute. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Jacques Ogg from the Netherlands became Lyra's artistic director. Renowned worldwide for his harpsichord and fortepiano playing, Ogg has split his time between Saint Paul and abroad. "He's not only an incredible musician, he has brought in guest artists from all over the world," Jacobson said. "Jacques is just a saint. He's so much fun to work with, and he's been extremely inspiring. I think he feels as much at home in the Twin Cities as he does in Maastricht, Holland."

It was Ogg who recommended Vivaldi for Jacobson's final concert. "Paul is a passionate player," Ogg said. "He's full of musical ideas. And his suggestions are always about the music, never showing off."

Lyra's current executive director is Curtis Foster. An oboe and recorder player, he stayed with Jacobson at his Summit Hill home in 2021 when he was in town for a concert with the Bach Society of Minne-

sota. "I was at Paul's home that December when Lyra posted the job for a new executive director," Foster said. "I had no idea Paul was connected with Lyra. When I mentioned to him that I was thinking of applying for the job, he told me he was on the search committee."

"Paul is a beloved elder statesman," Foster said. "He's extremely engaged and interested, even as his involvement in Lyra has been winding down. This is Paul's baby; it has been for nearly 40 years. It will be hard for us to let him go."

Jacobson, for his part, is looking forward to stepping back some from performance. "My career is coming full circle," he said. "Once retired, I'll have more time to compose music. I'm very excited about that."

Tickets for the March 12 concert are \$35, \$25 for seniors, \$5 for students and \$15 for the live stream. For reservations, visit lyrabaroque.org or call 651-321-2214.

## ON THE TOWN Briefly

### Books

**The Stories Whiteness Tells Itself: Racial Myths and Our American Narratives** will be discussed by author David Mura at 6 p.m. Monday, February 27, at Next Chapter Booksellers, 38 S. Snelling Ave., and at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 22, at Moon Palace Books, 3032 Minnehaha Ave. S. in Minneapolis. The book explores how the stories whites tell about race can erase the brutality of the past and prop up systemic racism in the present. Admission is free.

A used book sale will be held on March 1-4 at Highland Catholic School, 2055 Bohland Ave. Adult and children's books, games and DVDs will be available. Most items will be priced from 50 cents to \$2. The hours are 6-8 p.m. Wednesday (ad-

mission is \$10); 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Thursday and Friday (free); and 8 a.m.-noon Saturday (free). Call 651-690-2477.

**Seven women poets**, all members of the local Onionskins, will mark the 50th anniversary of that writing group in a free Literary Bridges program from 2-3:30 p.m. Sunday, March 5, at Next Chapter Booksellers, 38 S. Snelling Ave. Reading from their verse will be Mary Kay Rummel, Sharon Chmielarz, Norita Dittberner-Jax, Kate Hallett Dayton, Carol Masters, Patricia Barnes and host Donna Isaac. Call 651-225-8989 or visit nextchapterbooksellers.com.

**Brotherless Night**, a novel about one woman's moral journey during the early years of Sri Lanka's civil war, will be introduced by author V.V. Ganeshanathan in

a free program at 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 7, at Next Chapter Booksellers, 38 S. Snelling Ave. Call 651-225-8989 or visit nextchapterbooksellers.com.

### Dance

**Beginner square dance lessons** are being conducted by the Triple T Square Dance Club from 6:30-8 p.m. on Mondays at Saint Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church, 550 W. Seventh St. Singles, couples, families and children are welcome. No partner is necessary. The cost is \$5 per evening, but the first night is free. For information, call 651-503-7040.

**Dancers from Ballet Co.Laboratory** will perform in a free program at noon on Tuesdays, March 14 and April 11,

in the Landmark Center cortile. Visit landmarkcenter.org or call 651-292-3063.

