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City Council holds hearing on proposed \$15 minimum wage on Nov. 7

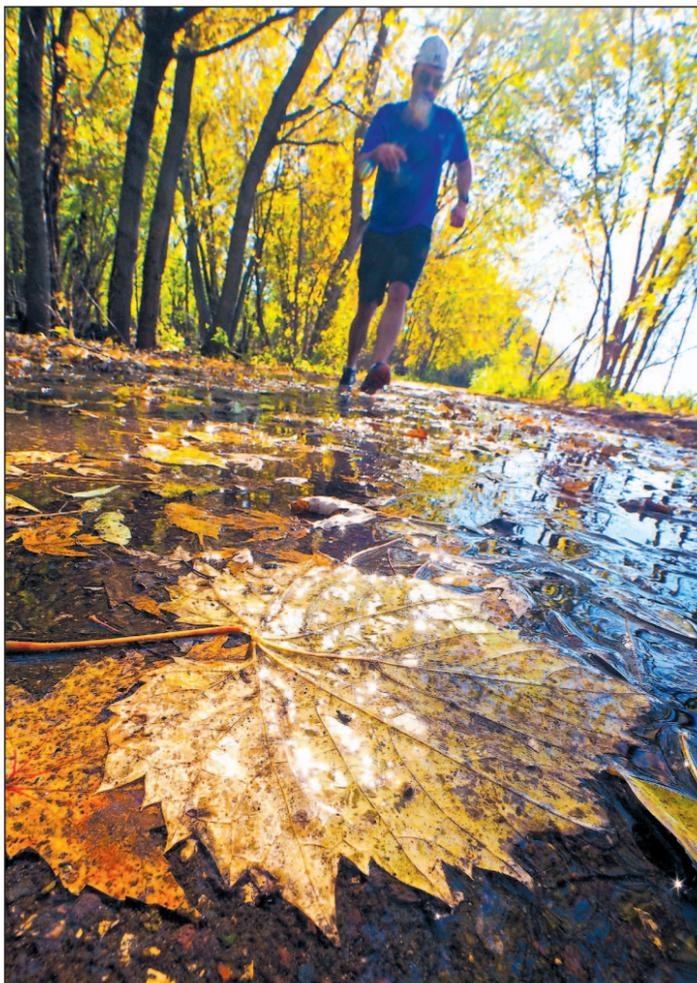
By JANE McCLURE

A plan to raise the minimum wage in St. Paul to \$15 per hour over the next five to nine years will be reviewed by the City Council during a public hearing at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 7. The \$15 minimum wage would be phased in beginning in 2020, with the full \$15 minimum required by July 1, 2023, for employers with more than 100 workers; by July 1, 2025, for employers with six to 100 workers; and by July 1, 2027, for employers with five or fewer workers.

The city would lead the way, phasing in a higher minimum wage for its own employees beginning on January 1, 2020, and reaching the \$15 minimum on July 1, 2022.

The proposed ordinance does not include a minimum hourly wage adjustment for workers

\$15 MINIMUM WAGE ▶5



Autumn's splendor. A runner soaks in the fall colors and warm temperature during a midday jog past fallen leaves on a wet trail in Crosby Farm Park. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Ryan Cos.' master plan for Ford site gets rave reviews

By JANE McCLURE

Ryan Companies' master plan for redeveloping Ford Motor Company's former assembly plant in Highland Park with 3,800 new housing units, new retail and office space and as much as 50 acres of park space was greeted with applause from many of the 300 people who attended the October 10 meeting where the plan was unveiled.

The plan presented by Ryan largely reflects what the St. Paul City Council adopted in 2017, according to Ward 3 City Council member Chris Tolbert. "There's a lot for people to like," he said. Tolbert was pleased with the housing and retail plans as well as the parks and other open space. He was also happy to see two of the three Highland Little League (now Highland Ball) fields preserved in the master plan.

FORD MASTER PLAN ▶3

Dayton Presbyterian moving out of historic home

Smaller congregation can no longer maintain 130-year-old church

By ROGER BARR

The members of Dayton Avenue Presbyterian Church have begun saying goodbye to the building that has been their spiritual home for the past 130 years. The congregation hosted an open house on October 13 and an emotional worship service on October 14 as the leadership continues to search for a new home.

"We're openly grieving and celebrating together," said the Reverend Gary Titusdahl, the church's pastor for the past two years. "We're saying goodbye to the building, but not to the congregation. We billed it as a celebration of the

memories and legacy of the congregation."

During the Sunday worship service, the sanctuary overflowed with emotion. "People didn't just come forward for communion," Titusdahl said. "They milled around and hugged each other. It was a healing moment." At the end of the service when the final blessing was given, people joined hands in a big circle that surrounded the pews.

"The Sunday celebration was bittersweet," said Kathleen Vellenga, a Macalester-Groveland resident and church member for 52 years. "I'm going to miss the building." Asked if she had a favorite memory, she said, "I'd have to choose from 1,000."

For Kathy Lawhead, the Dayton Avenue church has always "felt like home." Lawhead was baptized and confirmed in the church. She married her husband, Jim, at the church in 1953 and had his funeral service there in 1997. "This

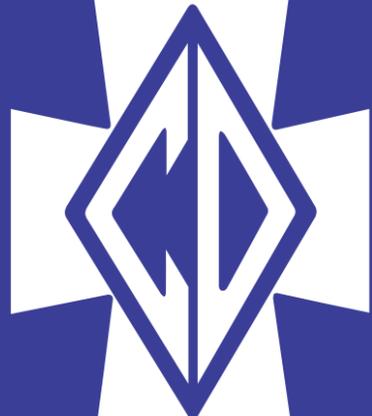
building has been so much a part of my life," she said. "It's going to be hard not to have it."

Lawhead served as the church's treasurer for 11 years. With fellow members Elaine Olman and Sharon Gagner, she also ran the church's free clothing center for 10 years before it closed in September.

The Dayton Avenue church dates back to 1874 when three Presbyterian congregations bought several lots at the intersection of Dayton Avenue and Mackubin Street and built a Sunday school. The church, which was completed in 1888, was designed by renowned architects Cass Gilbert and James Knox Taylor. Gilbert also designed the addition to the church that was completed in 1912.

Dayton Avenue Presbyterian had a membership of about 650 in the decades prior to World

DAYTON PRESBYTERIAN ▶2



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1◀ DAYTON PRESBYTERIAN

War II, according to Chuck Neve, the church's minister of administration. Membership today is between 40 and 50, and the congregation can no longer afford to maintain the building. "It's been evident for a number of years that we were withdrawing too much money from our endowment fund," Neve said. "We got an estimate for tuck-pointing a few years ago. In today's money, it would be about \$1.5 million."

The church's governing body, or Session, decided to put the church on the market in July. In August the Session accepted an offer from a buyer who plans to open a day care center there and offer it as a wedding venue. The sale is scheduled to close on December 15. The congregation will vacate the building sometime after that. Currently, it is investigating four congregations and expects to vote to join one of them in the months ahead.

"We'll continue the congregation somewhere else, taking our core values with us," Titusdahl said.

When the church was built, the surrounding area was a prosperous, middle-class neighborhood. That changed during the Great Depression when incomes fell and single-family homes were carved up into small apartments. The neighborhood became more economically and racially diverse.

The construction of I-94 in the 1960s divided the congregation geographically even as it decimated the surrounding Rondo neighborhood. While some nearby congregations elected to relocate to more stable neighborhoods, Dayton Avenue Presbyterian stayed and expanded its services to the poor and disabled with a variety of mission work.

Under the Reverend Harry Maghakian, who served as pastor from 1962-73, the church took the initiative to create affordable housing. Liberty Plaza was launched in 1968, and today the complex comprises 15 buildings on a nine-acre site anchored by a 6,100-square-foot community center at 291 Arundel St. Its 173 units include efficiency, one- and two-bedroom apartments as well as two- and three-bedroom townhouses. The church's Session served as the board of directors of the nonprofit Liberty Plaza for many years.

A second major initiative was started in 1969 to address the many homeless men in the neighborhood. Maghakian



Leah Robinson and sons Calvin, 5, and Ian, 3, reminisced at the October 13 open house at Dayton Avenue Presbyterian Church (right).

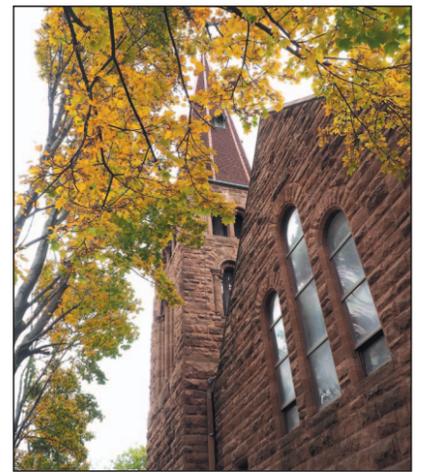
PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

invited the men into the church for coffee and learned that many were World War II and Korean War veterans who were struggling with mental illness, alcoholism and drug dependency. With the support of the congregation, the coffee ministry expanded to include Thanksgiving dinners and other holiday meals.

Dayton Avenue Presbyterian then joined with five other congregations to form what became People Incorporated, a nonprofit social service agency for people with mental illness. Now headquartered in Mendota Heights, People Incorporated has an annual budget of \$50 million and serves nearly 14,000 people each year through more than 60 programs.

The Dayton Avenue church's dedication to mission work is what prompted the Reverend David Stewart to accept its pastoral call in 1985. "It was an answer to my prayers," Stewart said. "Pulling the congregation along was never a problem for me. Often, they were ahead of me."

Dayton Avenue Presbyterian "was always really generous with its space," Stewart said. During his 30-year tenure as pastor, the church hosted a variety of social service agencies, including 10 12-step groups for people struggling with addiction, a health clinic, adoption agencies and the free clothing store. About 20 years ago, the church welcomed a second congregation, the primarily Hmong-American House of God. "That was one of the most satis-



fying partnerships during my tenure," Stewart said.

Dayton Avenue was also among the first congregations to open its doors to members of the developing GLBT movement.

Several reasons were cited for the decline in the church's membership. The congregation's decision in the 1960s to remain in the neighborhood "took a huge toll on membership," Stewart said.

"We've also seen that millennials aren't as interested in church attendance as in the past," Neve said.

Even as they grieve the loss of their building, members of the church have found reasons to keep the faith and press on. "I'm happy that the building isn't being torn down," Lawhead said. "You can drive by and remember all those memories."

"My husband and I were so grateful that we did this," Vellenga said about joining Dayton Avenue Presbyterian. "We started with the church with the idea of helping. We found over and over that the church gave back more to us."

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1 ◀ FORD MASTER PLAN

Ryan's amendments to the city's master plan must still be approved by the St. Paul Planning Commission and City Council. The developer hopes to release its traffic studies and its alternative urban areawide review for the development on November 1.

"We'll learn more as the full set of plan changes are submitted to the city for review," Tolbert said. He encouraged residents to remain involved in the process. Ryan's next neighborhood meeting on the project will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday, November 14, at Highland Park Middle School, 975 S. Snelling Ave. Comments received at neighborhood meetings this summer and fall helped shape the master plan that was unveiled on October 10, according to Mike Ryan, the leader of Ryan Companies' north region.

Ryan's plan for the 122-acre Ford site calls for 3,800 new housing units on 40 city blocks, down from the 4,000-unit maximum proposed in the city's master plan. Another change, which will require a zoning amendment, calls for about 35 single-family homes along Mississippi River Boulevard—an area that had been eyed by the city for small multi-family dwellings.

Tony Barranco, Ryan's senior vice president for real estate development, said the single-family homes would be more in character with the rest of Mississippi River Boulevard. However, that change is likely to be opposed by some planning commissioners. Kris Fredson, for one, said earlier this month that more people should be able to live along the river. Members of the Highland District Council (HDC) Community Development Committee said they also expect to hear some push-back about single-family zoning.

Ryan is planning a variety of housing types, from rowhouses and townhouses to multi-family apartment buildings. About 750 units of affordable housing would be scattered throughout the site. Higher-density buildings would be located closer to Ford Parkway and the eastern end of the Ford site. The city-approved master plan called for buildings as high as 10 stories, but no building in Ryan's plan is higher than six stories.

Ryan is planning about 150,000 square feet of retail and office space, which is at the low end of what the city proposed in its master plan. Ryan's designs for the new retail, residential and mixed-use buildings would also have a more traditional scale to complement buildings in the surrounding area.

Ryan's plan retains the open spaces proposed by the city, with larger parks, small playgrounds and a few dog parks. Two of the three Highland Ball fields would remain. The



Artist renderings of Ryan Companies' master plan show the 122-acre Ford site looking toward the southeast from the end of the Ford Bridge (above) and the central park with the stream running north and south (below).



third baseball field would be replaced by an extension of Montreal Avenue into the site. Who would own the ballfields has yet to be determined.

One highlight of Ryan's plan is the linear city park that would extend north and south through the site with a stream that leads to the waterfall at Hidden Falls Regional Park. The developers described the stormwater stream and its adjacent walking and biking trails as the gem of the project. North of the stream would be a small amphitheater and town square connected to Ford Parkway and the businesses there.

Barranco said one of the first facets of the project will be to extend Cretin and Montreal avenues into the property. Once those major connections are established, the street grid will be completed and construction will get underway. Ryan officials would like to begin construction of the streets next year. They estimate that it will take about a decade to build

out the entire site.

City officials have estimated the Ford site's potential value when it is fully built out at \$1.3 billion. The site is expected to generate about \$20 million per year in property taxes, according to city officials. However, that is before tax-increment financing (TIF) is factored in, and a new TIF district is expected to be established to cover some of the project's costs.

The HDC is being asked by the city to make recommendations on the master plan amendments proposed by Ryan. "The HDC supported the city's master plan based on its benefits to the community, but throughout the planning process we consistently heard from people asking for lower building heights, less density, more green space, single-family homes and the retention of the ballfields," said HDC president Kevin Gallatin.

"Ryan clearly tried to deliver on all of those fronts while staying close to the city's master plan," Gallatin said. "It's a great-looking vi-

sion, but we have a lot of details to work out. We look forward to working with Ryan and other stakeholders to find the best balance."

The Highland Business Association (HBA) will be holding a luncheon this week with representatives of Ryan Companies. According to HBA president Becky Kerkow of Pearl Vision, Highland business owners are eager to learn more about the plans and how they can be involved.

"We're fortunate to have a local experienced developer like Ryan Companies working on the project," said Jennifer Dunn, who with her husband Sean owns and operates Dunn Realty Group in Highland Village. "It seems like they've worked hard to craft a plan that balances the character of Highland with some exciting opportunities for us to be a forward-looking community."

Bob Moeller, a Highland resident and president of R.F. Moeller Jewelers in Highland Village, said he spoke out against the city's master plan for the Ford site "because the density seemed much too high." However, he likes the plan amendments proposed by Ryan. "I'm pleased that they haven't gone for the maximum density." Traffic impacts continue to be a concern for Moeller. He is looking forward to what further studies reveal. "I think the developers have really listened to the neighbors," Moeller said.

Shirley Erstad, executive director of the Friends of the Parks and Trails of St. Paul and Ramsey County, said she is pleased to see the retention of two ballfields, the emphasis on access to the Mississippi River and the lower building heights, given the proximity to the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

Neighbors for a Livable St. Paul, which waged an unsuccessful effort last year to hold a citywide referendum on the city's master plan, is still concerned about the density of Ryan's plan and the effect that 7,000 to 8,000 new residents on the Ford site will have on motor-vehicle traffic. "Yes, there are a lot of good things in Ryan Companies' plan, but with 3,800 housing units, it's clear that addressing the high density and traffic problems were not part of it," Neighbors for a Livable St. Paul stated in a social media post.

Sustain Ward 3, a local group that has advocated for more density on the site, stated that while it "wishes the site overall was going to be home to more people, 3,800 units is still a significant number.... We're encouraged by Ryan's commitment to the city's affordability goals for the site. The recreational features are certainly strong at first glance. What remains to be seen is the functionality of these features, including their impact on sustainability and city resources."

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Steve and Lori Korte will be passing the keys of their two St. Paul markets to a new owner next month. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Korte's, Widmer's to become Oxendale's

BY KEVIN DRISCOLL

Korte's Super Market at 1326 Randolph Ave. and Widmer's Super Market at 1936 St. Clair Ave. are being sold to Minneapolis-based Oxendale's Market. The sale is scheduled to close on November 1, according to buyer Neil Oxendale.

"Neil had been calling me for the past couple of years asking if I wanted to sell one or both of the stores and I kept saying, 'Not yet,'" said Steve Korte, the owner of Korte's and Widmer's. "Then as my wife (Lori) and I approached 60, we began thinking about retirement. I've been in the business for 45 years and that's enough. I loved the job, the work and the people. I was just tired of being a boss. (Oxendale) called again around the first of this year. We decided to explore it and here we are."

Widmer's opened on November 1, 1958, exactly 60 years to the date of the scheduled closing. Korte is most nostalgic about that store, where Hank Widmer first hired him to work in 1973.

"I grew up just five blocks away from Widmer's and live four blocks away now," he said.

Korte bought Widmer's in 1993. He went on to buy the former Knowlan's Super Market on Randolph Avenue in 2000 and rename it.

"I was out hunting like Oxendale is now— young, eager and wanting to grow," Korte said. "Oxendale is the perfect guy to buy my stores because his two stores are also neighborhood-oriented. He treats his employees well and respects their viewpoints. He's a heck of an operator and I know he'll do well with Widmer's and Korte's."

Oxendale, 40, already operates two Twin Cities markets: one at 5025 34th Ave. S. in the Nokomis neighborhood of Minneapolis and

the other at 374 W. Bernard St. in the Dod-dway Shopping Center in West St. Paul.

"I started in the grocery business at the Minneapolis store 25 years ago," Oxendale said. That store had been a Jubilee Foods at the time. "I worked my way up through the various departments and when I heard that the couple who owned it wanted to retire, I got in touch with them and we made a deal."

That was in 2007. When the former R.C. Dick's, which later became Jim's Market, in West St. Paul became available in 2014, Oxendale acquired it as a second location.

"It was another neighborhood-oriented store," he said, "with many of the same features we had in the Minneapolis store."

Oxendale said he will be keeping the existing features and services offered at Widmer's and Korte's, while possibly adding some. All current employees of both stores will be kept on, he said.

"They all seem excited by the prospect and I've been asking them for suggestions for how we can make the stores even better," Oxendale said.

Retaining the employees is a wise move, Korte said, since some of his workers have been at the stores for upwards of 25 years. "They know the stores like the backs of their hands," he said.

Oxendale said it was the many features similar to his own markets that made him interested in buying Widmer's and Korte's. He also said that he appreciates the level of community involvement practiced by the St. Paul markets.

"Their relationship with local churches, schools and other neighborhood organizations were exactly what I was looking for," he said. "We have that kind of relationship with our neighborhoods, too."

St. Paul allows accessory dwellings citywide

BY JANE MCCLURE

The St. Paul City Council voted 6-1 on October 17 to allow accessory dwelling units (ADUs) on single-family lots throughout the city. Adoption of the ordinance was repeatedly delayed this fall as the council sought stronger language on the requirement that properties be owner-occupied, and made sure that city staff could weigh in on how the units would be inspected.

The sole vote against the ordinance was cast by council member Dan Bostrom, who feared that the main houses will be converted to rental units. "The long-term unintended consequences are significant as we put additional dwelling units on single-family lots," he said.

Other council members said they believe the ordinance has been strengthened and that it will give people more housing options. Under the ordinance, the single-family property must be owner-occupied and have a deed re-

striction ensuring that if the home is sold, the new owner will live on the property or discontinue the occupancy of the ADU. The ADUs may not be sold separately.

ADUs can be built inside or as an addition to an existing home, above a garage or in a new building in the backyard. The units must be on single-family properties of at least 5,000 square feet. They also must meet other conditions, such as building heights and setbacks.

The units were previously only allowed in neighborhoods with carriage houses or within a half mile of the light-rail Green Line between Lexington Parkway and the western city limits.

Supporters contended that allowing the units citywide would add housing density and allow family members to live together while retaining some privacy. Opponents raised objections about parking congestion and the prospect that the units would add to the city's problems with rental properties.

1 ◀ \$15 MINIMUM WAGE

who receive tips as part of their compensation. However, it does lower the minimum wage for workers in city-approved youth training and apprenticeship programs and for youth workers in a 90-day training period. Employers would also be exempt from paying the minimum wage to people with disabilities who are working through a state-approved employment program.

Minneapolis officials approved a \$15 minimum wage for workers in that city last year and are phasing it in between now and 2024.

With Mayor Melvin Carter and at least six of the seven City Council members in support of the St. Paul ordinance, the increase in the minimum wage is expected to be approved by the end of this year.

The City Council could adopt the ordinance as early as November 14. However, many issues still need to be ironed out. For example, City Council member Rebecca Noecker recently raised the issue of adequate funding to implement and enforce the ordinance. Carter's proposed city budget for 2019 includes \$100,000 for minimum wage ordi-

nance education and outreach, a sum Noecker and other council members have questioned.

The St. Paul City Council has looked to Seattle as a model for a \$15 minimum wage mandate and sent Ward 1 council member Dai Thao there to see what it has done. Seattle, which has a population more than twice St. Paul's, has a 23-person Office of Labor Standards that is charged with enforcing the minimum wage. That office has more than \$2.3 million per year earmarked for minimum wage education and enforcement.

Ward 3 City Council member Chris Tolbert, who is the lead author of the minimum wage ordinance, said amendments are likely to be brought forward as council members scrutinize the measure. The City Council continues to meet with wage advocacy groups and representatives of the city's various employer and employee groups. "We need to hear as many voices as possible," Tolbert said.

The minimum wage ordinance was the focus of two earlier Citizens League studies, one of which involved a task force with representatives of the city's various employer and employee groups. According to Tolbert, there are still concerns that many affected employ-

Seattle has a 23-person Office of Labor Standards ... that has more than \$2.3 million per year earmarked for minimum wage education and enforcement.

ers have not weighed in, especially small businesses.

The ordinance does not affect workers whose wages are set through collective bargaining agreements or contracts with specific language to waive the ordinance. That exemption applies to the St. Paul Saints baseball team, which had asked for such an exemption. The ordinance also does not cover contract or freelance workers.

Objections to the proposed ordinance have come from various quarters. Laura Scharnhorst, who heads up labor management policy for the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, called local government wage man-

dates "troublesome. They create administrative headaches, especially for those businesses that operate in multiple locations."

St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce president and CEO B Kyle has questioned several aspects of the proposed ordinance, including the lack of a tip adjustment and how the ordinance accounts for employers "whose funding comes from sources beyond the control of the city," such as home health care providers who rely on federal Medicaid reimbursements.

The Minnesota Licensed Beverage Association, which represents bars and restaurants that sell liquor, issued an eight-page statement earlier this month with objections ranging from the lack of an adjustment for tipped workers to an allegation that the 21-member Citizens League task force had a disproportionate number of labor union representatives.

The Restaurant Workers of America also objected to the lack of a tip adjustment.

Meanwhile, the \$15 Now! Campaign, which supports the city-mandated minimum wage, has objected to any exemptions or so-called "carve-outs" from the \$15-an-hour minimum.

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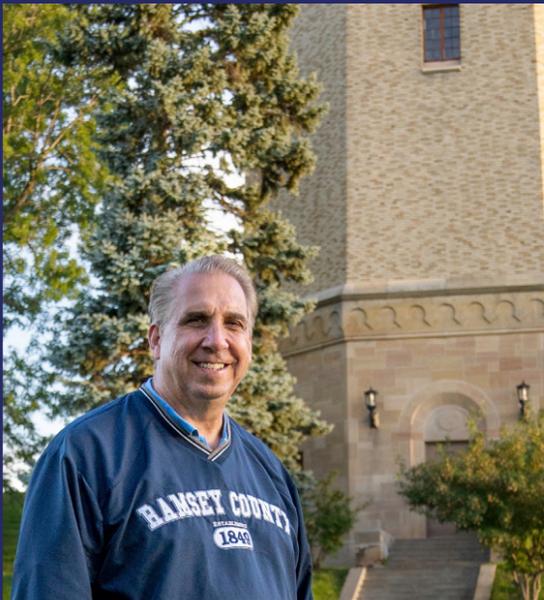


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Petitions seeking repeal of organized trash system surpass 5,000 signatures

BY JANE MCCLURE

A petition to hold a citywide referendum on the city's new organized trash collection system was submitted to Ramsey County officials last week. With 6,457 signatures, the petition appears to have well over the 5,000 valid signatures needed for a referendum, which if successful would repeal the program and return the city to the former trash collection system that allowed residents to hire their own private trash hauler.



Last week's petition was actually the second petition aimed at repealing organized trash collection. The first petition submitted in September was verified by county officials earlier this month as having the necessary 5,000 valid signatures.

Each petition addresses one of the two city ordinances that established the organized trash collection program that began on October 1. According to City Council president Amy Brendmoen, organized collection can continue even if the ordinance targeted by the first petition is repealed—not so the ordinance targeted by the second petition.

The City Council accepted the first petition on October 17 on the advice of the City Attorney's office. "We plan to repeal that ordinance," Brendmoen said. She called that ordinance "procedural" and not essential to the operation of the program.

As for the second petition, Brendmoen said that she and her colleagues on the City Council have heard the concerns about organized trash collection. While the program has ensured that the owners of all single-family homes, duplexes, triplexes and fourplexes in St. Paul have trash service, it has raised the trash collection costs for many people—dramatically so for those who shared trash carts in the past or who practice "zero waste."

The owners of multi-family buildings have also seen their trash collection costs increase dramatically. Where they and their tenants could share one large trash cart in the past, under organized collection they have to pay for one cart for each dwelling.

"We've gone through a huge system change in the last month," Brendmoen said. Although the program got off to a successful start, she said, the citizens who signed the petitions have legitimate concerns and there may be ways to address those concerns, including the issue of cart-sharing.

"We hear you and we acknowledge that there are challenges," she said.

The City Council voted last November to set up an organized trash collection system by negotiating with the 15 private trash haulers that served residences across the city. The new system split the city into zones, one for each hauler, that matched the hauler's share of the St. Paul market. However, since the system was approved by the City Council, about half of the haulers have sold their market share to the remaining haulers.

Ramsey County officials have 20 days to review and validate the signatures on the second petition, which was more than 750 pages long. The 6,457th and last signature was that of Catherine Ryan, a Highland Park resident who had been at the election office voting early when the petition was submitted.

"I want to vote on this," said Ryan. She said she is on a fixed income and has to pay an additional \$22 every three months for trash collection under the new program.

Alisa Lein, who helped lead the petition drive and whose family owns rental properties in St. Paul, said she was confident the second petition has well over the necessary 5,000 valid signatures. "We've been really pleased with the response," she said. Her hope is that the City Council agrees to repeal the program or let the voters decide whether to repeal it in a referendum.

Ramsey County officials said the signatures on the second petition should be verified by the end of October.

Correction

Contrary to a story in the October 10 *Villager*, Krupenny and Sons Disposal Service was the St. Paul trash hauling service that was bought out by Highland Sanitation.

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Neighbors protest 11th-hour change to Marshall Avenue rezoning plan

By JANE McCLURE

Emotions are running high on both sides of the debate over rezoning Marshall Avenue from Hamline Avenue to the Mississippi River. The St. Paul City Council held a public hearing on October 17 on several amendments to the rezoning plan that were introduced at the last minute by newly elected Ward 4 City Council member Mitra Nelson.

Nelson's amendments, which came at the conclusion of a 14-month neighborhood and Planning Commission review process, were also discussed on October 15 by the Union Park District Council (UPDC) Land Use Committee. The committee voted 7-4 not to endorse Nelson's changes.

The intent of the rezoning plan that was recommended in August by the Planning Commission was to retain Marshall as a street with a wide range of housing types, from high-density apartments to single-family homes, and to incorporate Traditional Neighborhoods (TN) mixed-use zoning at busy intersections and in parts of the industrial area east of Snelling. The overall effect, according to principal city planner Allan Torstenson, was to increase density at key intersections while preserving low-density housing on the six blocks between Wheeler and Wilder streets.

Nelson's amendments would allow for added density all along the avenue by zoning for three-story buildings where single-family homes are now and five-story buildings at major intersections.

That did not sit well with many Merriam Park neighbors, who argued that the amendments would not only strip protections for the many historic homes on Marshall, but open the door to large-scale redevelopment that is

out of character for the neighborhood.

Both the City Council and district council meetings grew heated. Merriam Park resident Mary Morse Marti declared on October 15 that local residents who were against increased housing density were being "racist," a comment that drew strong objections from several of the two dozen people present.

Nelson told the UPDC Land Use Committee that she was elected in August with a mandate to add housing density in Ward 4. She said she was aware of all of the work done by city staff and Merriam Park neighbors in drafting the Marshall rezoning plan, but did not think the UPDC included enough renters in the planning process. Meanwhile, the Ward 4 office has heard from "dozens and dozens" of young people, people of color and renters who want more housing density on Marshall, according to Nelson's legislative aide, Matt Privatsky.

People need to think about "young folks and people of color who want to live in the community," Nelson said. "The process was not fully inclusive." She urged local residents to think beyond who is living on Marshall now to who could be living there in the future.

Ward 7 City Council member Jane Prince, who served as a legislative aide for former Ward 4 City Council member Jay Benanav, said she was troubled by the rancor on both sides of the debate. She urged everyone involved to see if there is a way to compromise. "I know that's hard when people's positions are so passionately held," she said.

Several neighbors argued that Nelson's amendments do not guarantee that the new housing will be affordable. Some asked Nelson to withdraw at least some of the changes and bring them back at a later date.

One of Nelson's amendments would alter



An artist's rendering of the five-story apartment building now under construction at Marshall Avenue and Moore Street—the project that prompted the proposed rezoning of the two-mile stretch of Marshall west of Hamline Avenue.

the proposed rezoning of properties on the southwest corner of Marshall and Cretin Avenue and the southeast corner of Marshall and Cleveland Avenue from TN 2 to TN 3 zoning, raising the maximum height from three to five stories without a conditional use permit.

Both of those properties are owned by the Kvasnik family. David Kvasnik, who is a lifelong Merriam Park resident, said his family would like to construct high-quality mixed-use buildings on those corners that would appeal to young professionals and empty-nesters. He denied that he was interested in building student apartments, calling the current trend for new student apartment buildings around the University of St. Thomas a "flash in the pan."

Kvasnik said the rezoning study—launched in the wake of a proposed five-story student apartment building that is now under construction at Marshall and Moore Street—was initiated by "a small group of local residents who wanted to keep people from moving in."

UPDC board president Dan Taylor criticized Nelson's amendments for a lack of trans-

parency and a lack of neighborhood engagement. Taylor took issue with Nelson's claim that she was elected to add housing density, saying her 53.7 percent majority in the August special election was not a mandate.

Marshall resident Steve Levin objected to Merriam Park residents being described as "anti-renter, anti-growth and anti-density. I dislike the kind of we-versus-them thing this has become," he said.

"These are not minor amendments," said Carroll Avenue resident Douglas Allchin. "This is a replacement" (of the rezoning plan) approved by the Planning Commission, and it would add significant density on Marshall.

Planning commissioners Bill Lindeke and Adrian Perryman appeared at the City Council hearing to point out that the Planning Commission recommended the original Marshall Avenue rezoning plan on an extremely close vote and that they support Nelson's amendments. Perryman, who is also a UPDC board member, said that if people want to live in older homes that need regular repair, "the city has plenty of that."

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Viewpoint

Radical rezoning would ruin vital, valued avenue

BY STEPHEN M. LEVIN

St. Paul City Council member Mitra Jalali Nelson and I spoke cordially and candidly by phone about amendments she had proposed to the consensus Marshall Avenue rezoning plan. We agreed that there is an affordable housing shortage in St. Paul for people in their 20s and 30s and that increased housing density is at least part of the solution.

We also agreed, or so I thought, that zoning changes should not inadvertently destroy vital neighborhoods or enrich outside developers at the expense of individuals and families who have served as anchors of the community. So imagine my disappointment upon learning that council member Nelson subsequently jettisoned the consensus plan and supplanted it with a hasty, extreme and likely harmful alternative. Besides the disrespect this unilateral action shows towards the city staff and community leaders who worked for a year on the rezoning plan that was recommended by the St. Paul Planning Commission on August 10, Nelson's proposal shows little consideration for neighborhood consequences. I genuinely believe it is unlikely to help the up-and-coming young people she wishes to champion.

I and many others in Ward 4 support meaningful, effective, and reasonable increases in housing density. The consensus plan achieves these goals by permitting 300 to 400 percent increases in density while preserving the character and livability of Marshall Avenue. Council member Nelson's proposal, with its call for precipitous five-fold increases in density, is more likely to destroy the linchpins of the neighborhood and to promote reckless changes that will make the neighborhood undesirable or unattainable for Nelson's target constituents.

Nelson's proposal would create a continuous swath of three-story apartment buildings along Marshall, displacing nearly all single-family houses, while it inserts five-story apartment buildings at critical locations. Though the intention of the plan may be to provide affordable housing for middle- and low-income renters, this vision ignores the economics of urban development. Several studies show that, given current construction and maintenance costs and the prevailing housing market, only two architectural styles yield the profitability required by the developers of large multifamily structures. Neither style serves the needs of Nelson's target constituents.

The first feasible style is cut-rate, minimum-amenity structures with as many small units as possible to maximize rental income. The second, and today more prevalent, style is the large, highly accessorized apartments that appeal to affluent renters.

The outcomes of either of these development styles are dismal. In the first case, the inevitable drop in local property values will generate homeowner flight, as owners sell their homes as quickly as possible to cut their losses. Any potential property tax gains from new high-rises on Marshall will be more than offset by property tax losses from the reduced value of the surrounding area. And those seniors and retirees who cannot afford to sell at a loss, since their life savings are entirely tied up in their homes, will be left behind.

In the second case, the new apartments will rent at prices far above what students, single adults and young couples and families can afford. Such developments will most likely attract high-income empty-nesters as they downsize from single-family houses. The demand for such apartments is growing as the huge demographic of baby boomers wind down their careers.

I am a former New Yorker, and I fear Nelson's plan has too great a chance of turning the Marshall Avenue corridor into a local version of the Bronx or a gentrified enclave like the Upper East Side of Manhattan. In either case, the middle-class loses, the developers win, and the historic Victorian charm of the neighborhood vanishes.

I respectfully request that council member Nelson retract or greatly delay her well-intentioned but damaging and almost certainly ineffective proposal. Instead, revive the consensus zoning plan recommended by the St. Paul Planning Commission and the Union Park District Council.

I and others in the neighborhood are ready to work with Ms. Nelson on more reasonable and effective ideas—such as small, affordable units for purchase rather than for rent—that address the housing needs of her constituents while preserving a vital and valued neighborhood.

Stephen Levin lives on Marshall Avenue in Merriam Park.



Inbox

A model development at Ford

The recent United Nations report on global warming carries life-or-death implications for all of us, and I, for one, am shaken. The following day, plans for the Ford site were announced, and in them I see a path forward. I know many of my neighbors have a not-in-my-backyard mentality related to high-density living, yet that model is a good one for the future.

With the Ford redevelopment, Highland Park has the opportunity to be a world leader in implementing low-carbon energy solutions and high-efficiency building. Instead of thousands of gas guzzling cars, this new village could be home to electric vehicles, mass transit, bicycles and pedestrians. As someone who hopes to be a resident of this new neighborhood, that appeals to me. So does the 50 acres of public space—with lots of trees, please. They do much to reduce our carbon footprint.

I urge Highland Park and Ryan Companies to rise to the challenge.

*Teresa Morrow
Macalester-Groveland*

Play ball!

Thank you, Ryan Companies, for saving the Ford Fields.

*Gavin and Isaac Roberts
Thomas and Jack Bradford
Highland Park*

Pro-growth in Mendota Hts.

The tone of three letters about candidates in Mendota Heights' upcoming election reflects the unfortunate lack of civility and divisiveness that we see everywhere these days (*Villager* Inbox, October 10).

Two of the letter writers are members of the group We Love Mendota Heights, as are all three of the candidates supported by the letter writers. The group's current focus has been the apartment complex being built on Highway 13. The group doesn't like it. In fact, it sued the city to stop construction—a suit that the city won. The group is now appealing, forcing the city into further costly litigation that will be paid for by Mendota Heights taxpayers.

The group decries the council's action with respect to the new apartment building at Highway 62 and Dodd Road. Remember that, in addition to new apartments, the City Council has attracted a new hotel and a large office building

to the city. All these developments will add to the city's tax base.

Finally, the letter writers blame the City Council for traffic congestion, particularly the congestion on highways 62 (formerly 110) and 149 (Dodd Road). These are state highways over which the city has no control. Where traffic problems are concerned, Mendota Heights can only argue its case and then negotiate with the state.

If you seek an unaffiliated, independent candidate in Mendota Heights, four are running: Neil Garlock, Liz Petschel, Rachel Quick and John Mazzitello.

*Linda Feist
Mendota Heights*

An unaffordable tax hike

St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter seems to be striving to make St. Paul more like Boston with its unaffordable, high cost of living. Following former Mayor Chris Coleman's footsteps, Mayor Carter wants to sock us with another double-digit (11.5 percent) property tax levy increase for 2019 and raise city spending by 7.6 percent.

Skyrocketing, out-of-control, outrageous and unaffordable property tax increases have already eliminated affordable housing for low-income folks and families with children, creating more homelessness. Middle-income folks and families with children will be joining homeless shelters and encampments sooner than you think with continued unaffordable and unacceptable property tax increases.

Now is the time to contact Mayor Carter (651-266-8510) and your City Council member to protest double-digit property tax increases and demand a double-digit property tax decrease.

*Sue Shetka
Macalester-Groveland*

Petschel has served faithfully

We are compelled to set the record straight on several misleading and downright false statements made by letter writers who disparaged Mendota Heights City Council member Liz Petschel (*Villager* Inbox, October 10).

It is accurate that Ms. Petschel voted in favor of the development of the Reserve, an apartment building adjacent to Mendota Plaza. The luxury apartments provide an attractive rental option for residents, such as those who are downsizing from large family homes and want to stay in the

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city. The building is over 80 percent rented, indicating a real desire for such housing.

The redevelopment of two blighted properties on Highway 13 is long overdue. Two apartment buildings have been approved, but no commercial buildings are part of that project. Environmental concerns have been addressed at that site, including the first drainage plan for Lake Augusta. Those apartment buildings are also high-end units, replacing an abandoned greenhouse and a rundown motel that generated repeated police calls for a variety of illegal activities.

These projects have received careful and thoughtful consideration and meet a long-expressed need for our city. They do not signal a trend for high-density housing, because the only sites left for development in the city are several small lots in the Village owned by the city and the Bourne property off of Highway 13 that is also owned by the city and has been graded and will be planted with pollinator-friendly flora. Mendota Heights will remain spacious.

And the charge of nepotism? That is just plain ridiculous and so unfair. For the record, Ms. Petschel's son is a successful electrical engineer and brings that important skill set to the Planning Commission. He was nominated by council member Ultan Duggan and supported by the entire previous council. Ms. Petschel also recused herself from voting.

We support the re-election of Liz Petschel to the Mendota Heights City Council. She has served the city faithfully and truly listens to residents.

*Greg and Mary Anne Bailey
Mendota Heights*

Elect Petschel and Mazzitello

I served on the Mendota Heights City Council for 12 years with council member Liz Petschel and city engineer John Mazzitello. Liz and John are the best-qualified candidates for council this year.

Council member Petschel has done more to address airport noise in Mendota Heights than anyone in city history. She drafted a nationally recognized document that protects the city from FAA actions that would adversely affect residents during noisy aircraft departures. She also lobbied for and got a change in aircraft arrival procedures that drastically cut carbon emissions over the cities at the ends of Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport's runways.

John Mazzitello, a licensed civil engineer, served as our city engineer for eight years and on our Planning Commission for two years. He also served in the Air National Guard with five military deployments and retired recently as a colonel. John will bring sound fiscal and planning experience to the council.

*Jack Vitelli
Mendota Heights*

Re-elect Judge Hilgers

I enthusiastically encourage the people of Ramsey County to re-elect Ramsey County Judge DeAnne Hilgers this November. I have known Judge Hilgers for 20 years, both professionally and personally, and am proud to support her re-election.

Judge Hilgers is an exceptional person. She distinguishes herself as a public servant by showing authentic compassion toward people of all backgrounds. In her courtroom, you will be treated fairly and respectfully. Judge Hilgers has extensive legal experience and has proven herself to be smart, hard-working and thoughtful. Further, she consistently demonstrates her ability to preside over complex legal

matters with fairness and a deep understanding of the law.

Judge Hilgers has been repeatedly recognized as a leader in the legal community, has served in leadership positions on various boards and has worked as a volunteer to help children, immigrants and people struggling with mental illness and addiction. We need DeAnne Hilgers on the bench in Ramsey County. Please vote to support an exceptional person and judge.