### Exhibits

**Artists Angela Two Stars and Jaime Black** are displaying their works through March 19 in the Catherine G. Murphy Galleries at Saint Catherine University. Black, in her installation "She Holds Water," seeks to dissolve the borders between body and land, and between inner and outer geographies. In "(Re)Connected," Two Stars addresses the causes of trauma for Native American women and highlights their strength, beauty and resilience. She will perform "Healing is a Process" at 6 p.m. Thursdays, March 2 and 16. Admission is free.



14◀ ON THE TOWN BRIEFLY

“Defying Sameness,” 56 works by 56 artists who disrupt expectations and allow their imaginations to break free, are being displayed through March 26 at Argyle Zebra Gallery, 308 Prince St., Suite 130. A reception for the artists with live jazz and light refreshments will be held from 5-8 p.m. Saturday, February 18. Admission is free and open to all. Visit [theazgallery.org](http://theazgallery.org).

“Terms of Engagement,” a collection of paintings by David Amdur, and “Folk Magic,” featuring the pottery of Alana Cuellar, are on view through April 2 at Raymond Avenue Gallery, 761 Raymond Ave. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday. Admission is free. Call 651-644-9200.

Family

**How science, technology, engineering and math** are intertwined with history will be explored from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, February 25, at the Mill City Museum, 704 S. Second St. in Minneapolis. STEM Day will feature live animals from the Raptor Center and Herpetological Society, safety tips from the Minneapolis Fire Department, a presentation by scientists and engineers from the University of Minnesota laboratory at Saint Anthony Falls, a flour dust explosion demonstration and a concert exploring the science of music. Admission is \$12, \$10 for seniors, \$8 for children ages 5-17. Call 612-341-7555 or visit [mcm@mnhs.org](mailto:mcm@mnhs.org).

**Venture up the fjords of Norway** without leaving Saint Paul. Take part in an Urban Expedition from 1-3 p.m. Sunday, February 26, at Landmark Center. Cosponsored by the Sons of Norway, the free program will feature the traditional music, dance, food and crafts of Scandinavia. Hands-on activities and educational displays about notable Norwegian Americans will also be featured. Call 651-292-3276.

**Visit Nigeria** without leaving Saint Paul. Take part in an urban expedition from 1-3 p.m. Sunday, March 12, at Landmark Center. The free program will feature the art, music, crafts, clothing and cuisine of this West African country. Call 651-292-3276 or visit [landmarkcenter.org](http://landmarkcenter.org).

Film

**Films that highlight the challenges and achievements of the Cuban people in light of the U.S. blockade** will be presented by the Minnesota Cuba Committee at 7 p.m. Wednesdays, March 1 through April 5, at Main Cinema, 115 SE. Main St. in Minneapolis. Cosponsored by the MSP Film Society, the schedule includes *Tales of One More Day*, March 1; *Bongo Ita*, March 8; *Habana Selfies*, March 15; *Cuba’s Life Task: Combating Climate Change*, March 22; *Vicenta B*, March 29; and *Chico & Rita*, April 5. Tickets are \$10, \$7 for students. Call 612-395-4444 or visit [mspfilm.org](http://mspfilm.org).

**The history of hip hop** in the Twin Cities and the 2010 documentary film, *A Great Day in Twin Cities Hip Hop* will be featured from 2-4 p.m. Saturday, March 4, in 3M Auditorium at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. Ralph L. Crowder III created the film during a photo shoot organized by Dj Stage One. It provides a rare look at the cultural expression of Black youths prior to the uprising following the murder of George Floyd in 2020. The film will roll at 2:30 p.m. and be followed by a panel discussion with local hip hop legends. Admission is free, but registration is required. Visit [cart.mnhs.org/78523/78526](http://cart.mnhs.org/78523/78526).

Music

**Folk and country musician** Eric Peltoniemi will perform at 8 p.m. Saturday, February 25, at Ginkgo Coffeehouse, 721 N. Snelling Ave. Tickets are \$20. Visit [ginkgocoffee.com](http://ginkgocoffee.com) or call 651-645-2647.

**The Salzburg Guitar Trio**, grand prize winners in the Guitar Foundation of America’s 2021 International Ensemble Competition, will perform on Saturday, February 25. The music begins at 7:30 p.m. in Sundin Hall, 1531 Hewitt Ave. Tickets are \$10-\$25. Visit [mnguitar.org](http://mnguitar.org).

**Pink Floyd’s “Dark Side of the Moon”** will be performed live in its entirety by Classic Albums Live at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, February 25, in the Ordway Concert Hall. Tickets start at \$33. Visit [ordway.org](http://ordway.org) or call 651-224-4222.

**A contemplative service** of lessons and carols for Lent will be presented by the Mount Olive cantorei and organist David Cherwien at 4 p.m. Sunday, February 26, at Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 3045 Chicago Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Admission is free and open to all. Call 612-827-5919.

**The Saint Paul Civic Symphony** will play Jan Gilbert’s Hmong story piece, “Nine-in-One, Grrr, Grrr!,” at 3 p.m. Sunday, February 26, at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church, 1669 Arcade St. Admission is free. All ages are welcome. For information, visit [spcsmusic.org](http://spcsmusic.org).

**Hot Club of San Francisco violinist** Evan Price will join the Chamber Music Society of Minnesota and guest musicians on Sunday, February 26, in a program of original compositions, jazz and folk music and a Mozart string quintet. Accompanying Price will be bassist Anthony Cox, guitarist Dean Magraw, violinists Ariana Kim and Young-Nam Kim, violist Sally Chisholm and cellist Jane Cords-O’Hara. The concert will begin at 4 p.m. in Sundin Hall, 1531 Hewitt Ave. Tickets are \$15-\$25. Visit [chambermusicmn.org](http://chambermusicmn.org).

**The Schubert Club’s** Music in the Parks series continues with harpist Bridget Kibbey and the Calidore String Quartet on Sunday, February 26, and violinist Randall Goosby and pianist Anna Han on Sunday, March 12. Both concerts begin at 4 p.m. at Saint Anthony Park United Church of

Christ, 2129 Commonwealth Ave. For reservations, call 651-292-3268 or visit [schubert.org](http://schubert.org).

“**Hallelujah**,” a program of motets by J.S. Bach, his uncle Johann Christoph Bach, cousin Johann Ludwig Bach and friends Antonio Lotti, Gottfried A. Homilius and Telemann, will be performed by the singers of the Bach Society of Minnesota in concert at 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 3, in Sundin Hall, 1531 Hewitt Ave. Tickets are \$35, \$5 for students. Visit [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com).

**The JCC Symphony Orchestra** under the baton of new conductor Chi-Chi Bestmann will perform at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 8, at the Capp Center, 1345 Saint Paul Ave. The free program will feature Lou Koster’s Overture Legere and other pieces. For reservations, visit [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com).

Theater

***A Soldier’s Play***, an award-winning drama about the murder of a Black sergeant on a Louisiana Army base in 1944, will be performed on February 8-12 at the Fitzgerald Theater, 10 E. Exchange St. Written by Charles Fuller, this powerful drama about sacrifice, service and identity stars Eugene Lee as Sergeant Vernon C. Waters. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Tickets start at \$43. Visit [ordway.org](http://ordway.org) or call 651-224-4222.

**The faith and friendship** of two young men are tested when the secular pleasures of New York City threaten to waylay their mission in *Trayf*. Soren Thayne Miller and Charlie Peterson star as Zalmy and Shmuel, Orthodox Jewish teens who are intent on igniting the souls of nonobservant Jews. The comedy by Lindsay Joelle is playing through March 12 on Six Points Theater’s stage at the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. Show times are 1 p.m. Tuesdays; 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays; and 1 and 7 p.m. Sundays, with additional shows at 5 p.m. February 26 and 1 p.m. March 7. Tickets are \$25-\$40. Call 651-647-4315 or visit [sixpointstheater.org](http://sixpointstheater.org).