*Melissa Crawford Kestner
Highland Park*

Elect Chutich to Supreme Court

If you are like me, you often get to the judge section of the ballot and wonder which judge you should choose. I encourage voters to elect Justice Margaret Chutich to the Minnesota Supreme Court on November 6.

I was able to meet Judge Chutich in person. A native Minnesotan, she is fair and hard-working and believes the concerns of all parties appearing before her should be heard and carefully considered. Justice Chutich served on the Minnesota Court of Appeals and in 2016 was appointed to the Supreme Court. Justice Chutich is a respected, experienced judge and the most qualified candidate.

*Wendy Lutter
Highland Park*

Wardlow for Attorney General

Doug Wardlow is running a strong, issues-based campaign for Minnesota Attorney General. Recent polling shows the race tied with a significant number of undecided voters. You have the chance to stop the further politicization of this office by voting for Wardlow.

The primary role of the Attorney General is to protect Minnesotans by enforcing the law, regardless of his or her personal opinion about a given law. Keith Ellison says he won't honor that proviso. Instead, he views the office as a kind of super-legislature.

Doug Wardlow is a seasoned attorney with wide-ranging legal experience and the background to be an excellent Attorney General. Unlike Ellison, Wardlow won't apply a litmus test to decide if a law should be enforced or not. Doug will protect seniors, fight for lower prescription drug costs, enforce more consumer protections, rebuild the Attorney General's criminal law division in order to combat the opioid epidemic and human trafficking, and advocate for all Minnesotans.

*Lynn Varco
Highland Park*

A top-down leader in Ward 4

I voted for Mitra Jalali Nelson for City Council from Ward 4. I'm now furious that she has decided to just throw out all of the community work we have been actively engaged in for months to develop a consensus plan while preserving the scale and character of Merriam Park.

The Marshall Avenue rezoning plan recommended by the St. Paul Planning Commission on August 10 is now all for naught. On October 3, Mitra Nelson submitted a substitute amendment that opens the way for an uninterrupted swath of three-story apartment buildings between Cretin and Snelling avenues. In addition, she has

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Maurice F. Mischke, 1920-1991

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designated two corners of Marshall—at Cretin and Cleveland avenues—for large five-story structures. There is no longer any allowance for historic preservation in the rezoning plan. There are no conditions on affordability. She has simply sided with one developer who has pushed to profit on his own projects.

Even though Mitra Nelson was elected our City Council representative, she is pretty much unknown to most and obviously doesn't know us. We believed her campaign promises. However, when you work in a community that is not your own, or that you are just beginning to know and lead, you need to be respectful of the wisdom and understanding of the insiders and residents. Mitra Nelson is proving to have a very top-down leadership style. We thought she would care about the community and hold true to democratic values. What a disappointment.

*Deborah McLaren
Merriam Park*

An undemocratic amendment

I'm incredibly disappointed and dismayed at Ward 4 City Council member Mitra Jalali Nelson and her amendment to the Marshall Avenue rezoning plan (*Villager*, October 10). How can someone just disregard all the hard work and compromise that has occurred over the last six months? It is undemocratic and just wrong. Mitra's legislative aide said, "She wasn't involved in those discussions." When you're a new City Council member, it's your responsibility to learn what's been done before you, not disregard it. The other City Council members need to step up and correct this.

Countless hours were spent listening, understanding and making a thoughtful proposal that all could agree on. For all that work to be disregarded is irresponsible. City Council members are supposed to listen and represent the voice of the people in their ward, not drive a personal agenda or follow the special interests of a few. Clearly, fair and democratic representation is not happening here.

I'm all for thoughtful, well-planned and organized density that fits with the current architecture and scale of the

neighborhood—not density for density's sake, not tearing down beautiful, century-old homes. I'm all for affordable housing, not for developers to come in and charge students upwards of \$3,600 a month per bedroom.

The student overlay district around the University of St. Thomas is working. The development being proposed will fly in the face of the overlay district. This proposal will push out neighbors who have lived here for 15, 20, 30 or more years and who have cared for this neighborhood and their homes and have been active in the community.

*Kelly Vinson-Taylor
Merriam Park*

Zoning change violates policy

I've owned a home on Marshall Avenue for 20 years and love my historic neighborhood and the vibrant community of homeowners, students and local businesses. I've enjoyed the growth of small independent businesses like Kopplin's, Izzy's and Tillie's Farmhouse that foster community in revitalized structures. I had an opportunity to sell my home in 2010 and stayed because I love the neighborhood and its lively atmosphere. I urge the City Council to preserve this by endorsing the consensus Marshall Avenue rezoning plan approved by the Planning Commission on August 10.

My friends and neighbors fiercely oppose the October 3 amendment to rezone all of our single-family homes to what could eventually become a sterile row of three-story apartment buildings. The neighborhood is not opposed to development—we welcome it. However, the city must consider the voices of those who are impacted. We care about supporting housing through increased density, yet this must be done in a manner that preserves the historic scale and character. A dramatic three- to four-fold increase in density doesn't just violate this balance, it violates the city's own policy guidelines for a residential corridor.

We care about our beautiful historic neighborhoods, including rehabilitating housing stock and developing multi-unit options that don't jeopardize the long-term health and sustainability of our neighborhood. Why should single voices be allowed to overthrow a year-long study commissioned by the City Council and disregard extensive community

involvement by those who own property and live in the neighborhood? Why should City Council member Mitra Jalali Nelson have an opinion that is worth more than the vast population of owners and renters around her?

We on Marshall Avenue oppose the October 3 Traditional Neighborhoods 3 rezoning plan because while it promotes density, it doesn't promote affordability. It emphasizes growth without respect for historic preservation. It disregards community by allowing individuals who have not been involved in the consensus process to intervene. It favors excessive, sudden and vast changes in density over the gradual evolution that would maintain the scale and character of neighborhoods.

*Sheila M. Stewart
Merriam Park*

Needed amendment on Marshall

St. Paul City Council member Mitra Jalali Nelson has switched things on the Marshall Avenue rezoning proposal—and for the better. Her amendment more appropriately addresses the problems St. Paul faces right now, like rising rents and student housing shortages. It also more accurately reflects the historical nature of the Marshall corridor's zoning and lived experience. Marshall Avenue is a busy corridor that leads easily to Minneapolis and downtown St. Paul. This amendment addresses the needs of the community, not just the wants of a few single-family homeowners.

*Tom Basgen
Highland Park*

Disregard for inclusive process

By rejecting the community consensus for rezoning Marshall Avenue, St. Paul City Council member Mitra Jalali Nelson's sweeping action seems to be under the influence of city government decision-makers who also appear to be doing their own thing and disregarding a diligent, transparent, inclusive process (*Villager*, October 10).

Council member Nelson, who are you really representing?

*Chillon Leach
Merriam Park*



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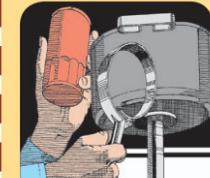
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Coupon Good Thru Dec. 31, 2018

Readers debate efficacy of schools' excess levy

Vote 'yes' for the school levy

One of the proudest moments of my life occurred this spring when my daughter walked across the stage to receive her diploma from Highland Park Senior High School. She left Highland smart, confident and ready to take on college. With that, my wife and I ended an 18-year run as parents of students in the St. Paul Public Schools. But that doesn't end our need for strong and effective public schools. And that's why I'm voting "yes" on the St. Paul Public School's excess levy referendum on November 6.

St. Paul public schools are responsible for educating more than 37,000 children. They welcome every child who comes to their door. Whether those children are yours or mine doesn't matter. If we care about St. Paul being a successful city, we must care about the success of the St. Paul Public Schools. If we care about there being people to do the work in the future, we must continue investing in our public schools.

Legislative wrangling over state funding for schools has made the district's largest source of funding unpredictable at best. Federal and state governments have imposed requirements on school districts for testing and special education without providing full funding to meet these requirements. Public schools are also responsible for providing special education services for students who attend private schools and charter schools in St. Paul. And, like all businesses, our public schools have had to deal with increased fuel, labor and health care costs.

This school year the school district cut \$17 million from its budget. It cut \$50 million over the previous three years. Those cuts have shown up in the classrooms and in areas such as music, theater and athletics. Despite this, none of us has reduced our expectations of our public schools. In fact, we have been demanding better results. Please join me in voting "yes" for St. Paul's kids.

Ted Davis
Highland Park

When is enough enough?

Vote "no" on November 6 on the St Paul Public School's excess levy referendum. For the 2018-19 school year, the school district has a budget of \$731 million, an enrollment of 37,040 students and a staff of 5,557. That works out to \$19,735 per student per year. When is enough enough? Let's fix the problems and not keep feeding an insatiable system.

Tom Kreuzer
Highland Park

Editor's note: According to the St. Paul Public Schools website, about 20 percent of the school district's \$731 million annual budget is committed to long-term construction projects, long-term debt, food service and community education programs. The remaining \$585 million general fund, which pays for the core of education in the school district, represents about \$15,800 per student.

Return to basics in education

I can't guess how throwing more money at a school system that's producing profoundly inadequate results is going to improve anything. What we need can't be fixed with money. We need students who are motivated by parents to learn and to think. We need teachers who can teach.

St. Paul Superintendent of Schools Joe Gothard wrote: "We need to prioritize how we spend our limited resources and focus on achieving the long-term student outcomes outlined in our strategic plan. Additional funding would help us do these things" (*Villager* Viewpoint, October 10). That's a non sequitur if I ever saw one. Thinking costs nothing. Sitting around doing nothing while Rome burns is costing us incalculable losses in the ability of our graduates to know basic life skills.

In the last three months, I've encountered the following:

- A high school sophomore and senior and a college graduate who printed notes to me because they no longer learn cursive writing in school, although it has been shown to be integrally related to brain development.
- Students who are using calculators in grade school to do basic math. Calculators should be outlawed until the basic skills of arithmetic have been mastered.
- A sign posted in a college postal facility to show students how to address an envelope. I learned that in third grade.
- Students who can't spell because of all the abbreviations they use when texting and who would be rendered speechless if the word "like" was removed from their vocabulary.

Parents and taxpayers should be screaming for redress. Things are seriously wrong with the educational system here in river city, and it's past time to try new tactics. We need to take away electronic gadgets from students until about fifth

grade, put pencils and pens and papers in students' hands, enforce on them the quiet time to think and give them the opportunity to make observational discoveries.

I don't think throwing more money at the deficiencies of the educational system will help anything. I think a return to basics and more parental discipline and expectations might.

Kathleen Deming
Macalester-Groveland

A levy request with few specifics

The St. Paul School Board has failed to convince me that the \$18.6 million per year being sought in the school district's upcoming excess levy referendum will be well-spent. As a result, I will be voting "no" on November 6.

We are given only general descriptions of what the funds will be used for: Invest more in schools and student needs, implement the district's strategic plan to increase achievement for all students, increase mental health and social-emotional learning support for students, create middle schools designed to meet the academic and developmental needs of this age group, and limit additional budget cuts. Nowhere in its campaign materials is the board specific about its plans or their costs.

If that carrot is not enough, the board pulls out a big stick. We are told that if the levy is not approved, the "likely result" will be cuts to programs that help students who struggle with basic academic skills; cuts to staff and academic programs in all schools; cuts to the number of administrators, classroom aides, clerical, custodial and other support staff throughout the district; and a severe limit of the district's ability to implement its new strategic plan.

It is not too much to ask that the board tell voters how it intends to accomplish these goals and what it intends to spend on these efforts.

James M. Hamilton
Macalester-Groveland

The value of a public education

The benefits of a well-funded and community-supported public K-12 education have been extensively documented. I have had the great fortune to receive a quality public K-12 education that enabled me to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills and prepared me to succeed in college. It provided me with the opportunity to learn responsible citizenship and develop life-long learning skills to contribute to the civic life of St. Paul.

Research has demonstrated the positive impact quality public education has on income levels, economic growth and the health of communities. Research has also shown the negative impact and decline in communities when investment in public schools diminishes. Current funding is not keeping pace with St. Paul students' educational needs. I will be voting "yes" on November 6 to increase the district's operating levy and enable the St. Paul Public Schools to provide a quality public education.

Leah Harris
Macalester-Groveland

A good education begins at home

St. Paul Superintendent Joe Gothard began his guest editorial by claiming, "Everyday more than 37,000 students come to the St. Paul Public Schools ready to learn" (*Villager* Viewpoint, October 10). If only that were true. I know it isn't true because I spent 17 years as a substitute teacher in the school district. I had many wonderful experiences with staff and the grade-schoolers with whom I worked. But I also witnessed behavior and language that would shock those unaware of how troubled so many public school children are.

The number of problems facing many public school students—poverty, homelessness, hunger, lack of health care, lack of love, discipline and proper role models at home—is heartbreaking. With so many children born to parents lacking the financial and emotional resources or the time to be loving and effective parents, not all children come to school "ready to learn."

The first lesson of the day for our public school students is not reading or math or any other subject. The first lesson of the day is that school is where they go for breakfast. Many children come to school not ready to learn; they come ready for breakfast. If our society cannot figure out a way for parents to provide a good breakfast at home and set expectations for the day as was generally done until a few years ago, then there may not be much hope for our nation.

Public schools, no matter how well-funded, can seldom make up for what is missing at home.

Scott Raskiewicz
Macalester-Groveland

VOTE ON NOVEMBER 6

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- Make the Dorothy Day Expansion serve people who are homeless in Ramsey County in new and better ways.

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Voters Guide

Let the people decide

Voters head to the polls on Nov. 6 to elect federal, state, local officials and answer several ballot questions

Voters across the *Villager* area will head to the polls on Tuesday, November 6, to choose among candidates for federal, state and local offices and to weigh in on several ballot questions.

Minnesotans have not seen a midterm election with this much riding on it in quite some time. In addition to choosing a new governor, Attorney General, state auditor and secretary of state, voters will elect two U.S. senators and a U.S. representative, helping to determine whether Republicans or Democrats will control the two houses of Congress over the next two years. Ballots statewide will also include a race for state Supreme Court associate justice and Court of Appeals judge. Local ballots will include races for state representative; county commissioner, attorney and sheriff; and district court judges.

St. Paul ballots will include a referendum on a \$475 per pupil expansion and 10-year extension of the school district's excess property tax levy.

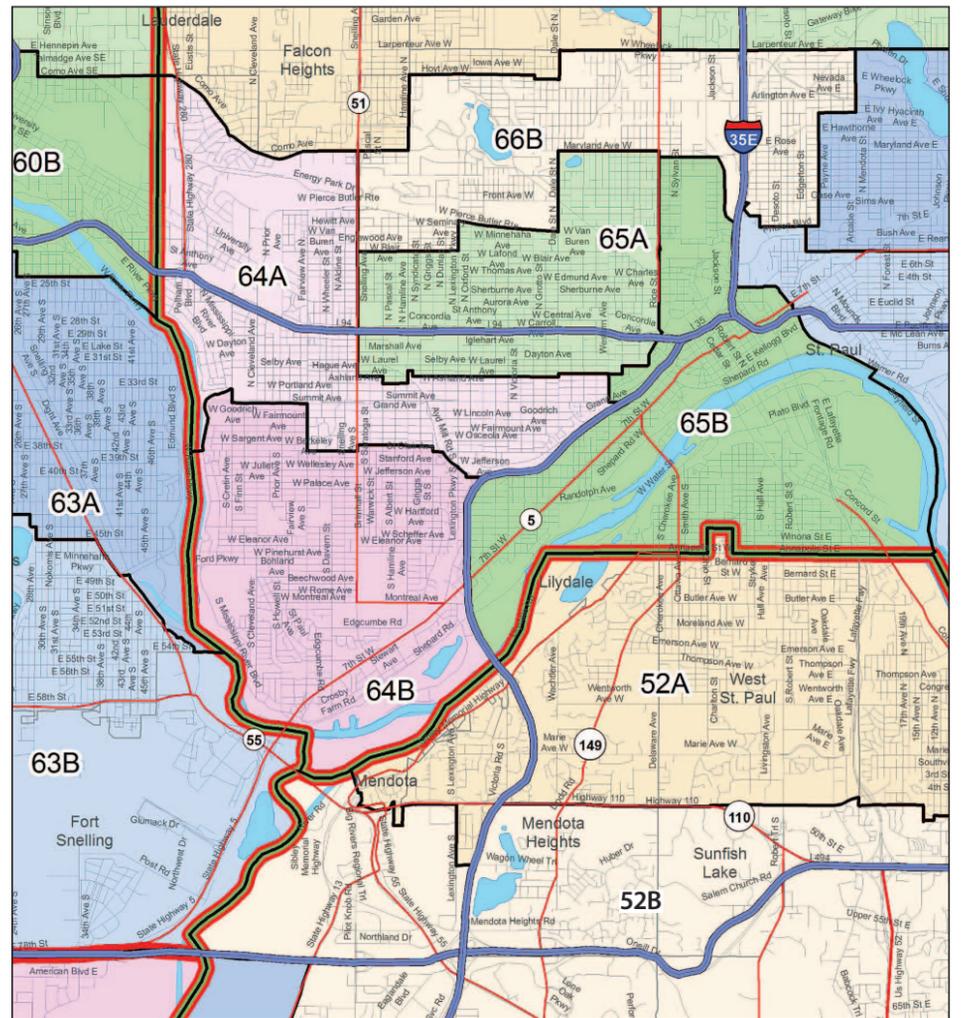
Mendota Heights voters will choose a mayor and two City Council members. Lilydale voters will choose two City Council members.

Minneapolis ballots will include a referendum on two school district property tax levies—one for a \$490 per pupil expansion and seven-year extension of the school district's

excess levy and the other for a seven-year, \$84 million capital improvement project. Minneapolis voters will also decide on two at-large positions on the School Board and a referendum on whether to remove the city's distance requirement between establishments with liquor licenses.

To help voters decide among the candidates, the *Villager* is publishing this four-page Voters Guide. The guide includes the sample ballots below listing the candidates in all contested races along with the various ballot questions. A legislative candidates survey that poses four questions to each of those running for the state House of Representatives in Districts 52, 63, 64 and 65 appears on pages 13-15. A story on the race for Ramsey County commissioner in District 5 appears on page 15.

The polls will be open from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. on Tuesday, November 6. Voters who are not yet registered in their respective precincts may register at the polls by showing their Minnesota driver's license, learner's permit, ID card or tribal ID card that includes a photo and their current address. If their ID cards have a previous address, they may still register by showing that ID, a U.S. passport, a U.S. military ID card or a Minnesota college student ID card along with a current utility bill that includes their name and current address.



Voters who do not have the proper ID may still register at the polls by having a registered voter living in the same precinct vouch for their residency.

For information on absentee ballots or other election issues, call 651-266-2171 in

Ramsey County, 612-348-5151 in Hennepin County or 651-438-4380 in Dakota County. Election information is also available by visiting the three counties' respective websites or the Minnesota Secretary of State's website or by calling 1-877-600-VOTE.

What's on your ballot: The candidates and the questions

The sample ballots below include the candidates and questions that will appear on the ballots of *Villager* area voters in the general election on Tuesday, November 6. The first section includes the federal and statewide races that will appear on all ballots. Following that are the local races and questions that will appear on ballots in St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Mendota Heights and Lilydale, respectively. Only the candidates in contested races are included. An asterisk (*) after a name denotes the incumbent in that race.

ALL BALLOTS

U.S. Senator, six-year term—Amy Klobuchar*, Jim Newberger, Paula M. Overby, Dennis Schuller.

U.S. Senator, two-year term—Karin Houssley, Tina Smith*, Jerry Trooien, Sarah Wellington.

Governor and Lieutenant Governor—Jeff Johnson and Donna Bergstrom, Tim Walz and Peggy Flanagan, Josh Welter and Mary O'Connor, Chris Wright and Judith Schwartzbacker.

Secretary of State—William Denney, John Howe, Steve Simon*.

State Auditor—Julie Blaha, Chris Dock, Michael Ford, Pam Myhra.

Attorney General—Keith Ellison, Noah M. Johnson, Doug Wardlow.

Supreme Court Associate Justice 2—Margaret Chutich*, Michelle MacDonald.

Court of Appeals Judge 2—Anthony L. Brown, Lucinda Ellen Jesson*.

ST. PAUL BALLOTS

U.S. Representative District 4—Betty McCollum*, Greg Ryan, Susan Pendergast Sindt.

State Representative District 64A—Patrick JD Griffin, Kaohly Her.

State Representative District 64B—Dave Pinto*, Alex Pouliot.

State Representative District 65A—Monique Giordana, Rena Moran*.