***Mercy Unrelenting***, based on the true story of Italian peasant girl Maria Goretti who was canonized a saint of the Catholic Church in 1950, nearly 50 years after her murder, will open on February 24 at Open Window Theatre, 5300 S. Robert Trail, Inver Grove Heights. Written by Jeremy Stanbary and co-directed by Stanbary and Stephen O’Toole, the play is set on the eve of Goretti’s canonization amid rumors of a miracle in the life of her killer. As tension builds, difficult questions lead to unexpected answers. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays through March 26, with additional shows at 7:30 p.m. February 23 and March 23 and 10 a.m. March 7. Tickets are \$18-\$28. Visit [openwindowtheatre.org](http://openwindowtheatre.org) or call 612-615-1515.



**Chopin around for alternatives.** Works by Bach, Schumann, Ravel and Prokofiev will be performed by acclaimed British pianist Benjamin Grosvenor in a Chopin Society recital at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 12, in the Concert Hall of the Fine Arts Center at Macalester College. Tickets are \$40. For reservations, visit [chopinsocietymn.org](http://chopinsocietymn.org) or call 612-822-0123.

***Eurydice***, playwright Sarah Ruhl’s retelling of the classic Greek myth about Orpheus and Eurydice, will open on March 10 at Theatre in the Round, 245 Cedar Ave. S. in Minneapolis. With contemporary characters, ingenious twists and breathtaking visual effects, the play is a fresh take on a timeless love story. Sophie Peyton directs the 10-member cast. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays through April 2 with a pay-what-you-can performance at 7:30 p.m. March 29. Tickets are \$25. Call 612-333-3010 or visit [theatreintheround.org](http://theatreintheround.org).

***Diesel Heart***, a new play by Brian Grandison based on the autobiography of Melvin Carter Jr., will open on March 11 at the History Theatre, 30 E. 10th St. Directed by Warren C. Bowles, the drama tells of a Saint Paul teenager who struggled in the classroom and on the streets. The father of the current mayor, Carter enlisted in the Navy, won self-respect in the boxing ring and battled crime and racism as a Saint Paul cop. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays through April 2. Tickets are \$15-\$58. Visit [historytheatre.com](http://historytheatre.com) or call 651-292-4323.

FRIDAY/FEBRUARY 24

**EMOTIONS ANONYMOUS**, a 12-step program that helps people deal with stress and live a healthier emotional life, meets at 7 p.m. today and every Friday at the Twin Cities Friends Meetinghouse, 1725 Grand Ave. For more information, visit [emotionsanonymous.org](http://emotionsanonymous.org) or call Paul at 651-402-6774.

**RESTORING THE ELK** as an act of environmental and cultural justice will be addressed by Tom Howes of the Fond Du Lac Band at 7:30 p.m. in the Hearth Room of the Anderson Student Center at the University of Saint Thomas. The free program will open at 6:30 p.m. with a free buffet supper. For reservations, call 651-983-3846.

SUNDAY/FEBRUARY 26

**TWIN CITIES BRIDAL SHOW** returns to Saint Paul’s

KIOSK

RiverCentre from noon-4 p.m. Featured will be a bridal fashion show; makeover demonstrations; booths staffed by caterers, photographers, florists and reception site managers; and displays of wedding flowers, stationery, cakes and décor. Tickets are \$15, \$20 with the Aisle of Style Fashion Show. Visit [TheWeddingGuys.com](http://TheWeddingGuys.com).

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 1

**THE HIGHLAND LEISURE AGE GROUP** meets from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. today and every Wednesday at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 S. Snelling Ave. All are welcome to join in 500 and other card games. Admission is free.