State Representative District 65B—Carlos Mariani*, Margaret Mary Stokely.

County Commissioner District 5—James Jaeger, Rafael Ortega*.

County Sheriff—Bob Fletcher, Jack Serier*.

County Attorney—John J. Choi*, Luke Kyper Bellville.

Second District Court Judge 2—Thomas Andrew Handley Jr., DeAnne Hilgers*.

Second District Court Judge 11—Scott Michael Flaherty, Adam Yang.

Second District Court Judge 14—Marcus L. Almon, Robyn Ann Millenacker*.

Second District Court Judge 20—G. Tony Atwal*, P. Paul Yang.

Second District Court Judge 28—Elena L. Ostby*, Calandra Revering.

St. Paul Public Schools Excess Tax Levy—The St. Paul School Board has proposed to revoke the school district's existing operating referendum revenue authorization of \$704.52 per pupil and to replace that authorization with a new authorization of \$1,179.52 per pupil. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would increase each year by the rate of inflation and be applicable for 10 years, beginning with taxes payable in 2019, unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law.

Shall the St. Paul Public Schools' existing operating referendum revenue authorization be revoked and the increase in revenue proposed by the School Board be approved? Yes

or No. By voting "yes" on this ballot question, you are voting for a property tax increase.

MINNEAPOLIS BALLOTS

U.S. Representative, District 5—Ilhan Omar, Jennifer Zielinski.

State Representative, District 63A—Kyle Bragg, Jim Davnie*.

State Representative, District 63B—Frank Pafko, Jean Wagenius*.

County Commissioner District 4—Angela Conley, Peter McLaughlin*.

County Sheriff—Dave Hutch, Rich Stanek*.

County Attorney—Mark Haase, Michael Freeman*.

Mpls. School Board Member At Large (vote for up to two)—Sharon El-Amin, Kimberly Caprini, Rebecca Gagnon*, Josh Pauly.

City Question: Remove Area and Spacing Requirements for Liquor Licenses—Shall the Minneapolis City Charter be amended to remove the area and spacing requirements pertaining to liquor licenses? Yes or No.

School District Question 1: Approval of School District Referendum Revenue Authorization—The Minneapolis School Board has proposed to increase its general education revenue by \$490 per pupil. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would increase each year by the rate of inflation and be applicable for seven years beginning with taxes payable in 2019, unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law. Shall the increase in the revenue proposed by the Minneapolis School Board be approved? Yes or no. By voting "yes" on this ballot question, you are voting for a property tax increase.

School District Question 2: Approval of School District Capital Project Levy

Authorization—The Minneapolis School Board has proposed a capital project levy authorization in the amount of 2.249% times the net tax capacity of the school district to provide funds for the purchase, installation and maintenance of software applications and technology equipment, and for training and directly related personnel costs. The proposed capital project levy authorization will raise approximately \$12 million for taxes payable in 2019, the first year it is to be levied, and would be authorized for seven years. The estimated total cost of the projects to be funded over that time period is approximately \$84 million.

Shall the increase in the revenue proposed by the Minneapolis School Board be approved? Yes or No. By voting "yes" on this ballot question, you are voting for a property tax increase.

MENDOTA HEIGHTS/LILYDALE BALLOTS

U.S. Representative District 2—Angie Craig, Jason Lewis*.

State Representative District 52A—Beth L. Arntson, Rick Hansen*.

State Representative District 52B—Regina Barr*, Ruth Richardson.

Mendota Heights Mayor—Neil Garlock*, Jill Smith.

Mendota Heights City Council (vote for up to two)—Ultan Duggan*, John R. Mazzitello, Elizabeth Petschel*, Rachel Quick, Chadwick Vandarious, Jonathan Zagal.

Lilydale City Council (vote for up to two)—Jay Budge, John E. Diehl*, Daniel Gore, Anita Pampusch*.

First District Court Judge 2—Martin "Marty" Judge, Arlene M. Asencio Perkkio*.

Legislative candidates questionnaire

House District 65B

Carlos Mariani

Age: 61
Party: DFL
Education: B.A., Macalester College.
Occupation: Executive director, Minnesota Education Equity Partnership.



1. Education: Yes. In fact, I was the lone Democrat on the House Finance Committee who voted against the initial Republican K-12 Finance bill this year, precisely because it continued underfunding our schools. As we did several years ago, I would target the income tax for the most wealthiest people in our state to cover needed funds for our schools.

2. Transportation: Yes. Our infrastructure is older and in need of rebuilding. Minnesota should invest in alternative transportation options like light rail, buses, bicycle routes, etc., as a way to alleviate the expensive dependency on auto transport while also updating our roads and bridges. The money should not come from the state general fund since that is used to fund other vital things like schools, hospitals, police, etc. We need different sales taxes related to transportation use and services. There really is no "free" money to do the right thing.

3. Legislative gridlock: For laws to be respected and followed, the Legislature needs to be transparent about them. That means we should not do the unreadable single omnibus bills. I have tried to get our leadership to do the right thing on this for years. Frankly, partisan gridlock is something my Republican colleagues count on so as to coerce a Democrat governor to agree to their legislation. We did not have gridlock when the DFL controlled the Legislature and the governorship. We were efficient, finishing on time and producing strong laws to serve the people, like raising the minimum wage and equalizing marriage.

4. Qualifications: I am the son of working-class immigrants who valued hard work and educational attainment. I benefited from government programs that provided opportunities for me and my family to earn a good living and have access to college. I raised three wonderful kids and have three amazing grandchildren, so I know the value of strong families. I have successfully passed laws expanding opportunities for workers, low-income people, immigrants, children and the environment, and I've secured state funds for our schools and for vital local services like the Children's Museum and the new Higher Ground residence for homeless people.

Margaret Mary Stokely

Age: 69
Party: Republican
Education: 180-plus hours of college.
Occupation: Retired Jack-of-all-trades.



1. Education: Appearances can be deceiving. We already spend over 40 percent of the state budget on K-12 education, approximately \$25,000 per student yearly. Only 53 percent of third-grade students read proficiently. Home mentoring is one solution. Public education is dysfunctional to an unacceptable degree. Education and children are being used to create an impression of social justice. This is not working out in either case. Now Minnesota schools are being forced to segregate children by skin color. How is busing children for hours to distant schools going to improve their learning abilities? For starters, focus on

Questions for the candidates

1. Education: K-12 public schools across the state appear to be short on funding. Do you support more state funding for K-12 education? How would you pay for it or otherwise resolve this problem?

2. Transportation: Do you favor more state funding for the maintenance and building of roads, bridges and transit lines? Why or why not? If yes, from where should this money come?

3. Legislative gridlock: What measures do you support to reduce partisan gridlock and increase transparency in the legislative process? Do you support a prohibition on consolidating multiple subjects into a single bill?

4. Qualifications: Briefly summarize your personal background and qualifications for the office you seek. Why should voters elect you?

the three R's.

2. Transportation: Additional funding commensurate with review of priorities. Roads and bridges must be adequately maintained to ensure public safety and commerce. More bus lines are the best and least costly solution for mass transit. The money is there, but is it properly managed?

3. Legislative gridlock: Legislators should volunteer their time; no salary or per diem. Result? No more gridlock grandstanding. I support legislative reforms that would prohibit consolidating multiple subjects into a single omnibus bill as long as the "cure" isn't worse than the "disease."

4. Qualifications: My personal background has qualified me to file for this office and to be endorsed by the Minnesota GOP. Voter inquiries are always honored. Voters will elect to vote for me because I will faithfully represent them.

House District 65A

Rena Moran

Age: 58
Party: DFL
Education: B.S., Early Childhood Education.
Occupation: Director of parent leadership, Minnesota Community Caring for Children.



1. Education: I support more state funding for PreK-12 education. Under a Democrat Governor Dayton and Legislature, we were able to invest in Minnesota schools. We saw historical investment in free all-day kindergarten, expanding access to early learning opportunities, and increasing funding for K-12 schools. We were able to invest because we tax the top 3 percent and tobacco companies, and thus the state incurred a surplus. The Republicans through their leadership gave the tax break back to big corporations and the tobacco industry, and now there's a shortfall in school funding. Solution: Tax the rich so they are paying their fair share.

2. Transportation: I support more funding for the maintenance and building of transit, roads and bridges. One area for funding this are the sale taxes paid on auto-related activities. In 2017, a bill was passed into law that statutorily dedicated a portion of those taxes to roads and bridges, injecting needed funding into the system. We now need to increase that portion and extend that funding to transit.

3. Legislative gridlock: I would absolutely prohibit consolidating multiple subjects into a single omnibus bill. As with the last session, this is what the Republicans forced on the Legislative body. There were bills that were good for Minnesota, but also a lot of bad bills that would have harmed families and our state. Consolidated, these bills prevented the Legislature from responding to the opiate

crisis and senior abuse, to name a couple. To change the partisan gridlock, maybe we need to rethink the number of votes needed to pass a bill. Otherwise, the majority doesn't consider the minority.

4. Qualifications: I'm a mother, neighbor and organizer who has connected community members to the Capitol and the Capitol to the community, who brought the voices of my district to move legislation and dollars into our district. I've been a strong advocate for education (chief author of Promise Neighborhood, which brought more money to stabilize families with housing, support the family and create better educational outcomes for children). The relationships and knowledge I've acquired have allowed me to be strong on health care, jobs, job training, gun reform/safety, housing/homelessness, racial justice and eliminating opportunity gaps. I'll continue to fight for our values.

Monique Giordana

Party: Republican
Monique Giordana did not respond to the Villager's candidate questionnaire.

House District 64B

Alex Pouliot

Age: 28
Party: Republican
Education: University of Alabama.
Occupation: Minnesota House of Representative, sales for HOM Furniture.



1. Education: This year there was a \$1.4 billion increase to education spending. The Republican majority increased the funding formula by 2 percent. Under the Republican Majority, there has been a 20 percent increase in education funding over the last four years. School districts need to be held accountable for how they spend their money.

2. Transportation: I support a constitutional amendment that would dedicate all auto parts and auto sales taxes to roads and bridges. With technology moving away from gas, it's time we commit to a long-term funding source.

3. Legislative gridlock: I think there is a lot more that unites us than divides us. People would be surprised to hear that there was bipartisan support for 96 percent of the legislation passed this year. We need to make sure that all Minnesotans are able to participate in our democracy.

4. Qualifications: I work two jobs in order to pay off my student loans. I am like most college graduates in Minnesota. I know what it is like to have to work hard. I believe it is time for the next generation of Minnesotans to take control of our state's future.

Dave Pinto

Age: 46
Party: DFL
Education: B.A., Harvard University; J.D. and MBA, University of Virginia.
Occupation: Ramsey County prosecutor.



1. Education: When adjusted for inflation, public schools receive much less state funding per pupil than they did 15 years ago and far, far less than they did when I was in the public schools in the 1980s. In that time, the challenges faced by our public schools have only increased. St. Paul's school district alone serves more than 700 students experiencing homelessness. The Minnesota Miracle of the early 1970s provided us with the best public education in the country by ensuring strong state funding for schools. It's time to get back to that formula.

2. Transportation: More funds are clearly needed. Our state road system has an annual funding shortfall of \$885 million, and transit another \$100-plus million for existing lines (and more for the new lines required to support our growing population). Diverting existing funds cannot be the whole solution; it is wrong to fill potholes with school supplies, medical care or the other products and services purchased with the state's general fund. We need a long-term, sustainable and dedicated revenue stream. We are living off of the investments made decades ago. We owe it to our children to make these investments now.

3. Legislative gridlock: The legislative process has become increasingly opaque and unaccountable, culminating last session in a 995-page bill that comprised a vast array of subjects, was rushed through at the last minute, and included provisions that had never even received a hearing. Our state Constitution already requires that each bill incorporate only one subject—to allow real debate and public accountability. Yes, we should give full effect to that requirement and pursue other reforms as well: sufficient notice of conference committee hearings, no provisions added in conference committee that had not been heard in the House or Senate, etc.

4. Qualifications: I've dedicated my life to public service. I work as a prosecutor of domestic and sexual violence, protecting the most vulnerable in our community. At the Capitol, I've been a leader on issues of early childhood, founding the award-winning Prenatal to Three Policy forums, and public safety, especially in the fight against gun violence. I was chosen by my peers as a leader in the DFL caucus. Abby and I are longtime residents of the neighborhood with kids in the public schools. We love this community. I am honored to serve it at the Capitol.

House District 64A

Patrick JD Griffin

Age: 22
Party: Republican
Education: B.S. in Genetics and Plant Biology, University of Minnesota.
Occupation: Data analyst with CHS.



1. Education: Spending should only be increased if that money goes to programs and reforms that are statistically shown to improve student outcomes. These programs are: 1) Making investing in quality teachers the

13◀ PATRICK JD GRIFFIN

priority. Good technology makes little difference if there isn't an effective teacher in the room. 2) Aligning school schedules with parent schedules and offering structured before- and after-school programs to do this. 3) Collecting data based on student outcomes. We are woefully short on data as to what actually works, and without data we will never truly know how to solve our education issues.

2. Transportation: Simple observation shows that our current transportation system is failing, both in quality, quantity and longevity. While public money should be spent judiciously and carefully, this is clearly an area in which we must invest, even if that money has to come from other programs. I think tying the level of funding for road-related infrastructure to auto and auto parts sales would be a useful way of introducing funding that scales to the level of need. As our population grows, so will the demand for transit; this demand must be met.

3. Legislative gridlock: I absolutely support enforcing the single-subject clause of our Constitution to prohibit omnibus bills. Governmental honesty and transparency is one of the most important reforms that we need right now, and this would be one of the single greatest measures to make our legislation more germane and publicly understandable. The next area for improvement of the Legislature would be the re-instantiation of subcommittees, not just as a means of moving bills into their relevant domains and resolving major issues more quickly, but also of balancing control back towards the broader Legislature and away from the party leadership.

4. Qualifications: I am a recent graduate of university, and I come with an important perspective on the challenges facing younger generations, as well as the duty we all have to communicate across generations. I also bring a scientific background and education and am very interested in how we can use data to create better legislation, both in its efficiency and effectiveness. I am primarily interested in what actually works in governance, not just now, but in the longest possible term, and I think that approaching government with a focus on data and long-term results will produce better outcomes for every citizen.

Kaohly Her

Age: 45

Party: DFL

Education: BBA, Finance; MBA.

Occupation: Policy director, city of St. Paul.



1. Education: Educating our children must be a priority. I will work to secure greater investments in early childhood education and fight to restore funding for public education to pre-recession levels. The state is projected to have a surplus of \$329 million for the 2018-2019 biennium. This positive outlook is expected to continue into the 2020-2021 biennium as well. I believe the best first step is to allocate portions of the surplus to K-12 education.

2. Transportation: I support state funding for transportation needs. Revenue for funding infrastructure is generated via the gas tax. We do not generate enough revenue from this tax to keep up with maintenance of our roads, bridges and transit. I support increasing the gas tax in order to adequately fund Minnesota's transportation infrastructure and to expand it.

3. Legislative gridlock: We live in a time when people are more invested in winning a position or agenda than problem solving. Finding solutions requires getting to know each other, understanding another's perspective, and investing in finding commonalities for a base to work from. I would support any measure that does this and reduces partisan gridlock.

Questions for the candidates

1. Education: K-12 public schools across the state appear to be short on funding. Do you support more state funding for K-12 education? How would you pay for it or otherwise resolve this problem?

2. Transportation: Do you favor more state funding for the maintenance and building of roads, bridges and transit lines? Why or why not? If yes, from where should this money come?

3. Legislative gridlock: What measures do you support to reduce partisan gridlock and increase transparency in the legislative process? Do you support a prohibition on consolidating multiple subjects into a single bill?

4. Qualifications: Briefly summarize your personal background and qualifications for the office you seek. Why should voters elect you?

4. Qualifications: I have a wide but deep breadth of experience. I have a BBA in Finance, an MBA and am currently pursuing my doctorate in Education Leadership. I have over 20 years of leadership experience in the private and public sectors spanning financial services and business consulting to education administration and public policy. In between all of this, I found time to hold the most important position of my life, being a stay-at-home mom to my two girls and caring for my aging parents. My education and life experiences make me uniquely qualified to represent the residents of House District 64A.

House District 63A**Kyle Bragg**

Age: 47

Party: Republican

Education: B.A., Business Administration.

Occupation: Lease marketing specialist, Loffler Companies.



1. Education: I support increases in state funding for K-12 schools. The state funds schools from income and sales taxes. Local school boards need to continually monitor their budgets to find ways to maintain good fiscal responsibility. The school boards also need to ensure that all students are getting a good education in order to graduate from high school. Educating our youth to become tomorrow's outstanding leaders is very important to Minnesota.

2. Transportation: I favor more state funding for maintenance and building of roads and bridges but not transit lines. Federal, state and local money paid for the building of our local transit system, and now it should be primarily maintained through usage fees by the people who utilize it. State, county and local governments receive money from the state gasoline tax for roads and bridges, many of which have become old and are in need of repair. We need to rebuild and maintain our roads and bridges to ensure that Minnesota farm products and manufactured goods get to market safely and efficiently.

3. Legislative gridlock: Partisan gridlock has become an increasingly challenging issue every legislative session. We must stop consolidating multiple subjects into a single bill. That may make it more difficult to pass legislation, but it is necessary. To break the gridlock, we need our legislators to be more interested in passing good bipartisan legislation for Minnesotans than in getting re-elected. I am running for the state House of Representatives because I am interested in working together with legislators who are Republican, Democrat and independent for the good of all Minnesotans.

4. Qualifications: I am a 20-year resident of South Minneapolis and am running for the House of Representatives to offer an alternative to the "politics as usual" status quo. I have worked in small and mid-size companies in the private sector for 23 years, and in that time

I have learned to build rapport with people of various personalities and almost all walks of life. I would bring that same approach to the Capitol and work to create an environment where legislators would find common ground and make reasonable compromises to put our constituents ahead of personal ideologies.

Jim Davnie

Age: 59

Party: DFL

Jim Davnie did not respond to the *Villager's* candidate questionnaire by deadline.

House District 63B**Jean Wagenius**

Age: 77

Party: DFL

Education: B.A., George Washington University; J.D., William Mitchell College of Law.

Occupation: State legislator.



1. Education: Minnesota's economy is strong. We have enjoyed budget surpluses. Yet in the past four years with Republican control, the Legislature did not fully fund K-12 education but used the money for tax cuts. Our schools still are not funded to the level they were in 2002. I support additional funding for K-12. It's my first priority for budget surpluses. We must strengthen educational opportunities so all children can succeed. I support universal pre-K so children get the best start possible. I want to make sure that college and technical schools are affordable and that student loan debts are reduced.

2. Transportation: Minnesota needs a comprehensive transportation funding package that is balanced, forward-looking and works for everyone. I don't support proposals that take money from the already tight funds that support education and health care. The only viable alternative is a small gas tax increase to fund roads and bridges. A balanced package includes transit. Our metro area is far behind similar metro areas in providing transit. So not only are we failing citizens who need to commute by transit, we are rapidly becoming noncompetitive. Our bus fleet must be increasingly electrified to reduce air pollution and minimize carbon emissions.

3. Legislative gridlock: The root of partisan gridlock is fundamental policy differences, which are not easily remedied. Extreme inequality and climate change are defining issues of our time. Economists and educators agree that getting children off to the best start possible with universal pre-K would help close the achievement gap, a strong DFL position. Republicans preferred to spend money on tax cuts. Similarly, there's a stark difference between DFLers and Republicans on energy issues. Republicans deny climate change. Voters and their choices will break these gridlocks. Minnesota's constitution requires single-subject bills.

4. Qualifications: I am a legislator of substance with a record of leadership on difficult issues. I am very accessible. In addition to the forums that I host with Representative Jim Davnie and Senator Patricia Torres Ray, I hold an open-door meeting from 9:30-11:30 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month from September to May at Mayflower Church, I-35W and Diamond Lake Road.

Frank Pafko

Age: 65

Party: Republican

Education: B.S., Fisheries, University of Minnesota.

Occupation: Retired after 34 years in state Department of Transportation.



1. Education: Minnesota has greatly increased funding to public schools, inflation-adjusted, over the last 50 years. This increased funding has resulted in lower test scores, lower graduation rates, and an increasing achievement gap for students of color. Rather than throwing more tax dollars at a failing system, we must do something different. Allow education choice. Let parents and students choose the school that best fits their individual needs. State funding would follow the student, not the school system. Reduce state mandates so more funding goes to the classroom, not administration. Allow tax credits for donations to PreK-12 tuition.

2. Transportation: Roads and bridges need more investment. Rather than raise the regressive gas tax, let's transfer transportation-related taxes such as sales taxes on auto parts and auto repairs to the Highway User Trust Fund. Pay back the unconstitutional diversion of \$500 million in fuel taxes used by the MPCA. Sales taxes on electricity used to recharge vehicles need to go to roads. Use sales taxes on bicycles and equipment to fund bike lanes. Transit needs to pay its fair share of road projects and maintenance. Trains are outmoded, inflexible and hideously expensive. Use dedicated transit dollars to fund an expanded bus system.

3. Legislative gridlock: Political gridlock isn't necessarily bad. Government is best that governs least. You need to listen to other viewpoints, explain what is and is not acceptable, and pass what is doable, not just what one side wants. Bipartisan bills were passed, only to be vetoed by DFL Governor Dayton because he didn't get everything he wanted, even if he hadn't made that demand before. Negotiate honestly. The Constitution mandates single-subject bills. We need judges who follow the Constitution, not make new legislation.

4. Qualifications: I worked for 36 years for the state, 34 years with the Department of Transportation. I know government, government bureaucracy, and what can be done to streamline and improve services and regulations. During my career, I developed major transportation projects, a statewide wetland mitigation banking program, helped to advance the Hiawatha Avenue and light-rail-transit project, and when the I-35W Bridge collapsed, I delivered environmental documents and permits to advance the new bridge in nine days.

House District 52B**Regina Barr**

Age: 53

Party: Republican

Education: BBA, MBA, M.A.

Occupation: Owner, corporate consulting and executive coaching firm, state legislator.



1. Education: During my first term, I'm proud to have fought to ensure our schools

Jaeger challenges Ortega for District 5 County Board seat

BY KEVIN DRISCOLL

Political newcomer James Jaeger is taking on six-term incumbent Rafael Ortega for commissioner in Ramsey County's 5th District. The 5th District arcs across the southern end of the county and includes all or most of the Highland Park, West End, downtown, West Side and Dayton's Bluff neighborhoods of St. Paul.

Jaeger, 51, who is married with no children, lives in the Cherokee Park area of St. Paul's West Side. A life-long resident of Ramsey County, he earned a B.A. degree in marketing management at Concordia University-St. Paul and an AAS degree in civil engineering at St. Paul College. He was employed most recently as the manager of product marketing for Farmers Union Industries in Redwood Falls. After finishing that project, he began a job search but suspended it to run for office.

Jaeger said his marketing career has taken him "through many different industries, from development engineering, product design and alternative energies to product marketing, budgeting and forecasting." He hopes to bring those experiences and skills to the Ramsey County Board in order to expand the county's potential for economic development, advance its transit options, and improve its environmental stewardship and operational efficiency.

"It's time to have a fresh perspective on the county's operations, ser-



Rafael Ortega



James Jaeger

vices and overall functions," Jaeger said. "As my dad once told me, 'It never hurts to have another set of eyes looking at the problem.' I'm a pragmatic thinker with a strong sense of what's right and what's wrong, along with the skills, experience and courage to do the job.

"My experiences in the private sector, along with my ability to listen to people's needs, wants and struggles, make me a better choice (for county commissioner)," Jaeger said. "Some long-term commissioners lose track of why they first decided to run for office, which is to serve, listen and make things better. After 24 years (of Ortega representing Ramsey County's 5th District), now is the time for a new vision."

Rising property taxes are a major issue for Ramsey County residents,

according to Jaeger, and the County Board has proposed another 4.3 percent increase in the property tax levy for 2019. "My approach to this issue will be to review all areas of county operations and see where services, programs and facilities can be more efficient and streamlined," Jaeger said, "all while providing the necessary services taxpayers expect. I hear from neighbors who are on fixed incomes how hard it becomes to pay for these tax increases year after year. So this issue will be front and center for me if elected."

Economic development is another major issue for the county, Jaeger said, and on that he will "engage the business community through regular listening events to understand first-hand how the county can play a part to encourage, support and

promote a strong economy.

"Transit is a large-scale issue that needs input from citizens, businesses and local, state and federal agencies, of which I feel the most important element is the voice of the community," Jaeger added. "On this issue, I promise to explore all forms of transit with an open mind to ensure there is value for the whole community."

Ortega, 66, who is divorced and the father of two grown children, is a former West Sider who has lived in downtown St. Paul for the past 15 years. He earned a B.A. degree in history at Fordham University and a master's in social work degree at the University of Minnesota.

"I'm running for re-election to continue the important work of increasing access to services throughout Ramsey County," Ortega said. "I want to continue to increase the county's tax base by fully developing our brownfields, to build a strong regional transit system that will connect people with jobs and health services throughout the metro area, and to advocate for services for people with mental illness."

A former director of the non-profit social service agency Comunidades Latinas Unidas en Servicio, Ortega said his experience in the private sector and public sector addressing challenging issues and working with all parties to achieve optimal results makes him the better candidate. "I'm proud of my record of engaging the community in my decision-making, whether it's

talking to businesses, local governments or district councils," he said.

Ortega promises to continue working to build "a complete regional transit system, including the Riverview Line from the Union Depot to MSP Airport and the Mall of America, the Gold Line to Woodbury and the Rush Line to White Bear Lake." Having served on the management committees for both the light-rail Blue and Green lines, Ortega said he understands what it takes to get that work done. "I've worked to reach out to business owners and residents up and down the lines to know and address their concerns," he said.

Redevelopment is also high on Ortega's agenda. "Ramsey County is a fully developed county," he said. "That means we have to be aggressive and creative in developing (formerly industrial) brownfields. I've worked tirelessly to redevelop the Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant (in Arden Hills) and the former West Publishing site in downtown St. Paul to create jobs and housing and expand our tax base."

Ortega said he would also like to "find sustainable solutions to homelessness. In the past year, Ramsey County partnered with the Dorothy Day Center to add counseling services at the homeless shelter in downtown St. Paul. I'm proud to partner with the community and I appreciate their thoughtful approach and their desire to be part of the solution."

14◀ REGINA BARR

were fully funded and received their fair share of education spending. In 2017 I co-authored a bill to increase the per pupil basic formula allowance by 2 percent per year. In 2018 I voted to make \$225 million more available to schools, nearly \$100 million more than Governor Dayton's request. I voted to ensure we're helping all Minnesota kids enter kindergarten prepared for lifelong learning with targeted investments to help low-income families access early learning programs.

2. Transportation: One area that we are constitutionally required to fund is transportation. During my first year, on the eve of the 10-year anniversary of the collapse of the 35W bridge, I learned that our roads and bridges were considered deficient. Recently, the American Society of Civil Engineering gave Minnesota's roads and bridges a "C." That's why I'm proud of the bipartisan work we completed to successfully deliver the largest investment in roads and bridge infrastructure in state history without a gas tax increase, and why I support dedicating certain motor vehicle-related sales tax revenues to funding road and bridge construction.

3. Legislative gridlock: We need to work together across the aisle, and I'm proud to say I have an 84 percent bipartisan voting record. I'm a member of the Civility Caucus, which meets regularly during session to bring elected officials, both Democrats and Republicans in both the House and Senate, together on a regular basis to find common ground and policy we can work on together. I believe effective leaders prioritize results over partisanship. If re-elected, I will continue fighting for our community and work hard to put the civility back into our discourse.

4. Qualifications: My business background, extensive nonprofit experience, and a solid first term as state representative delivering re-

sults for our community, like tax relief, fully funding our schools and lowering health insurance costs. At a time when many are disillusioned by politics and our elected officials, I feel it is important that every day, common-sense folks like me step up to lead our state. I will work to bring all of our visions together. I will work together to get things done. I will work to move the Legislature in a fresh, new direction—a direction that respects you, the taxpayer.

Ruth Richardson

Age: 42
Party: DFL
Education: J.D., William Mitchell College of Law.
Occupation: Attorney.



1. Education: In order to build strong communities with opportunity for all, we need to invest in our public schools. When we invest in students and public schools, there are benefits for the community overall. The quality of schools in communities can influence property values. Also, more businesses are evaluating the quality of schools in the areas they are considering. Businesses want to ensure that they will have access to a work force of well-educated students. Schools need to continue to look for efficiencies, and it will be important to analyze how the formulas are calculated for state funding.

2. Transportation: I am in favor of investing in roads, bridges and transit as a core need and service for every community across the state. Poorly maintained roads cost motorists more in vehicle repairs. Ensuring our bridges are properly maintained is a known safety issue. Investing in transit is key to ensuring the state is economically competitive as well. We need to continue the work to look for efficiencies and cost-saving measures. We also need

to actively work to meet budget deficits and shortfalls. This will require analyzing various funding sources such as the general fund and tab fees.

3. Legislative gridlock: A common theme we are hearing in this campaign is the frustration with partisan gridlock. There are also concerns about transparency when unrelated legislation is bundled together in violation of the Minnesota Constitution. I support following the Minnesota Constitution, which states: "No law shall embrace more than one subject, which shall be expressed in its title."

4. Qualifications: I earned my law degree from William Mitchell and have experience working in senior leadership positions in the government, nonprofit and private sectors. I've worked as a business attorney, in disability rights, and to support small, minority- and women-owned businesses. I've worked with bipartisan groups to support homeless veterans, people with disabilities and foster families. I have served as a community faculty member for Metropolitan State University. Also, I serve on the Minnesota Judicial Branch's Committee for Equality and Justice, the Department of Human Services Behavioral Health Planning Council, and the Department of Health's Healthy Equity & Leadership Advisory Committee.

House District 52A

Rick Hansen

Age: 55
Party: DFL
Education: M.S., Soil Management, Iowa State University.
Occupation: Small-business owner, state legislator.



1. Education: I support increased funding for

public education paid for with the increased revenue the state has been receiving through general taxes. I support levy and debt equalization efforts to bring fairness to districts like South St. Paul Special District 6. I have requested a legislative audit to look at equalization, and that report should be done early next year.

2. Transportation: Yes. I have and will support increased gas taxes to provide for roads and bridges. Transit, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure improvements are also needed and should be supported with general tax dollars. I also support river port improvements and railroad safety efforts through bonding funds.

3. Legislative gridlock: I have been a leader on transparency efforts through my days at the Capitol, public meetings and email updates as well as social media. I have called out mega-omnibus bills being passed in the dark of night as bad policy and practice. We need to make sure finance bills are available for review for a minimum of 24 hours before voting for the general public and legislators. We need to consider fundamental changes in how the Legislature does business for Minnesotans.

4. Qualifications: I ask for your vote for state representative. I have the experience as a small-business owner, local government official, state employee and farmer. As your current state representative, I have listened and learned to develop the experience to serve the district well. We have a lot of work to do, and my ability to work on tough subjects and provide solutions is needed. Problem solving is in short supply. I ask for your support to apply my knowledge, skills and abilities for you at our Capitol.

Beth Arntson

Party: Republican
Beth Arntson did not respond to the Villager's candidate questionnaire.

District Council News

Highland Park

highlanddistrictcouncil.org • 651-695-4005

Ford site presentation—Ryan Companies will hold its fifth meeting regarding its plans for redeveloping the 122-acre site of Ford Motor Company's former assembly plant from 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, November 14, in the auditorium of Highland Park Middle School, 975 S. Snelling Ave.

Board meeting set—The Highland District Council's board of directors will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday, November 15, at the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. The agenda will include a presentation by the Highland Heritage and Ford Legacy Committee as well as plans for replacing the Treasure Island playground at Expo School.

Let your voice be heard—A Voices of Our Community session on "Smart Government" will be held from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, November 8, at the Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy. For information, visit stpaul.gov/voices.

Upcoming meetings—Renovation of the Highland Disc Golf Course and a proposal to install solar panels on Highland's north water reservoir will be addressed at the next Community Development Committee meeting. There will also be a presentation on pedestrian safety research by the University of Minnesota at the next Transportation Committee meeting. The meetings will be held at 6:30 and 7 p.m., respectively, Tuesday, November 13, at the Highland Park Community Center.

Macalester-Groveland

macgrove.org • 651-695-4000

Calling all creative types—The Macalester-Groveland Community Council is looking for people to submit T-shirt designs that represent the neighborhood. The submission deadline is December 31. For full contest details, visit macgrove.org/2019tshirt.

Holiday gifts for the home—The owners of homes and businesses in the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood that will be 100 years old or older by 2022 are still eligible to purchase plaques for their buildings. Those who order by November 30 will receive the plaques in time for the holidays. Visit macgrove.org/100years to learn more.

Science of saving—Families can save on visits to the Science Museum of Minnesota by signing up at the community council's office in the Edgcombe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St. Office hours are from 3-6 p.m. Mondays and noon-3 p.m. Thursdays.

Join a committee—The community council has four standing committees that meet once a month and focus on different aspects of making Macalester-Groveland a great place to live, work, learn and play. Those who attend three consecutive committee meetings can become voting members.

Upcoming meetings—Housing and Land Use Committee, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 24, Groveland Recreation Center; Community Building Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, November 12, Edgcombe Recreation Center; and Environment Committee, 7 p.m. Thursday, November 15, Edgcombe.

Union Park

unionparkdc.org • 651-645-6887

Annual meeting—The Union Park District Council will hold its annual meeting on Thursday, October 25, in Otto Hall at Episcopal Homes, 1860 University Ave. The meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a social hour and appetizers, followed by a restorative justice forum, presentations and board elections. All Union Park neighbors are invited to attend and vote. Visit the UPDC website for more information.

Give to the Max Day—As a small, independent nonprofit organization, the UPDC relies on grants and donations to help build a better neighborhood for all. The 10th annual Give to the Max Day is Thursday, November 15, a day for people to give back to the organizations that mean the most to them. Visit unionparkdc.org/donate for information.

Upcoming meetings—board of directors, 7 p.m. Wednesday, November 7, Otto Hall at Episcopal Homes, 1860 University Ave.; Transportation Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, November 12, 1821 University Ave., Suite 127; and Environment and Parks Committee, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 21, Merriam Park Recreation Center, 2000 St. Anthony Ave.

Stay in touch—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 alexa@unionparkdc.org.

West 7th

fortroadfederation.org • 651-298-5599

Board update—At its October 8 board meeting, the West Seventh/Fort Road Federation supported a request for a wine and beer license and outdoor patio for a new bakery and cafe in the neighborhood. The board also heard a presentation by Dave Higgins of McGough Development on conceptual plans for a micro-unit, market-rate apartment building on Smith Avenue and West Seventh Street. Board members discussed the concept, but took no action. The board's next meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, November 12, at the Fort Road Federation office, 974 W. Seventh St.

Garden tour sites—The 2019 West End Neighbors' Garden Tour will be focused on the area bounded by the Mississippi River, West Seventh Street, Homer Street and Jefferson Avenue. Those who are interested in having their garden included in next year's tour or would like to nominate one are being asked to email Emily Northey at emily@fortroadfederation.org.

District plan volunteers—The board took initial steps to update its district plan with a brief survey this summer. Those who would like to help draft chapters of the plan are asked to email emily@fortroadfederation.org. The plan will articulate a vision to guide growth and investment in the West Seventh area and guide the city in decision-making on a neighborhood level.

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

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Crime Report

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

Highland Park

Robbery—Two male suspects used a bolt cutter to steal four Apple iPhones from Verizon Wireless, 2034 Ford Pkwy., at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, October 6. The caller reported that the suspects also threatened to cut him.

—A robbery at knifepoint was reported at Walgreens, 2099 Ford Pkwy., at 7:04 p.m. Sunday, October 7.

—A strong-arm robbery was reported at the AT&T Store, 2132 Ford Pkwy., at 4:07 p.m. Friday, October 12.

Burglary—St. Paul Academy, 1712 Randolph Ave., was broken into between September 29-October 1.

—Charlie & Violet Photography, 2075 Ford Pkwy., was broken into between October 9-11.

—A safe and two vehicles were stolen from a residence on the 600 block of South Lexington Parkway between October 13-16.

—Sakana Sushi & Asian Bistro, 740 S. Cleveland Ave., was broken into during the evening of October 14-15.

—An apartment break-in was reported on the 1200 block of Edgumbe Road at 6:19 p.m. Monday, October 15.

—Cold Front, 490 S. Hamline Ave., was broken into at 3:30 a.m. Tuesday, October 16.

Theft—A purse was reported stolen at the Nook, 492 S. Hamline Ave., at 2:11 a.m. Saturday, October 6.

—A backpack, iPad and cellphone were stolen at Highland Park High School between 2:30-4 p.m. Wednesday, October 10.

—The catalytic converter was stolen from a vehicle on the 1300 block of East Maynard Drive between October 12-13.

—A wallet was stolen from a vehicle on the 1700 block of Graham Avenue between 8:10-11:38 p.m. Saturday, October 13.

—A vehicle was stolen on the 2200 block of Stewart Avenue between October 14-15.

Weapons—A girl was found to be in possession of an edged weapon at Highland Park Middle School at 8:20 a.m. Friday, October 5.

Lexington-Hamline

Burglary—Wilder Center, 451 N. Lexington Pkwy., was burglarized during the evening of October 8-9.

Theft—An iPhone, laptop computer, handbooks, wallet and other items were stolen from a vehicle at Central High School between 8:33-9:22 p.m. Monday, October 8.

—A 32-year-old man was arrested for felony theft of two cellphones at the Midway Target at 12:11 p.m. Monday, October 8.

—A purse was stolen from a vehicle at Central High School around 9:45 p.m. Thursday, October 11.

—A 23-year-old woman was arrested for auto theft and a misdemeanor warrant after officers stopped a stolen vehicle on University Avenue and Dunlap Street at 3:12 a.m. Sunday, October 14.

Assault—A man was arrested for assault and burglary at 1:02 p.m. Friday, October 12, at an apartment on the 300 block of North Lexington Parkway. A woman reported that after she found a \$10 bill in the hallway, the suspect claimed it was his, entered her apartment uninvited and assaulted her before taking the money.

Weapons—Police were called to Central High School regarding a folding knife that was recovered from a student at 1:12 p.m. Thursday, September 27.

—Gunfire was reported near Central Avenue and Dunlap Street at 4:36 p.m. Monday, October 8.

Miscellaneous—A male panhandler became verbally aggressive because people were not giving him money outside SuperAmerica,

399 N. Lexington Pkwy., at 1:52 p.m. Sunday, October 14. The suspect was banned from the store for a year.

Macalester-Groveland

Robbery—Three suspects snatched a woman's purse on the 1500 block of Lincoln Avenue at 7:55 p.m. Monday, October 15.

Burglary—Kinderberry Hill, 1457 Grand Ave., was burglarized between 10:52-11:30 p.m. Thursday, October 4.

—A residence on the 2000 block of James Avenue was broken into between 11-11:33 a.m. Monday, October 8.

—Spyhouse Coffee, 420 S. Snelling Ave., was broken into at 3:57 a.m. Friday, October 12.

—A garage was broken into and a vehicle was stolen on the 100 block of South Snelling Avenue during the evening of October 13-14.

—Caribou Coffee, 1817 Randolph Ave., was broken into at 4:53 a.m. Monday, October 15.

—The Green Mill and Colossal Cafe on Grand and Hamline avenues were broken into between 1-4 a.m. Tuesday, October 16.

Theft—A vehicle was stolen on the 1800 block of Lincoln Avenue between October 1-2.

—A laptop computer, glasses, wallet and backpack were reported stolen from a vehicle on Summit Avenue and Mississippi River Boulevard at 11:18 a.m. Friday, October 12.

Mendota Heights

Theft—Items were stolen from three vehicles on the 1000 block of Highway 13 between 7:07-7:30 p.m. Friday, September 28. Several thefts from vehicles also were reported in that area the evening of October 8-9.

Miscellaneous—A driver who was stopped for speeding admitted to not having a driver's license at 3:07 a.m. Tuesday, October 3, at the Super-America on Dakota Drive and Lexington Avenue. The officer allowed the suspect and a passenger to wait for a licensed driver, but later observed the suspect driving away from the station and arrested him for driving after revocation.

—A boy was cited for driving without a license and a curfew violation after police stopped him for speeding at 1:31 a.m. Saturday, October 6, on Sylvandale Road and Woodridge Drive. The owners of the vehicle said the boy was supposed to be sleeping over for the night and they had no idea he had left the residence or taken the vehicle.

—A driver found asleep at the wheel of a vehicle that was stopped in the road was arrested for DWI at 12:07 a.m. Thursday, October 11, on Highway 13 and D Street.

—A wild turkey with an arrow stuck in its back has been seen around the city for several months. Police said some residents believe the turkey should be put out of its misery, while others said it was getting along just fine. Police decided to let the bird be.

Merriam Park

Robbery—A purse snatching was reported on the 1800 block of University Avenue at 10:20 p.m. Sunday, October 7.