MONDAY/MARCH 6

**A CLASS IN HAND DRUM BASICS** will be taught from 5-6 p.m. on Mondays beginning today at the Women’s Drum Center, 2242 University Ave. Learn freestyle drumming on djembes and other percussion instruments. All levels are welcome. Drums are provided. Visit [womensdrumcenter.org](http://womensdrumcenter.org).

SUNDAY/MARCH 12

**CRUISING: STORIES, TIPS AND TRICKS** from a Seasoned Traveler will be addressed by Alex Locke of the Jewish Family Service at a brunch for men at 10:30 a.m. at Mount Zion Temple, 1300 Summit Ave. The free program is cosponsored by JFS and the Mount Zion Brotherhood. It kicks off a quarterly series designed to help men re-imagine new possibilities. For reservations, contact Anne Myers at 651-359-7775 or [amyers@jfssp.org](mailto:amyers@jfssp.org).



# SPORTS



## The Wright Call

By Dave Wright

### STA hoops are on the upswing

In recent years at Saint Thomas Academy, thoughts about getting to state have been reserved for the swimming and hockey teams, and a few wrestlers. This year, another entity seems intent on making a bid for post-season attention. When the Cadets defeated Metro East rival Tartan 59-50 on February 15, they achieved two notable feats.

1. It was the team's 12th win in a row—something that it hadn't accomplished for several years.

2. It was also the Cadets' 17th overall triumph of the year. It's a number that hardly seemed likely when they opened the 2022-23 campaign with four losses in the first five games.

After topping the Titans, STA followed up with a win over Two Rivers two days later to stretch its winning streak to 13 and record to 18-5 overall. This may come as a surprise to some, but not to head coach Khalid El-Amin. In fact, the season is going exactly how he thought it might. "We just needed to get to full strength," he said.

For the first six weeks, STA was without senior guard Jack Chamberlain, who was recovering from an injury. His first game back was on January 10, when he scored just one basket in a 69-41 loss at Mahtomedi. Three days later, he popped in 10 during a win over Tartan. Chamberlain's scoring has steadily improved and he's now averaging nearly a dozen points a game.

That victory over the Titans on January 13 started the long winning streak that has STA tied with Mahtomedi for the conference title. Among those conquests was a 72-58 win over the Zephyrs on February 7.

The Cadets already had twin scoring threats in senior guards Michael Kirchner (17.7 points per game) and junior Luke Dobbs (16). Close behind in scoring were seniors Andrew Fahning (6.4) and Michael Thompson (6.1). Add in Chamberlain and the Cadets have five players who had totaled more than 100 points each this season.

El-Amin said the addition of Chamberlain helped shore up his rotation on the court. But what really helped was getting his charges to believe in playing defense.

"The key is keeping the ball out of the lane and making teams shoot from the outside," El-Amin explained. "If you get beat inside, you have to know the rotation and who needs to cover."

There's a little more than a week left in the regular season. STA's postseason will be as a member of Section 3AAA. To get to state for the first time since 2018, the

WRIGHT CALL ►17

## Wrestling with success

Young Scots are finding strength in numbers

By Bill Wagner

After back-to-back seasons of misfortune, including dealing with the COVID pandemic and a rash of untimely injuries, this winter has been fairly issue-free for the Highland Park High School wrestling team. Coach Wayne Otto hopes that will continue in the postseason.

The Scots were 12-3 overall and undefeated in the Saint Paul City Conference through the end of the regular season on February 9. Otto has no misgivings about how good his squad is, but he doesn't hesitate to add a dose of reality.

"We're not on the level of Simley or South Saint Paul," he said, referring to two Section 4AA rivals who've established themselves as perennial powers. "We're still pretty young, but as long as we have the numbers that we do, we're going to be OK. In Saint Paul, you have to work at (getting recruits) every year."

The Scots have 46 wrestlers out for varsity this season, the most in Otto's three-year tenure as head coach. That's the kind of depth the Scots have been able to rely on all season.

Otto is quick to credit Highland's captains—sophomore Isaac Roberts and seniors Gabe Wright and Fabi Torres—for the team's high participation levels. He noted that this threesome all have outgoing personalities and a firm belief in what a combination of fun and hard work can produce.

"They're nice kids and they believe in our program here," Otto said. "We have 14 kids for 14 weight classes. If we have a full lineup every year, we can compete for the conference title."

The Scots won the 14-team Twin Cities Invitational on February 4 with 227 points. They followed that up by going two for three in a quad meet on February 9. And they've cleaned up on conference competition.

Otto said he has a handful of wrestlers with a shot at qualifying for state at the Section 4AA individual competition on February 25 in North Branch.



Highland Park sophomore Isaac Roberts (138 pounds) and senior Gabe Wright (160) go head-to-head during a recent practice. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

However, the Scots are not without their flaws. Otto is the first to stress that they're strongest in the lower and middle weights, which has served them well.

Roberts, who wrestles at 138 pounds, has a 34-6 record and knows how to grapple scientifically. He's a good top-to-bottom performer "and very smart," Otto said. "He's a good one in all areas."

Wright, at 160 pounds, is a very physical wrestler who has 11 pins behind his 18-2 record. Torres was 28-10

at 126 pounds and Otto loves his emotional, high-tempo style. "He's good on top, and he scores a lot of points," he said.

Highland also has a solid group of juniors. Angel Moreno is only in his second year of wrestling, but is a coachable youngster at 120 pounds. He has a 27-10 record and a team-leading 22 falls. He also excels at pinning opponents.

Fellow junior Leo Vazquez-Rosas is

HIGHLAND WRESTLING ►17

Two Rivers senior Joe Shepherd celebrates after slapping in a power play goal to open the scoring in the first period of the Warriors' 4-3 home win over Highland Park on February 18.

PHOTO BY  
BRAD STAUFFER



## Hard-working Warriors get back to winning ways in boys' hockey

By Bill Wagner

The Two Rivers boys' hockey team is playing with a renewed spirit this season under first-year head coach Brandon Ferraro and the results are showing on the scoreboard.

After struggling to get over the .500 mark the last few years, the Warriors were 16-8-1 overall through February 18 and 5-5 in the tough Metro East Conference. Two Rivers even broke into the top 10 rankings in the state in Class A for a time this winter. Despite recent losses, the Warriors have a different look and feel under a coach who seems to know what makes them tick.

"I've coached 96 percent of them before

(varsity)," said Ferraro, who coached many of them in youth hockey.

The Warriors are holding onto more good players who come through the team's feeder programs and Ferraro likes some of the intangibles on his club.

"We want kids who believe in themselves and who are good teammates," he said. "We don't have a ton of numbers, but it's pretty good for this area. You just want to get the right kind of people."

And there's one more thing. "Every time we go out there, we want to be known as a hard-working team," Ferraro said.

The Warriors have won some key games

TWO RIVERS HOCKEY ►17



16◀ TWO RIVERS HOCKEY

this season and have had a couple of near-misses. They’ve beaten league rival South Saint Paul twice, bested Bloomington Jefferson 2-1 and tied Luverne 2-2. They lost a 3-1 toughie against Hastings and raised a lot of eyebrows by losing only 1-0 to mighty Hill-Murray.

Though they have also had their down moments, such as a 6-0 loss to Mahtomedi, the Warriors have shown that they don’t belong in the bottom reaches of the conference anymore.

“We haven’t found an identity yet,” Ferraro said, “but I’d like us to be known as a good passing team. Passing the puck is a big part of winning hockey games.”

If another major component of winning is good goalkeeping, the Warriors appear to have twin protection in their nets in junior Brady Altier and senior Tyler Ouren. They had goals-against averages of 2.02 and 1.85, respectively, while combining for five shutouts while splitting their time in the net almost equally. “They both deserve good playing time,” Ferraro said.