—A robbery at gunpoint occurred on the 400 block of Lynnhurst Avenue at 10:19 p.m. Thursday, October 11.

Burglary—A vehicle was stolen from a garage on the 2100 block of Selby Avenue between October 7-12.

—A home was burglarized on the 2100 block of Dayton Avenue between 2:15-3:15 p.m. Tuesday, October 9.

—A 34-year-old man was arrested for burglarizing an occupied apartment on the 1900 block of University Avenue at 3:35 a.m. Thursday, October 11.

—The Black Coffee and Waffle Bar, 2180 Marshall Ave., was burglarized at 8:08 p.m. Friday, October 12.

Theft—A car stereo, prescription glasses

and sunglasses were stolen from a vehicle on the 1700 block of Portland Avenue during the evening of September 29-30.

Sex crime—A rape was reported on the 1800 block of St. Anthony Avenue at 10:17 a.m. Wednesday, October 3.

—A rape was reported on the 2100 block of Selby Avenue at 4:21 p.m. Monday, October 8.

Snelling-Hamline

Burglary—The Dollar Store, 1420 University Ave., was burglarized during the evening of September 30-October 1. Police said the suspect hid in a back room until the store closed and tried unsuccessfully to open the safe.

Theft—An iPhone, medication and cash were stolen from a vehicle at the Midway Cub Foods between 2-6 a.m. Thursday, October 4.

—An employee was suspected of stealing more than \$1,000 in items from the Midway Walmart at 6:55 p.m. Friday, October 5.

—Theft of items valued at more than \$500 was reported at Office Max, 1490 University Ave., at 10:36 a.m. Sunday, October 7.

—A vehicle was stolen on the 1300 block of Laurel Avenue between October 12-13.

Summit Hill

Burglary—An occupied residence was broken into on the 700 block of Osceola Avenue at 11:04 p.m. Friday, October 5.

—An apartment was broken into on the 100 block of South Oxford Street between 2-9:30 p.m. Saturday, October 13.

Theft—A 47-year-old man was arrested for driving a stolen vehicle on Grand Avenue and Milton Street at 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, October 2.

—A woman reported on Tuesday, October 2, that the decorative grill for her teeth was stolen from her apartment on the 300 block of Grand Avenue.

—More than \$500 in merchandise was stolen from Fjallraven, 797 Grand Ave., at 1:10 p.m. Tuesday, October 2.

—A male suspect stole 30 bottles of body wash and fled CVS Pharmacy, 1040 Grand Ave., at 12:19 p.m. Thursday, October 4.

—A purse was stolen from a vehicle at Billy's on Grand, 857 Grand Ave., between 8-10:25 p.m. Sunday, October 7.

—An enclosed trailer was stolen on the 1000 block of St. Clair Avenue between 5 a.m.-2:03 p.m. Tuesday, October 9.

—A laptop computer was stolen from a vehicle on the 1000 block of Grand Avenue around 6 p.m. Tuesday, October 16.

Summit-University

Burglary—An apartment was broken into at Dale Street Place, 313 N. Dale St., between 2:18-3:33 p.m. Tuesday, October 2.

—A home break-in was reported on the 700 block of Selby Avenue at 6:18 p.m. Saturday, October 13.

—Hand and power tools were stolen from a garage on the 500 block of Ashland Avenue during the evening of October 14-15.

Theft—Packages were stolen from residences on the 400 block of Summit Avenue on September 29, the 400 block of Portland Avenue on October 5 and the 400 block of Holly Avenue on October 5.

—Vehicles were stolen on the 200 block of Mackubin Street on October 2 and on the 1000 block of Selby Avenue on October 16.

—A credit card, change and sunglasses were stolen from two vehicles on the 300 block of Pleasant Avenue between 1-2 a.m. Saturday, October 6.

—Two Bose speakers were stolen from the 100 block of Summit Avenue between 5:30-6 p.m. Saturday, October 6.

—Money, CDs and other items were stolen from a vehicle on the 300 block of Ramsey Street during the evening of October 7-8.

—Laptop computers, paperwork and files

were stolen from two vehicles at the Happy Gnome, 498 Selby Ave., between 4-8:07 p.m. Tuesday, October 9. A laptop also was reported stolen from a vehicle there between 6-7:30 p.m. Thursday, October 11.

West End

Robbery—A carjacking at gunpoint was reported on the 300 block of West Seventh Street at 8:59 p.m. Saturday, October 6.

—A robbery at knifepoint occurred outside the Salvation Army, 401 W. Seventh St., at 8:25 p.m. Sunday, October 14. The victim said an unknown male asked him for money for bus fare and then demanded all of his money and stabbed him in the neck with a switchblade when he refused. The victim walked to United Hospital with injuries that were not life-threatening.

Burglary—A garage was broken into at Oxbo Apartments, 202 W. Seventh St., between 1-1:47 a.m. Friday, October 5. Four bicycles also were stolen from that location between October 1-9.

Theft—A wallet and gym bag with clothes were stolen from a vehicle at Victoria Park Apartments, 740 S. Victoria St., between 10:54-11:38 p.m. Monday, October 1.

—A phone and debit card were stolen on the 900 block of Juno Avenue between noon-3 p.m. Wednesday, October 3.

—A laptop computer and Garmin GPS unit were stolen from a vehicle on the 300 block of South Osceola Street during the evening of October 8-9.

—Vehicles were stolen on October 11-12 on the 900 block of West Seventh Street and the 900 block of Armstrong Avenue.

—A laptop computer and hard drive were stolen from a vehicle on the 200 block of West Seventh Street between 5-8:50 p.m. Monday, October 15.

Assault—A felony assault occurred at Journey's School, 90 S. Western Ave., at 12:11 p.m. Tuesday, October 2.

Miscellaneous—A suspect in a vehicle was impersonating an officer and flashing red and blue lights at other vehicles at 1 p.m. Sunday, September 30, on I-35E and Shepard Road. The driver and passenger were arrested by State Patrol on multiple charges.

—A badly decomposed corpse was discovered in a drainage ditch near Randolph Avenue and West Seventh Street at 5 p.m. Monday, October 8. The body was identified as Joseph Paul Bobo, a homeless man who had been missing since April.

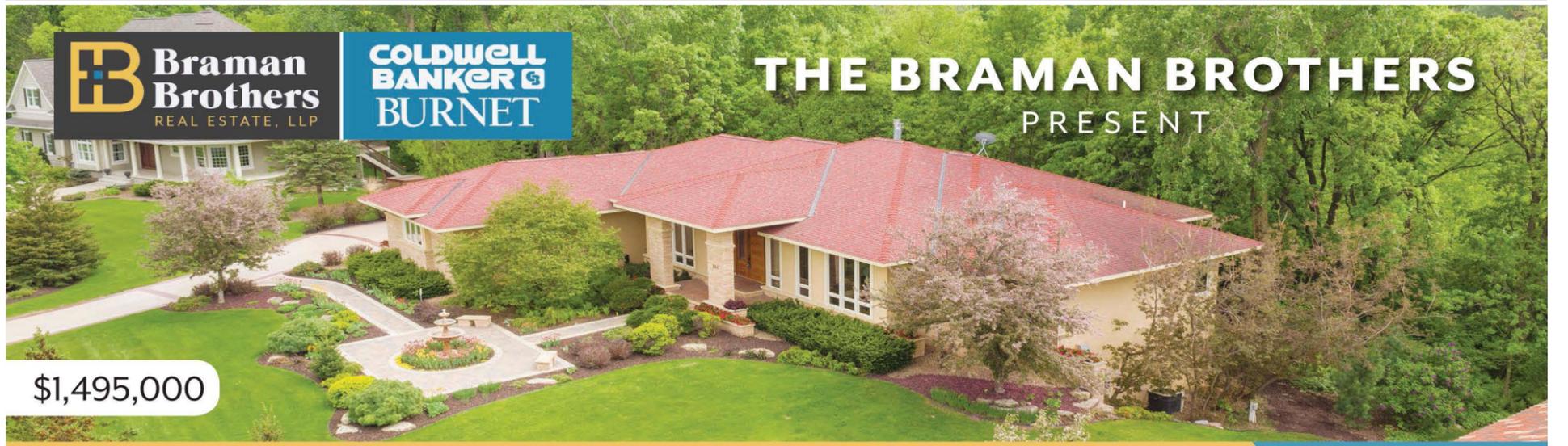
Fire Calls

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

Lexington-Hamline—Bobby Ray Bowman, 60, of Columbia Heights was struck and killed by a westbound Green Line train while trying to cross the tracks at 4:30 p.m. Monday, October 8, at University Avenue and Syndicate Street. Bowman was crossing with another man, who was unhurt. Bowman was taken to the hospital, where he died shortly thereafter.

Merriam Park—A woman was taken to the hospital suffering from life-threatening injuries after being struck by a vehicle while crossing east on Snelling at Laurel Avenue at 9:55 p.m. Saturday, October 13. The 76-year-old man driving the vehicle was cited for failing to yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk.

Snelling-Hamline—A female pedestrian was injured in a hit-and-run accident at 1:12 p.m. Monday, October 1, on Simpson Street and University Avenue. A female pedestrian also was struck in the hand by a vehicle while crossing there at 5:04 p.m. Friday, October 5.



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UST survey says: Build student housing

By Jane McClure

A survey of about 400 neighbors indicates overwhelming support for the University of St. Thomas to build more on-campus student housing. That was not a surprise to members of the West Summit Neighborhood Advisory Committee (WSNAC) who reviewed the survey results on October 9.

However, members of the committee and university administration clashed over how the housing options were presented in the survey. The questions focused on a potential mixed-use building at the northwest corner of Grand and Cleveland avenues, and not on on-campus student housing elsewhere.

Marc Manderscheid, who represents the Macalester-Groveland Community Council on WSNAC, said constructing new student housing elsewhere on campus would allow higher building heights and more beds. He and others contended that by focusing only on one area, the survey was flawed.

“Why are we talking about housing built on the perimeter of campus and not closer to the traditional center?” asked Union Park District Council representative Kyle Dukart.

St. Thomas officials pushed back, saying that the survey’s design was valid and that the focus on the Grand block was needed.

“The university is interested in knowing if there is a way, on that block, to make housing affordable,” said Janet Swiecichowski, the university’s director of public relations.

St. Thomas’ 2016 campus master plan shows two new student apartment buildings north of Grand Avenue between Cleveland and Finn Street. One would have first-floor retail and 112 beds, and the other would have 140 beds and no retail. This summer, university officials said they have not yet decided if there would be one building or two.

The survey included specific questions about building heights and setbacks for new on-campus student housing on that block. The university’s 2004 conditional use permit that allowed the campus to expand onto the two blocks bounded by Summit, Cleveland, Grand and Cretin avenues set a minimum 25-foot setback and maximum three-story height for new buildings. However, a 2013 city zoning study resulted in allowing building heights of up to four stories just across the street on the south side of Grand west of Cleveland.

Survey respondents were split 55-38 percent on allowing no setbacks for on-campus housing north of Grand, with more people in support if a building included first-floor retail. Sixty-two percent favored a 19-foot setback and 55 percent liked the 25-foot setback. The response to allowing a five-story building for student housing there was split 57-36 percent. A majority favored first-floor retail and dining options for a mixed-use building.

The survey follows up a recent directive from St. Thomas president Julie Sullivan and the university’s board of trustees to explore additional campus housing options.

“The neighborhood really wants to see St. Thomas build more housing,” said the president’s chief of staff, Amy McDonough.

She said it is an “immediate priority” to have more students living on campus, and moving juniors and seniors into new housing would free up space in Flynn and Morrison halls for sophomores.

“There’s no question that a large number of people want the university to build more student housing,” said Mark Mellman of the Mellman Group, which conducted the survey.

Seventy-four percent of survey respondents said St. Thomas should build more housing. That increased to 82 percent if more off-street parking was provided in conjunction with the housing.

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Mount Curve repaving project runs up against winter deadline

By JANE MCCLURE

Patience is wearing thin for the people living on Mount Curve Boulevard after a summer and fall of street reconstruction and temporary water service. Residents of the stretch between Jefferson and Randolph avenues may not know until this week if the underground water main is safe to use again. And even if the water main passes bacteria tests, residents will still have to wait several days for water service to be restored and the street to be repaved.

With temperatures already dipping below freezing at night, neighbors are worried about the water flowing through the temporary hoses that are strung along the right-of-way. They are wondering whether their street and sidewalks will be restored before winter sets in.

Representatives of St. Paul Regional Water Services and the St. Paul Department of Public Works said they are doing all they can to make sure the water line is safe before completing the street project. After the water main failed a seventh water quality test on October 16, an eighth test was conducted and the results of that test were due late last week after the deadline for this *Villager*.

"We understand your frustration that the work is not yet completed," St. Paul Regional Water Services stated in a letter to neighbors. "However, it is absolutely paramount that the main passes water quality tests before it is placed back into service."

Staff from Public Works, the water utility and street project contractor Forest Lake Contracting met on October 16 to discuss the next steps to be taken. A more aggressive form of water-line sanitizing was initiated on October 17. Water utility staff also sent a device called a "pig" through the line to aid in the cleaning process.

The four blocks of Mount Curve Boulevard have been torn up since June. The project started under a cloud last year when boulevard ash trees in the area were clear-cut in anticipation of the project.

"It's getting pretty tiresome," said Adam Schletz. His family, which includes four children age 11 and younger, have had to park their car on another street for many days. Not being able to use their own driveway resulted in a vehicle break-in one night. The family has also had trouble getting trash and recycling picked up.

"It's been a very difficult summer and fall," said Mount Curve resident Padraic McGuire. Heavy rains have wreaked havoc with the street work, dislocating a section of curb at one point. Vehicles have also gotten stuck in the mud. "It's just been one thing after another," McGuire said. "People are sick of it."

"It's bad enough to have old sewer pipes and bricks sitting in our yard for long periods of time, but we really worry that the work won't get done before cold weather sets in," Schletz said.

The reconstruction of Mount Curve is part of phase one of the two-year Woodlawn-Jefferson residential street reconstruction project. Other streets in the first phase are almost done, according to Public Works project manager Barb Mundahl. The city's contract with the construction company ends on October 31, Mundahl said, and the four-block stretch of Mount Curve is the only area where a water main has not passed muster.

When a new water main is installed, it is flushed with a chlorinated solution, according to Graeme Chaple of the St. Paul water utility. Then water is run through the line and tested. The water must pass 12 of 12 bacteria tests, or the water main cannot be put into service.

Most water mains are deemed safe after one or two flushing processes and tests, "but every year we seem to have one water line that needs a number of tests," Chaple said.

It is not clear what is causing the problems for the Mount Curve water main. "There can be a lot of variables," Chaple said. The water utility takes the utmost precautions when installing water mains, he added, including capping the ends of pipes. However, Mount Curve neighbors wonder whether mud got into a piece of pipe during one of the rain delays.

The work should move quickly once the water main passes its test, according to Mundahl. It will then take a few days to connect every home's water service. The street will then be graded, curbs poured, more utility work done and the street paved.

The city intends to restore driveway aprons and sidewalks before winter. That work should be done by October 31, but it could extend until Thanksgiving. If concrete cannot be poured, temporary asphalt aprons and sidewalks will go in, Mundahl said. The new boulevard trees and sod will be planted next spring.

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The Kiosk

Wednesday/October 24

A CHILI FUNDRAISER for the benefit of the firefighters of Station No. 19 will be held from 4-6 p.m. at Highlands of St. Paul, 1925 Norfolk Ave. Enjoy several of the best chili recipes around along with fixin's, cornbread, fruit and dessert. The cost is \$5. For reservations, call 651-699-4038.

A TURKEY DINNER with all of the fixin's will be served at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 700 Wesley Lane in Mendota Heights. Roast turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, coleslaw, fresh rolls, cranberry sauce and pie will be served with seatings at 4:30, 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. Meal tickets are \$14, \$6 for children ages 3-10. Take-out dinners may be ordered for pickup at 5 and 6 p.m. Reservations are a must. Call 651-452-5683.

"CHALLENGING ISLAMOPHOBIA" will be addressed by Council for American-Islamic Relations executive director Jaylani Hussein in a free program at 6:30 p.m. on the lower level of St. John the Evangelist Church, 60 N. Kent St.

A FULL MOON WALK through the park to Coldwater Springs will be led by the Friends of Coldwater beginning at 7 p.m. in the parking lot just east of the intersection of Hiawatha Avenue and 54th Street in Minneapolis. Visit friendsofcoldwater.org.

Thursday/October 25

WORLD WAR I and how the strategic mistakes of the victorious allies laid the foundation for World War II will be discussed by author Geoffrey Wawro in a history roundtable from 7-9 p.m. in the Visitor Center at Historic Fort Snelling. Admission is \$5, free for students and veterans. Call 612-726-1171.

Friday/October 26

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE will be collected free of charge by Ramsey County from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. today and from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturday, October 27, in the parking lot of the Highland Ice Arena, 800 S. Snelling Ave.

ST. MARK'S will celebrate Oktoberfest from 5-7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria of the Catholic grade school on Dayton and Prior avenues. A supper of traditional German food will be served. Craft beer and wine will be available. Games will be played in the gym, and a costume contest for children will begin at 7 p.m. Visit markerspride.com.

Saturday/October 27

ST. LUKE LUTHERAN will present its 34th annual Fall Bazaar from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the church, 1807 Field Ave. Featured will be a rummage sale, craft and bake sale, raffle and refreshments. Call 651-698-9443.

THE NAUTICAL MODEL Shipbuilders Society will hold its 12th annual show from 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave. Models of ships from various periods in maritime history will be displayed, including an intricately carved replica of the 1628 Swedish warship Vasa. Admission is free.

A BOOYA will be served from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Mendota VFW Post 6690, 1323 Sibley Memorial Hwy. Hot dogs and pie will



A treat for all ages. William Thomas, 1, dressed up for a Halloween story and play hour on October 16 at the Minnesota Veterans Home in Minneapolis. Shown behind him are residents Tony Kartes and Doug Muesling. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

also be sold, and a book and bake sale will be held throughout the day.

Sunday/October 28

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS will be accepting blood donations from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Temple of Aaron, 616 S. Mississippi River Blvd. Walk-ins are welcome, but reservations are recommended. Visit redcrossblood.org or call 800-733-2767.

AN OCTOBERFEST LUNCHEON of schnitzel, sauerkraut, spareribs, German potato salad, Black Forest cake and more will be served at 1 p.m. at the Virginia Street Church, Selby Avenue and Virginia Street. Meal tickets are \$8, \$5 for seniors and children under age 12. Call 651-774-4149.

THE ST. PAUL HIKING CLUB will gather for a five-mile hike stepping out at 2:30 p.m. from the Tavern on Grand, 656 Grand Ave. New members are welcome. Call Sharon at 651-207-5926.

Tuesday/October 30

PARENTING CLASSES for moms and dads and their children, infants to 5 years old, will meet from 9-11 a.m. on Thursdays, today through December 18, at St. Mark's School, 1983 Dayton Ave. The Early Catholic Family Life sessions begin with play time with faith-related objects that fit the weekly theme. At snack time, parents attend a separate facilitated discussion about family life. For more information, contact Emily Overhaug at 651-644-5030 or emily.overhaug@markerspride.com.

PAX CONVERSATIONAL SALON will revisit the trial of Roger Cuthbertson and Molly Wetherall for protesting the killing of Philando Castile from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Mississippi Market, 1500 W. Seventh St. Cuthbertson will be there to tell about the trial, their acquittal and his thoughts on justice. Admission is free, though donations are welcome. Call 651-227-3228.

Friday/November 2

FARE FOR ALL will distribute fresh produce and frozen meat from 10 a.m.-noon at the West Seventh Community Center, 265 Oneida St. Holiday packs with a variety of meat, green beans and apple pie will be available for \$30. Cash, credit or debit cards are accepted. Volunteers are needed to help load boxes in customers' cars. Call 651-298-5493.

THE FIRST FRIDAY LUNCHEON at the University of St. Thomas will feature talks by former gubernatorial candidate Tom Horner and TPT political reporter Mary LaHammer. The program begins with registration at 11:30 a.m. followed by lunch at noon in Woulfe Alumni Hall in Anderson Student Center. Tickets are \$35, parking included. Visit alumni.stthomas.edu.

EMOTIONS ANONYMOUS, a 12-step program for people who are seeking help in dealing with daily stress, is offered at 7 p.m. today and every Friday at the Twin Cities Friends Meetinghouse, 1725 Grand Ave. Everyone is welcome. There are no required fees. For information, call Paul at 651-402-6774 or visit emotionsanonymous.org.

Saturday/November 3

A FALL MAKERS MARKET, an art and craft sale featuring local vendors, will take place from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Henry Sibley High School, 1897 Delaware Ave., Mendota Heights. Admission is free.

THE KU KLUX KLAN and the American Political Tradition will be discussed by New York University history professor Linda Gordon in a 90-minute forum beginning at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. today at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. Author of *The Second Coming of the KKK*, Gordon will focus on the racial terrorist group that rose up in the early 1920s and eventually numbered 4-6 million members. Tickets are \$16. For more information or to

register, visit cart.mnhs.org or call 651-259-3000.

Sunday/November 4

THE ST. PAUL HIKING CLUB will gather for a five-mile hike stepping out at 2:30 p.m. in Hidden Falls Park. New members are welcome. For more information, call Sharon at 651-207-5926.

THE LEX-HAM NEIGHBORHOOD will hold its annual meeting and potluck supper from 6-8 p.m. at St. George Greek Orthodox Church, 1111 Summit Ave. Local residents are invited to bring a dish to share and join in a celebration of the past year. New board members will be elected, neighborhood awards presented and a silent auction and raffle held. Visit lexham.org.

Tuesday/November 6

THE ST. PAUL CAMERA CLUB will hold its monthly salon, critiquing color prints and photojournalism, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in Otto Hall of the Gardens building at Episcopal Homes, 1860 University Ave.

"BEYOND MULTICULTURALISM: Educational Justice for a Pluralistic Society" will be addressed by Professor Emerita Christine Sleeter of California State University in a free program at 7 p.m. in the ballroom of Kagin Commons at Macalester College. Call 651-696-6302.

Wednesday/November 7

WORLD WAR I'S IMPACT on the law will be explored by Marshall H. Tanick of the Minneapolis law firm of Meyer Njus Tanick from noon-1 p.m. in Courtroom 430 at Landmark Center. Guests are invited to bring a bag lunch. Light refreshments will be provided. Admission is free, but reservations are required. Call 651-292-3063 or email fsmith@landmarkcenter.org.

FREEDOM SONG, an original musical that examines the impact of addiction on families, will be performed by current and past residents of Beit T'Shuvah, a Jewish treatment program in Los Angeles, from 7-8:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. Sponsored by the Jewish Family Service of St. Paul (JFS), the production also provides an inside look at the process of recovery. A discussion with the cast will follow. Tickets are \$10. Visit jfssp.org or call 651-698-0767.

Thursday/November 8

HISTORIC ST. PAUL will celebrate 20 years of accomplishments and the people who helped make it happen from 6-8:30 p.m. at the University Club, 420 Summit Ave. The benefit will include a live auction. Tickets are \$50, which includes appetizers and beverages. Visit historicsaintpaul.org.

ST. PAUL MAYOR Melvin Carter will hold a neighborhood forum on smart government and the city's work toward equity from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy.

THE PLOTS TO ASSASSINATE Hitler will be discussed by author Danny Orbach in a World War II history roundtable from 7-9 p.m. in the Visitor Center at Historic Fort Snelling. Admission is \$5, free for students and veterans. Call 612-726-1171.

MAHLE LECTURE SERIES 25th Anniversary of Re-Imagining

Thursday, November 1, 7-9 p.m.

Carol P. Christ: "Sophia, Goddess and Feminist Spirituality: Imagining a Future"
Hamline University, Anderson Center

Friday, November 2, 7:30-9 p.m.

Judith Plaskow: "Jewish Feminism in a Post-Feminist Age"
Mt. Zion Temple, Saint Paul

Saturday, November 3, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

25th Anniversary of Re-imagining
Carol P. Christ and Judith Plaskow:
"Reimagining Goddess and God in the World"
Hamline University, Anderson Center

Register: hamline.edu/Mahle18



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Scare up a little Halloween fun

Those who are still looking for something to do this Halloween may want to check out these local events:

Gangster Ghost Tours will return from 6-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 24, at Landmark Center. Tickets are \$10 and space is limited. Register at 651-292-3063.

The Horace Mann Boo Bash will be held from 5-8 p.m. Thursday, October 25, at the school, 2001 Eleanor Ave. Enjoy games, refreshments, a "bootique," neon funhouse and haunted house. Parents can bring smaller children between 5-6:30 p.m. for a lighter fright. Email hmbobash@gmail.com.

Heist, a performance of mystery and magic about the secrets we keep and the stories we tell, will be staged by Sparkle Theatricals at 6:30 and 8 p.m. October 25 through November 3 at the Off-Leash Art Box, 4200 E. 54th St., Minneapolis. Tickets for the 50-minute show are \$15-\$30. Visit sparkletheatricals.org.

Shadows and spirits will stalk the halls of the state Capitol during tours on the half-hour from 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, 25-27. The cost is \$12-\$15. Call 651-259-3015.

Victorian seances will be explored during programs on the hour between 8-11 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, October 25-27, at the Alexander Ramsey House, 265 S. Exchange St. The program is suitable for those ages 16 and older. The cost is \$20-\$22. Call 651-296-8760.

The Barebones Halloween Outdoor Puppet Extravaganza will be presented for the 25th year at 7 p.m. October 26-28 and 31 in Hidden Falls Park. The shows feature illuminated puppets, stilt walkers, fire performers, aerialists and a live orchestra. Donations are suggested. Visit barebonespuppets.org.

Trick-or-Treat in Highland will be held from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, October 26, in Highland Village. Kids are being encouraged to dress in costume and visit businesses that

will be handing out treats. Call 651-699-9042.

Halloween parties will be hosted by the St. Paul Department of Parks and Recreation on Friday, October 26, from 6-8 p.m. at the Palace Recreation Center, 781 Palace Ave., and from 6-9 p.m. at the Merriam Park Recreation Center, 2000 St. Anthony Ave. Kids are invited to come in costume and celebrate Halloween with games, crafts and more. Admission is free. Visit stpaul.gov/halloween.

Gateway Bank, 745 Market St. in Mendota Heights, will give away pumpkins and treats, and entertain kids with face painting and balloon animals, during its 13th annual fall festival from 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, October 27. Call 651-209-4800.

The Monster Dash half-marathon and 10-mile run will begin at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, October 27, from the Cathedral of St. Paul. A 10K and 5K will also take place at 8:30 and 9:30 a.m., respectively, at CHS Field in Lowertown. Entertainment and costume contests are included. Visit minnesotamonster.com.

The Great Pumpkin Halloween Celebration will take place from 1-3 p.m. Sunday, October 28, at Landmark Center. The free family festival will include a kids' DJ, Brodini the magician, crafts, treats and a costume parade. Call 651-292-3063.

Pearson's Candy Company, 2140 W. Seventh St., will hold its seventh annual Halloween Bash from 4-7 p.m. Tuesday, October 30. There will be Halloween crafts and games, a photo booth, balloon artists, face painters and a giant slide. Candy will be sold by the pound to support the Ronald McDonald House.

The Mendota Heights Halloween bonfire will be held from 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, October 31, in the vacant lot behind the Mendota Plaza Shopping Center. Oak pallets from nearby developments will be used for the bonfire, so people will not be allowed to bring brush to the site this year.

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On the Town

Grandeur for gourmands: Make tracks for Union Depot Bar & Grill

All aboard the Union Depot Bar & Grill. The St. Paul restaurant opened in June in the head house of the historic railroad station at 214 E. Fourth St., and though business has been picking up, according to manager Molly Ruhoff, there's room for more.

My wife Mecca and I and our friend Mike stopped by on a recent Thursday during the Union Depot's 3-6 p.m. happy hour, and there were only nine other diners taking advantage of the bar and grill's "\$2 off apps, taps & rails." Although the atmosphere was less than intimate, sitting as we were in the middle of the cavernous head house, the quality of the food and the enthusiasm of the servers warranted a steady stream of patrons, especially from those who are looking for a quick and economical snack and beverage after work.

Kaskaid Hospitality signed a deal with the Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority to provide food service at the Union Depot in August 2016. Christos Greek Restaurant had closed its operation there three months earlier, so diners had to wait a full two years for sit-down service to return to the head house. Meanwhile, Union Depot Bar & Grill's kitchen and mezzanine underwent \$2 million in renovations and Kaskaid Hospitality got its Crave Catering and Events operation up and running at the depot's five indoor and two outdoor event venues.

St. Paul's majestic Union Depot first opened in 1926, and in the years before the Great Depression and during World War II more than 20,000 railroad passengers and close to 275 trains passed through it each day. However, the neoclassical building was practically vacant when the last passenger train left the station in 1971. Since then, a long list of restaurants tried and mostly quickly failed to find a steady clientele in the head house, including Spazzo, the Criterion, Gordon's, Big Daddy's and Leeann Chin.

Christos was an outlier. Its owner, Gus Parpas, recognized that the restaurant was a sideshow. Most of his business would come from the various spaces in the building that hosted events. His vision kept Christos in business at Union Depot for 20 years.

Ramsey County's \$243 million renovation of Union Depot in 2012 and its transformation as a transit hub serving Amtrak, several Metro Transit bus routes, the light-rail Green Line, and Greyhound, Megabus and Jefferson Lines long-distance bus service has not tipped the balance in favor of restaurant operations. However, as long as the catering business thrives, that probably won't matter.

"Catering is going very well," Ruhoff said. "We have events every weekend."



Hot Dish By Morgan Smith

Our supper at the Union Depot began with the dry rub Grilled Chicken Wings appetizer (normally \$13.95). The nine drummies and wings came with dressing and a garnish of carrots, celery and onions. Mike and I thought the wings were excellent: crisp on the outside, moist on the inside and nicely seasoned.

For his entrée, Mike ordered the Steak Frites (\$19.95), three large medallions of beef with béarnaise sauce, fries and grilled asparagus. He was very pleased with his steak, which he ordered medium rare. I shared a piece. It was tender and tasty. However, the big surprise were the fries. The generous portion arrived in a large metal cup set on Mike's platter. He said they were so scrumptious he didn't need any ketchup.

"Blasphemy!" I shot back, before trying some without the sauce.

Mike was right. The fries had a slight sour cream and onion flavor and just the right amount of salt. In fact, they were the best fries I've had this year, and I've had some highly touted ones. The Union Depot Bar & Grill offers Truffle Fries (\$5.95) as an appetizer. At \$2 off during happy hour, they're well worth the calories.

Mecca went with the Union Salmon Salad (\$16.95), a combination of grilled salmon, mixed greens, smoked gouda, fennel, candied nuts and apple cider vinaigrette. She mentioned how much she liked the fennel, but I was impressed with the size and flavor of the salmon. It tasted as though it had just



Union Depot Bar & Grill's Tomato Avocado Flatbread, with a pint of lager to wash it down during happy hour. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

come from off a beach in Washington state.

My Asian Grilled Chicken Salad (\$16.95) was as pretty as a Christmas tree with Asian slaw, green onions, red peppers, shredded carrots, chopped peanuts and a sesame miso vinaigrette. Maybe it was how much

I liked the other entrées, but mine paled in comparison. The chicken tasted a tad too processed and the dressing needed a boost.

I ordered a bowl of the Tomato Basil Soup (\$5.95) as well. It was fine, but nothing to get excited about. The soup may have even been too thick, if you can believe that. Mecca concurred.

On the other hand, the Chocolate Mosaic Cake (\$8.95) was amazing. Though it wasn't made in house, the light and crunchy layers of cake with raspberry whipped cream was delightful. After several recent disappointments in the dessert department, it restored our faith in humankind's ability to tempt us with sugar.

Ruhoff favors the Pork Dumplings (\$6.95) as an appetizer and the Impossible Veggie Burger (\$14.95) as an entrée. "I'm not a vegetarian," she said, "but I think it's great."

I'll take Ruhoff's word on the veggie burger, but that won't bring me back to the Union Depot Bar & Grill. The Pork Dumplings, on the other hand, easily could, especially during happy hour.



Union Depot Bar & Grill lies at the heart of the majestic head house of St. Paul's historic railroad station.

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On the Town Briefly

Theater

The Agitators, a play by Mat Smart about the tempestuous friendship of civil rights activist Frederick Douglass and women's rights advocate Susan B. Anthony, will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday, October 25-28, on the proscenium stage at Park Square Theatre, 20 W. Seventh Place. Emily Gunyow Halaas and Mikell Sapp star. Tickets are \$25-\$60 with discounts for seniors, military personnel and those under age 30. Call 651-291-7005.

The Great Society, part two in playwright Robert Schenkkan's trilogy about the turbulent presidency of Lyndon B. Johnson, will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday, October 25-28, at the History Theatre, 30 E. 10th St. The drama revisits the war on poverty, the conflict in Vietnam and the struggle for civil rights for an exhilarating portrait of political power, morality and societal change. Tickets are \$25-\$56 with discounts for seniors and students. Call 651-292-4323.

The Last Schwartz, a comedy-drama by Deborah Zoe Lauffer that explores Jewish identity and cultural continuity in a family of four siblings, is playing through November 11 on the Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company's stage at the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. Directed by Warren C. Bowles, the play stars Laura Stearns Adams, Matt Sciple, Heidi Fellner, Corey Dinardo, Damian Leverett and Emily Dussault. The curtain rises at 8 p.m. Saturdays, 1 p.m. Sundays, and 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays. Tickets are \$23-\$38. Call 651-647-4315.

The Candidate, a madcap farce about the absurdity of politics today, will be performed by Dangerous Productions at 6:30 p.m. Sundays, October 28 and November 4, at Can Can Wonderland, 755 N. Prior Ave. The interactive comedy centers around the campaign of a city council candidate and the dangers of dark money and a homogenous voting base. Tickets are whatever you feel they are worth plus a \$2 cover charge. Visit dangerousproductions.org.

Books

Happiness Is A Choice You Make: Lessons From a Year Among the Oldest Old will be discussed by its author, John Leland, at 7 p.m. Wednesday, October 24, at Temple of Aaron, 616 S. Mississippi River Blvd. A reporter for the *New York Times*, Leland spent a year with six very elderly people, an experience that upended his attitude about aging. The program is free and open to all. Musical guests Sanford Moore and Dennis Spears will perform before Leland's talk.

SubText Books, 6 W. Fifth St., will play host to free readings and discussions with Gretchen Anthony and her debut novel, *Evergreen Tidings from the Baumgartners*, 7 p.m. October 24; poets Charlie Bondhus, Kris Bigalk, James Cihlar and Roy Guzman, 7 p.m. October 27; and Jeffrey Brown and book three in his graphic novel series, *Lucy and Andy Neanderthal: Bad to the Bones*, 1 p.m. October 28. Call 651-493-2791.

Common Good Books, 38 S. Snelling Ave., will play host to free readings and discussions with authors Gary Eldon Peter and his short-story collection, *Oranges*, 7 p.m. October 26; Lindsay B. Nauen and her book, *No Quick Fixes: A Fitness Journey for the Real World*, 7 p.m. October 27; Larry Millett and his book, *Metropolitan Dreams: The Scandalous Rise and Stunning Fall of a Minneapolis Master-*



Bright lights, small town. *Grand Opening*, an adaptation of Jon Hassler's novel about the light and dark sides of small-town life, is playing through November 4 at Theatre in the Round, 245 Cedar Ave. S. in Minneapolis. The most autobiographical of Hassler's works, the story opens in 1945 when a family moves from Minneapolis to rural Minnesota to run a grocery store. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$22 with discounts for seniors and students. Call 612-333-3010.

piece, 7 p.m. October 30; and Gary Lindberg and *Letters from Elvis*, based on hundreds of letters Presley wrote to his spiritual guide, 7 p.m. November 7. Call 651-225-8989.

The impact of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* since the novel's publication 150 years ago will be addressed on October 29-31 with a film, two lectures and a reading at the University of St. Thomas. Free and open to the public, the series includes a screening and discussion of the film *Spirit of the Beehive* at 5:30 p.m., Monday, October 29, in the 3M Auditorium of Owens Science Hall; a lecture by Dr. Jerry Husak on "The Biology Behind and Ahead of *Frankenstein*" at noon Tuesday, October 30, in the Iversen Hearth Room in Anderson Student Center; "Reflections on *Frankenstein*, Film and Black Atlantic Autobiography" with Dr. Joel Pace at 6 p.m. Tuesday, October 30, in the Iversen Hearth Room in Anderson Student Center; and a reading of *Frankenstein* in its entirety from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Wednesday, October 31, in the O'Shaughnessy Room of O'Shaughnessy-Frey Library. Call 651-962-5600.

Twin Cities author and photographer Wing Young Huie will discuss his new book, *Chinese-ness: The Meanings of Identity and the Nature of Belonging*, in free programs from 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, October 30, at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd., and from 7-8 p.m. Monday, November 5, at Open Book, 1011 Washington Ave. S. in Minneapolis. New photography by Huie that explores his identity as a Minnesotan of Chinese descent is being displayed through November 11 at the Minnesota History Center (651-259-3000).

"F. Scott Fitzgerald, the Great War and American Memory" will be addressed by historian Laura Iandola in a free program at 4 p.m. Sunday, November 4, at the University

Club, 420 Summit Ave. Hosted by Fitzgerald in St. Paul, the FitzFirst@Four program will mark the 100th anniversary of the Armistice ending World War I, a conflict that the St. Paul author recounted in his 1936 short story, "I Didn't Get Over," among others.

Music

Not Just Dvorak: The Composers of Bohemia will be addressed in a four-week lecture series offered from 10 a.m.-noon on Wednesdays, October 24 through November 14, at House of Hope Presbyterian Church, 797 Summit Ave. Sponsored by the Friends of the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, the sessions are taught by musicologist Daniel Freeman. The cost is \$35 per class or \$120 for the series. Visit friendsofthespc.org.

"Things That Go Bump in the Night," four nights of haunting music, bone-chilling commissions and spine-tingling stories, will be presented by the Zeitgeist new music ensemble on October 25-28 at Studio Z, 275 E. Fourth St., Suite 200. Highlights of the Halloween festival include the premieres of new compositions by Daniel Nass, Dameun Strange and Doug Opel; ghost stories told by Loren Niemi, Debra Ting and Laura Packer; electronic music sets by Queen Drea, DeVon Russell Gray and Dameun Strange; the screening of a horror film with a live score; and the return of the musical "Crocus Hill Ghost Story." Tickets are \$15 and \$10 per night, \$40 for a festival pass. Call 651-755-1600 or visit zeitgeistnewmusic.org.

Israeli-American cellist Amit Peled will join the Minnesota Sinfonia in two free concerts at 7 p.m. Friday, October 26, at First Covenant Church, 1280 Arcade St., and at 2 p.m. Sunday, October 28, at the Basilica of St. Mary in Minneapolis. The program,

titled "My Jewish Journey," will feature David Popper's Hungarian Rhapsody, Joachim Stutschewsky's Hasidic Suite and Max Bruch's Kol Nidrei along with the world premiere of Sergey Khvoshchinsky's Polechka "Little Polka," Hadyn's Symphony No. 96 "Miracle," and Sinfonia conductor Jay Fishman's "Yizkor for Mom."

Pianist Ivan Konev will celebrate the release of his first solo CD, "Bridges," in recital at 7 p.m. Saturday, October 27, at Sundin Music Hall, 1531 Hewitt Ave. The program of classical music will feature personal favorites by American and Russian composers of the 20th and 21st centuries, including Ned Rorem, John Corigliano and Igor Yakushenko. Tickets are \$8 and \$15. Visit hamline.edu/konev or call 651-523-2459.

Broadway giants Adam Pascal and Anthony Rapp will share the stage on Saturday, October 27, in an acoustic show featuring the Broadway and pop hits that have influenced their lives. The music will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Ordway Concert Hall. Capping the evening will be a few hits from *Rent*, where their 20-year friendship began. Tickets are \$44-\$85. Call 651-224-4222.

"Goblins and Ghouls," a hair-raising concert for the whole family, will be presented by the Seward Concert Band at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, October 27, in the auditorium of Sanford Middle School, 3524 42nd Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Admission is by donation with \$6 suggested, \$5 for seniors, \$4 for children. A costume contest will be part of the fun.

Capital City Brass Quintet will present "The Singer's Heart," a program of brass music rooted in song, at 3 p.m. Sunday, October 28, at Olivet Congregational Church, 1850 Iglehart Ave. Works by Puccini, Calvert and Freddie Mercury will be played along with arrangements of folk songs, spirituals and rock classics. Admission is free.

The University Singers will be joined by British countertenor Ryland Angel and guitarist Nels Cline of the band Wilco in concert at 4 p.m. Sunday, October 28, in Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 S. 4th St. in Minneapolis. The program includes the premiere of "The Call," a multi-movement work by Angel and Cline that explores the roots of human cooperation, and Jonathan Dove's "The Passing of the Year" with guest pianist Paul Shaw.