The goalies have some stalwart defenders in front of them as well. Ferraro likes his backline talent so much that he has no problem going with six defensive regulars. Seniors Matthew Rash and Fostin Woolsey compose the first tandem, followed by juniors Isak Christopher-son and Vince Schuehle, and junior Andrew Eckmann with sophomore Will Geddes.

Ferraro said being deep on defense can reap big dividends as a season wears on. “Those guys are key,” he said.

Up front, the Warriors have some skilled for-

wards they haven’t often possessed in recent years. The first line can really light it up. Junior center Will Auran provides nice playmaking between senior wings Casey Ball and Joe Shepherd. The hard-nosed Ball moves well laterally and was leading the team in points with 23 goals and 14 assists through mid-February. Auran and Shepherd added 18 and 17 points, respectively.

The second line features sophomore forward Eddie Auran, who was second on the team in points with 15 goals and 10 assists. His linemates are junior Nate Rohrer (17 points) and sophomore Preston Gamer (22).

The third line has junior center Nico Ferraro, the coach’s son, along with senior Will Karlen and either senior Ben Cobbett or junior Jack Staples.

Coach Ferraro is ecstatic about his team’s penalty-killing abilities, which he said ranked among the state’s best for much of this season. He gave kudos to Will Auran and Ball, along with Rohrer and Nico Ferraro, for their steady work in penalty-killing situations.

Senior Mason Moynihan and junior Josiah Myers provide duty as spare forwards.

Two Rivers has good experience with 10 seniors and nine juniors. The key to the Warriors’ aspirations when the Section 4A playoffs begin on February 23 will be how well they apply the lessons they’ve learned this season.

But no matter what, Ferraro believes his team is building a strong foundation. “We have coaches here who are in the community and care about the community,” he said. “And our school is selling itself. We have a good facility and you get a good education here.”



Highland senior Bobby Torres (126 pounds) and junior Angel Moreno (120) work on their moves.

16◀ HIGHLAND WRESTLING

another athletic youngster who is also in just his second year of wrestling. He does a good job at 152 pounds with a 20-14 log.

Classmate Sam Schmitt was 16-9 as a first-year varsity wrestler. His only previous wrestling experience was in middle school.

Otto said his tenure as Highland’s coach has been an enjoyable ride. A retired teacher, he ascended to the position at the start of the season two years

ago when the previous coach quit.

He declined at first when he was approached by a parent about taking over the coaching job. But he changed his mind after a second appeal from the parent and sensing good chemistry with Highland athletic director Patrick Auran.

Otto has a long drive from Red Wing to Highland, but he said he has no regrets about coming out of retirement. “The kids make it worthwhile,” he said. “I do this because I feel that I can do something to help our kids.”

16◀ WRIGHT CALL

Cadets may have to topple DeLaSalle (18-4). El-Amin isn’t thinking that far ahead.

“The big thing is I want us to win the games we’re supposed to win,” he said.

Scots place third at state Nordic ski meet

It wasn’t quite as high a finish as they had hoped, but the Highland Park boys’ and girls’ Nordic ski teams left the state meet in Biwabik on February 15-16 with smiles on their faces. Both teams placed third, missing second by just one point. Under the circumstances, head coach Brad Moening was very pleased with the performances.

“A lot can go wrong in a short period,” he said the day before the races started.

Both teams had crashes during the team sprint relay races the first day. They also had to deal with 45 mph winds, which tested their durability and agility.

On the boys’ side, the Scots were missing senior Davis Isom, a top skier who was in Finland competing for Team USA in the U18 division of the Nordic Nations Cup. The Highland girls’ team was the defending state champs, but had just one senior competing in the classic and pursuit races on the second day of competition.

Through it all, though, the Scots hung tough. Sophomore Hanna Koch led the girls’ team in the classic race, finishing fifth in the 112-member field. Her time of 15:40.7 was 17.4 seconds off the winning mark. Senior Chloe Koch and sophomore Alex Pundsack were not far

behind at 12th and 13th places.