The Twin Cities Catholic Chorale and orchestra will perform Mozart's Requiem Mass for All Souls' Day on Friday, November 2. The music will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Church of St. Agnes, 535 Thomas Ave. Visit catholicchorale.org.

Mother Banjo, South Minneapolis artist Ellen Stanley's Americana band, will celebrate the release of its new album, "Eyes on the Sky," at 7:30 p.m. Friday, November 2, at Hook & Ladder Theater & Lounge, 3010 Minnehaha Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Sharing the stage will be Minneapolis songwriter Vicky Emerson, who will be releasing her new album, "Steady Heart." Special guest is Hayley Rydell of the Lowland Lakers. Tickets are \$12 in advance, \$20 on the day of show. Visit ticketfly.com.

Richard Marx, the Grammy-winning pop-rock musician, will bring his national "Dance With My Father" tour to St. Paul's Fitzgerald Theater for one show at 8 p.m. Saturday, November 3. Tickets are available at the Fitzgerald box office at 10 E. Exchange St., by calling 800-514-3849 or visiting etix.com.

The Bakken Trio will perform "Three B's" at 4 p.m. Sunday, November 4, at the MacPhail Center for Music, 501 S. Second St. in Minneapolis. The program includes Bach's Sonata for Violin and Piano in A Major,

Beethoven's String Quartet No. 13 and Brahms Sonata for Cello and Piano No. 1 in E minor. Tickets are \$15-\$25. Visit bakken trio.org.

Exhibits

"Phone Photography 101," original photography by members of the Highland Friendship Club, will be displayed during a public reception from 5-8 p.m. Wednesday, October 24, at Film North, 550 N. Vandalia St., #120. Admission is free. Refreshments will be provided. Highland Friendship Club is a nonprofit organization based in St. Paul that serves people with disabilities ages 14 and older.

Handcrafted fiber works by more than 100 artists will be featured for show and sale from November 1 through December 24 in the Holiday Gallery Shop at the Textile Center, 3000 University Ave. SE in Minneapolis. From one-of-a-kind wearable art to home décor, the pop-up shop will have a plethora of potential gifts. Artist demonstrations, trunk shows and workshops will be offered between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Saturdays. The schedule includes Wet Felting, November 3; Yarn Fest, November 10; Needle Felting, November 17; Weave Fest, Friday, November 24; Stitch Fest, November 25; Fiber & Dye Fest, December 8; and Textile Machine Fest, December 15. Call 612-436-0464 or visit textilecentermn.org.

"Roots and Fruits," an exhibit of more than 50 works by more than three dozen past and present members of the Women's Art Registry of Minnesota, will open with a public reception from 6-8 p.m. Saturday, November 3, in

the Catherine G. Murphy Gallery at St. Catherine University. The exhibit explores the evolution and impact of WARM with art works and archival material that trace pivotal moments in WARM's history and the history of the gallery, journal and arts programs it inspired. Memories of WARM will be recorded at an oral history booth at the reception. The exhibit will remain on view through December 15. Admission is free. Visit gallery.stkate.edu.

Dance

TU Dance will open a new season with a retrospective of its previous 15 seasons at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, October 27, at the Ordway Music Theater. The program will include "With Love" (2011), inspired by the paintings of African-American artist Ernie Barnes and set to the music of Donny Hathaway, and "Salve" (2017), a meditative work for eight dancers set to the music of Gavin Bryars. TU Dance artistic directors Toni Pierce-Sands and Uri Sands will take part in a concert preview at 6:30 p.m. and a post-show discussion in the Ordway atrium. Tickets are \$22-\$42. Call 651-224-4222.

Zorongo Flamenco Dance Theatre, singer José Cortés Fernández, guitarist Juanito Pascual and dancer Jesús Muñoz will demonstrate the emotional range of flamenco in music, song and dance at 8 p.m. Saturday, November 3, at Park Square Theatre, 20 W. Seventh Place. The "Gritos Y Suspiros (Cries and Whispers)" program will feature new choreography by Jeanne d'Arc Casas along with pieces by Omayra Amaya and Antonio Arrebola. Admission is \$25. Zorongo will also

perform evocative flamenco music and dance at 7 p.m. Sunday, November 4, in the intimate setting of the Black Dog Cafe, 308 E. Prince St. Admission to Sunday's show is by donation.

Film

Amadeus, the director's cut of this Academy Award-winning film of 1985 about the groundbreaking Austrian composer (1756-1791), will be shown free of charge at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 31, in Best Buy Theater at Northrop Auditorium.

More Than a Word, a documentary analyzing the impact of the name of the Washington Redskins football team, will be screened at 7 p.m. Thursday, November 1, in the Lecture Hall of the Campus Center at Macalester College. Filmed by Standing Rock Sioux brothers John and Kenn Little, the documentary examines the history of American Indian cultural appropriation. Admission is free. The screening will be followed by a Q&A with John Little. Call 651-696-6376.

Rondo: Beyond the Pavement, a new documentary about the largely African-American neighborhood of St. Paul that was decimated by the building of I-94 in the 1960s, will be shown at 4:30 p.m. Saturday, November 3, at SPNN studios, 550 N. Vandalia St., Suite 170. Cosponsored by St. Paul Almanac, the film was made by 10 youths from the Summit-University neighborhood under the tutelage of Emmy award-winning filmmaker Bianca Rhodes of SPNN and audio-maker Katharine DeCelle of Frogtown Radio. The 30-minute film will be followed by a Q&A, and refreshments will be served.



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Buoyancy, South Minneapolis writer Jeannie Piekos' story about her journey from a life-threatening cancer diagnosis through treatment and its side-effects to a yearning for acceptance and recovery, will be launched with a reading and screening beginning at 6 p.m. Sunday, November 4, at the Parkway Theater, 4814 Chicago Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Will Hommeyer's film by the same name about Piekos' courage as she stumbled down the rabbit hole of cancer treatment will be shown. Tickets at \$10 are available at the door and in advance. Visit theparkwaytheater.com.

Family

"Owl Prowl," an introduction to the flying hunters of the night, how they search for prey, digest food and communicate with each other, will be offered by the St. Paul Department of Parks and Recreation from 7-8:30 p.m. Friday, October 26, at the Como Streetcar Station, 1224 N. Lexington Pkwy. Dissect an owl pellet, practice your owl calls and take part in a hike to listen and look for owls. The cost is \$5 for children

age 5 and older accompanied by an adult. Reservations are required. Visit bit.ly/owlprowl18.

Tra Ti Ti Tran Tran Toro, a puppet show choreographed by Susana di Palma of the Zorongo Flamenco Dance Theatre, will be presented at 2 p.m. Sunday, November 4, at the Black Dog Cafe, 308 E. Prince St. Dancers, a singer and musicians will bring to life this story of Minnesota farmer Olie Olson, glamorous dancer Carmencita and her pet bull Torito. Admission is free, though donations will be accepted.

Mini-Masterpieces, an Artrageous Adventure for preschool children, will be offered at 10 a.m. Monday, November 5, at the Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy. The free workshop will encourage creativity and foster artistic confidence for preschoolers. Call 651-695-3700.

Preschool children and their caregivers are invited to stop by SteppingStone Theatre at 10 a.m. on Wednesdays for 30 minutes of stories, songs and creative play and 30 minutes of hands-on experience in creative dramatics and art making. The drop-in program runs weekly through December 19 at Steppingstone, 55 N. Victoria St. The cost is \$10 per family. Call 651-225-9265.

Trick or Treating in Highland



**Saturday, October 27th
10am-2pm**

- | | | |
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Sports



The Wright Call By Dave Wright

Central boys head to soccer tourney

There are a lot of routes to the boys' state soccer tournament. Central High School picked a little-traveled one—let your opponent do the scoring.

That's what happened on October 16 when Eastview accidentally kicked a ball into its own net in the seventh minute of play. It proved to be the only goal in 1-0 win that gave the Minutemen the Section 3AA title and a trip to the state tournament that starts this week.

If you weren't there, you might think the Minutemen benefited from a stroke of luck. Head coach David Alborno would beg to differ. Like a lot of such goals in soccer, this one came about, in part, because the Minutemen were pressing the Lightning from the start of the contest.

"That's always our goal—to be aggressive. I told them to come out strong," Alborno said. "We forced a mistake on their part, and it happened because of our pressure."

The Minutemen (17-0-1) have some very talented attackers on offense in Daniel Barrett (14 goals), Max Hand (seven goals, 11 assists) and Mac Staloch (seven goals). But by halftime, Alborno was confident that the lone goal could stand up if his team changed tactics slightly. Central went into a defensive mode and stymied the Lightning so effectively that Eastview was able to get just one shot on goal in the second half.

"I tell our guys all the time that offense is necessary, but defense wins championships," Alborno said. "In the second half, we controlled the midfield."

Central goalie Owen Brooks was credited with three saves against Eastview. The win capped a three-year plan that Alborno had since he grabbed the coaching reins from Jorey Erickson at the start of the 2016 season.

Though the Minutemen have more league titles (14) in boys' soccer than any school in the St. Paul City Conference, they have won one since 2015. They came in second in each of the past two seasons. In 2016 they lost in the section final to Burnsville, but last year they were knocked out in the first round of sections by Rosemount.

The memory of that game may have been in the back of everyone's mind as the Minutemen roared through the conference this fall with a 12-0 mark and then dominated in the section as well.

Sibley looking forward to new stadium

Residents in School District 197 voted last May to authorize \$117 million in bonds for construction projects at all eight of its schools, including Henry Sibley High School. There are a lot of projects planned, but the most notable one is likely to be a new stadium on the northwest corner of Sibley's campus.

"We're looking to break ground in the spring," said Carrie

WRIGHT CALL ▶ 28

Nova continues to shine in volleyball

By MATTHEW DAVIS

Nova Classical Academy, which has been on the brink of making the Class A state high school volleyball tournament in each of the past two years, has a new spark in its coaching this fall.

Patrick Waters, a senior student manager and son of first-year head coach Sara Waters, has been helping out in an informal assistant's role. Waters, who plays boys' high school club volleyball, has brought that experience to the Knights in helping the girls to a 24-5 regular-season record. He assists at practices and offers input during matches.

"He's developed into a really good player, and he has good volleyball IQ," coach Waters said.

Nova has put together a 14-game winning streak since losing 2-0 on September 15 to Glencoe-Silver Lake. The Knights also haven't lost a three-set match all season.

"We've just figured out a rhythm between all the players on our team," said junior captain Elisia Ball. "We really know how to work together. We have such a small team that we're able to have a per-



Nova's Elisia Ball and Callie Hohenhaus (14) go for a block against Avail Academy on October 13. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

sonal relationship with each member. We know how to communicate, and how to start to pick ourselves back up if we're losing."

Nova only has 10 players on the roster, and Waters already knew most of the players, having coached them in middle school at Nova.

"She knows how we play," said Knights senior captain Maggie Jones. "The eagerness and enthusiasm

she brings is really energizing for the entire team."

Nova rolled through the Twin Cities Athletic Conference with a 7-0 record. The Knights also are 11-0 against section teams and have the top seed in the Section 4A playoffs that run from October 22 through November 3.

"We have a very strong offense, especially in the middle," Ball said. "They do a

wonderful job of controlling the ball and making it easier for the back row to pass it up."

It starts with Jones, a 6-foot middle hitter who leads the squad with 319 kills. She also leads the team with 81 block aces and 54 digs.

Junior 6-foot-1 middle hitter Callie Hohenhaus has also been a force with 249 kills, 44 block aces and 25 digs.

Nova serves very well and Ball has done her part with a team-high 87 aces. The 5-foot-8 setter also leads in assists with 742 and is second on the team in digs with 144.

Five-foot-6 junior libero Serafina Rivera leads the Knights in digs with 249 and has 37 service aces.

Nova has four players with 100 or more digs overall. In addition to Ball and Rivera, junior right side hitter Gabriella Garcia has 111 digs and freshman outside hitter Giovanna Waters, the coach's daughter, has 105.

The Knights won 23 and 25 games the previous two seasons and reached the section championship game both times.

"We had a strong season last year, but (we're) feeling like this one might take us further than we ever have before," Jones said.

Minutemen advance, Blazers fall in soccer

By BILL WAGNER

For the first time in 15 years, Central High School is heading to the state boys' soccer tournament. The Minutemen earned their berth with a 1-0 win over Eastview in the Section 3AA final on October 16.

Undefeated Central is seeded third and will face St. Cloud Tech in the first round of state on October 25 in St. Cloud. If the Minutemen win, they would play Stillwater or Lakeville North on Halloween at U.S. Bank Stadium. The last time Central went to state was in 2003, when it finished second to Robbinsdale Armstrong.

The Minutemen have been simply dominating this fall, scoring over 50 goals more than they have allowed. Before facing Eastview in the finals,

Central had blanked Burnsville 6-0 and Apple Valley 2-0 in the first two rounds of sections.

Central coach David Alborno likes the way his team has been playing, especially lately. "I'm so proud of these kids," he said.

The state tourney berth was something he had predicted two years ago after Central lost to Burnsville in the section finals. "I said, 'We'll be back,'" he recalled. And so they are.

The 1-0 score made it seem like a close one between top-ranked Central and second-seeded Eastview, but the Minutemen actually outshot the Lightning 11-2. Central got its sole goal in the first half from junior Max Hand and the team protected the lead zealously.

Eastview had a great scoring opportunity in the second half, but Central

junior goalie Owen Brooks made a sprawling save on a shot that appeared headed for the lower corner of the net.

Hand's goal came after some dominating pressure from Central that kept the ball in the Eastview zone for quite some time. Hand was credited for the score when a Lightning defender accidentally tapped the ball into his own net. Alborno hastened to point out that Hand was rewarded for exerting solid pressure in the Eastview end.

"There's no such thing as luck," he said. "You make your own 'luck.'"

In the second half, Central erected impassable barriers in its own end to keep the Lightning from striking.

"They couldn't get past our midfield," Alborno said. "We packed it with good

SOCCER PLAYOFFS ▶ 28

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27◀ WRIGHT CALL

Hilger, director of communications for the school district. "As soon as the ground thaws, we're getting out there."

Sibley has been playing its football games for years at Charles Matson Field, a charming place but located a couple of miles away near Heritage Middle School. Being able to walk to practices and games can only be a boon to the Warriors' athletic program.

The lighted stadium is slated to hold roughly 2,000 fans. In addition to football, the school's soccer, lacrosse, and track teams will call the stadium home. If all goes well, Hilger said the Warriors should be able to play football and soccer there next fall.

Whenever a school builds a stadium like this, the neighbors worry about noise, parking and lights when games are played at night. To partially solve the latter problem, Hilger said Sibley will use LED lights, which are not cheap but tend to last longer and project a softer glow.

Money is also being allocated for new dugouts for Sibley's softball and baseball fields as well as a new swimming pool to replace the one at Heritage.

Sibley won the state Class AAA baseball title in 2016, but has struggled in several sports in recent years. However, its sports facilities are not the only reason for that. For example, football is a tough sport for the Warriors because they are bunched in a district with St. Thomas Academy, which is one of the best teams in the state this year; Hastings, whose only loss was to STA; Park and Apple Valley. The Warriors' football roster has 54 kids listed. It's a workable number, but one that leaves head coach Tom Orth and his staff with little margin for error in case of injury.

Having a new stadium on campus isn't a guarantee of future success. However, teams that can't play on campus often struggle to keep students interested. The scheduled work

at Sibley is long overdue in order for its teams to stay up to speed with the competition.

The anti-Whalen/Mauer

It was noted here a while back that we have a couple of wonderful role models for young athletes to emulate in Lindsay Whalen and Joe Mauer. But if I remember my high school science classes correctly, for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. Consider exhibit A: Jimmy Butler of the Minnesota Timberwolves.

There's no doubt about Butler's skills on the court. All you had to do was watch the team's season opener in San Antonio to appreciate his shooting and passing ability as well as his passion for the game. In the 21st century, however, playing ability is only part of the package. If you're a jerk who clearly is only interested in himself, you're eventually going to bring your team down with you. Butler held up the team in training camp, made only a couple of practices, did an odd interview with ESPN and didn't play in any games.

In the season opener, he acted as if missing most of training camp was no big deal and spun the 112-108 loss as best as he could with statements like: "We came up short. You learn from these. We got to lock in tomorrow."

Money may motivate a lot of folks, but the game is still played by humans with feelings. If they feel the guy with the ball is in it only for himself, they'll have a hard time working with him when a game is on the line.

The options aren't pretty here. Either keep Butler, who'll be the focus of the media at every game, even when he doesn't play, or jettison him for what you can get and risk a losing season and likely losing fans.

It makes you appreciate the Whalens and Mauers of the world all the more.

Dave Wright is at dwright53@msn.com.

27◀ SOCCER PLAYOFFS

ballhandlers and they couldn't get through."

Against Apple Valley in the section semi-finals, the Minutemen again showed how they can impose their will on an opponent. The Eagles got only two shots on goal all night, while the Minutemen got goals from seniors Aiden Cavanaugh and Danny Barrett that proved to be more than enough.

Albornoz took the opportunity to tout the talents of Cavanaugh, a midfielder who the coach said did not get sufficient consideration for Mr. Soccer honors this fall. Still, he said, anyone who has played with or against Cavanaugh realizes just how good he is.

Visitation loses

The Visitation soccer team's season ended with a 2-1 loss to Holy Angels in the Section 3A final on October 18. The top-seeded Blazers were hoping to sustain some momentum after besting South St. Paul 2-1 in the semi-

finals. They also defeated Burnsville 2-0 in the previous round on Ella Hinkemeyer's two goals with assists from Katherine Jones, and Sarah Strub's four-save shutout.

In the final, the Blazers managed 11 shots against Holy Angels goalie Greta Forseth, but she held them to just one goal despite a late-game push to tie the score.

Visitation took third place in last year's state Class A tournament and started this year with an eight-game winning streak. Its only losses heading into this fall's sections were 2-1 to Holy Angels and 3-2 to DeLaSalle.

Other section playoffs

The Cretin-Derham Hall girls lost in their Section 6AA title match, dropping a tough 1-0 game to top-seeded Wayzata on October 16. The Raiders had a great turnaround season after finishing with just five wins in 2017.

St. Thomas Academy also fell short in its attempt to return to state with a 3-1 loss to Holy Angels in the Section 3A final on October 18.

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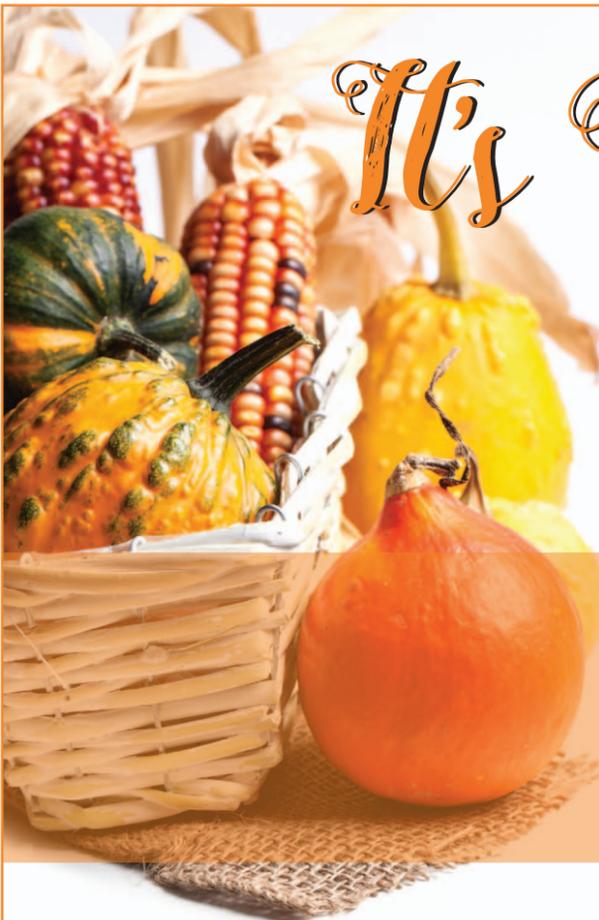
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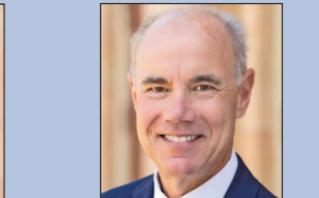
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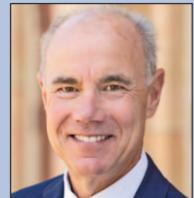
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