Saint Paul Academy sophomores Taylor Barkwell and Inga Wing placed 30th and 37th in the classic. Central junior Kaisa Lindfors checked in at 35th.

Hanna Koch placed seventh in the subsequent freestyle race to finish fifth overall. Chloe Koch was 26th and Pundsack 30th in that race to end up 17th and 18th overall. Sophomore Amelie Isom was 35th overall. The Scots’ girls totaled 362 points, just behind Stillwater’s 363 and Duluth East’s 387.

Wing did much better in the freestyle, placing 15th to improve to 25th overall. Lindfors was 27th in the freestyle to finish 31st overall. Barkwell was 50th in the freestyle to end up 42nd overall.

The best overall local finish happened the first day when SPA’s Maren Overgard and Helen Townley finished second in team sprint. Highland’s Delia Johnson and Ellie Moore were fourth, and Central’s Maeve Lindsay and Rachel Poppleton were 12th.

Despite Isom’s absence, the Highland boys’ team improved two spots from a year ago with 338 points, just behind Wayzata’s 339 and Duluth East’s 381. Senior Ben Martin was 15th in the classic for the Scots and 27th in the freestyle to finish 20th overall. (Minnehaha Academy junior Finn Christiansen, who was seventh in the freestyle, ended up one place ahead of Martin.)

Senior Gavin Roberts was the second-best finisher for the Scots at 29th place overall and senior Max Reemtsma was 46th. For Central, junior Henry Brandt was 82nd and freshman Henry Simmons was 85th.

In the boys’ team sprints, Highland’s Tad Forsman and

Tim Tzeutschler came in seventh, while Central’s Henry Huron and Torte Torstenson finished 13th.

Wildcats make it three in a row

University of Saint Catherine swimmers Annie Voss and Jordyn Wentzel won three events each to lead the Wildcats over Gustavus Adolphus for first place at the MIAC Swimming and Diving Championships at the University of Minnesota on February 15-18. The Wildcats finished with 686 points, followed by the Gusties with 672 and Macalester with 563. Voss won the 200 backstroke and the 200 and 400 individual medleys. Wentzel took the 100 and 200 breaststrokes as well as the 500 freestyle. Both swimmers also were on relay teams that finished atop the field.

Raider girls just miss state hockey berth

The Cretin-Derham Hall’s girls’ hockey team came up just short in its bid to make the state tournament for the first time since 2008. The Raiders (10-18) knocked off top-seeded Apple Valley 3-2 in overtime on a goal by Abigail Broz in the Section 3AA semifinals. In the championship game against Rosemount, CDH rallied to force overtime again when Delaney Schwab scored to tie the game at 2-2 late in the third period. Raider goalie Grace Kemp made eight of her 39 saves in the first extra period. However, the Irish found the net in the first minute of the second overtime to dash CDH hopes.

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

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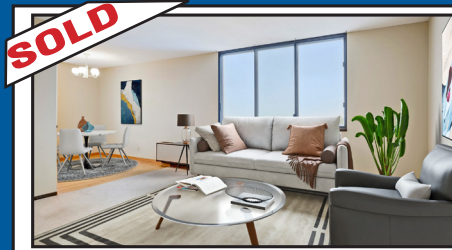
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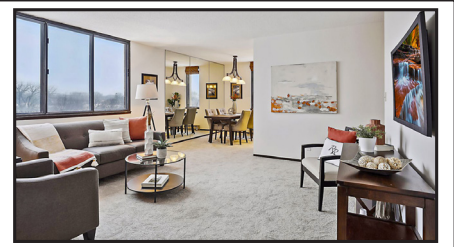
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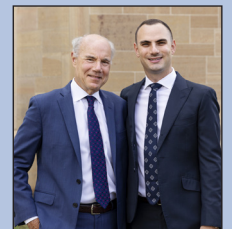
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