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## Council OKs budget with 6.5% boost in spending

By JANE MCCLURE

St. Paul's 2019 city budget and property tax levy won unanimous City Council approval on December 12, capping one of the most contentious city budget processes in recent memory. Spending an additional \$900,000 on nine additional police officers was a flashpoint for many of the 150-plus people who attended the council's budget and Truth in Taxation hearing on December 5.

"This isn't the youth-first, community-first vision we looked for," said Hamline-Midway resident Laura Jones, an organizer with the group Root and Restore St. Paul. She and others said the city should be spending more on youth services rather than cops.

Highland Park resident Ann Mongoven said that in the wake of Mayor Melvin Carter's series of budget hearings with citizen groups, the police hirings suggest that city

2019 CITY BUDGET ►3



**Passing the stress test.** Sophomore Tiaryn Daniels was among students who took advantage of therapy pets at the University of St. Thomas library on December 13 to help reduce the strain of finals week. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

## HDC board backs Ryan Co.'s changes to Ford plan

By JANE MCCLURE

Amendments to the Ford site master plan as proposed by master developer Ryan Companies received a mixed response from the Highland District Council (HDC) board of directors on December 6. The board voted 11-7 in support of the four amendments, and the 60 people attending the meeting appeared to be overwhelmingly in favor of the changes. However, some board members were sharply critical of Ryan's desire to alter some of the land uses, add parking and reconfigure some streets.

"We want something different in this neighborhood. We're not trying to be Centennial Lakes," said HDC board member Kristine Grill, referring to another Ryan Companies development in the Twin Cities.

St. Paul city staff have also objected to some of Ryan's amendments, demanding adherence to the master plan adopted by the City Council more than a year ago.

FORD SITE PLAN ►2

### CITY BEAT

St. Paul prohibits pet shop sales of cats and dogs to combat bad breeders ►5

### ON THE TOWN



Soup's on! ►17

### ON REZONED MARSHALL

BZA OKs conversion of student rental home into duplex ►6

### GIRLS' BASKETBALL PREVIEW



Calling it like they see it ►20

### WALKING THE WEST END

Pedestrian safety measures sought near Keg & Case ►10

|                        |    |
|------------------------|----|
| VIEWPOINT.....         | 8  |
| DISTRICT COUNCILS..... | 11 |
| CRIME REPORT .....     | 14 |
| KIOSK.....             | 15 |
| BUSINESS BRIEFS.....   | 16 |
| CLASSIFIEDS .....      | 22 |

## Doula of death: Easing the passage to the next life

### Whitlock offers spiritual calm before the dying

By JANET LUNDER HANAFIN

Jane Whitlock's husband of 25 years died on Christmas night five years ago. He had been diagnosed with cancer four months earlier. "Even though he was in a hospice house and fully supported medically, I felt like I was alone," Whitlock said. "No one ever looked at me and said, 'How is this going for you?'"

As she reflected on that devastating time, she realized how unprepared she was for the death of her spouse. "I wished there had been a calm and reassuring presence by my side, someone who had experience with dying, who could help connect me to the moment and prepare me for what

was to come," she said.

Struggling to deal with her own loss and help her children through their grief, the Macalester-Groveland woman decided she did not want to continue working as a school athletic director. "I wanted to know why I was put here," she said. "I decided to follow my intuition. It led me to study everything I could about grief and death and dying, and then I found out about end of life doulas." That, she decided, was her calling.

The term doula comes from the modern Greek word for servant or helper. Americans tend to see death as a failure, Whitlock said, even though death is part of the natural order of life. A death doula, she explained, "is a non-medical person who provides physical, emotional and spiritual support to people who are dying and their caregivers."

Whitlock attended a training program called Doulagivers in New York, became certified and

launched her own business. She soon realized that "nobody knows what a death doula is, and no one is going to call me," she said, so now she regularly offers programs about the role of a death doula.

"Imagine if we treated birth the way we do death," she said in a recent Ted Talk. People would tend to ignore a pregnant woman. They would be uncomfortable talking about her condition, hesitate to mention her forthcoming birth or what to expect with a new baby. "That is the way we treat death," she said.

Americans of a century ago dealt with death on a more personal level, Whitlock said. Bodies were often washed and prepared for burial by a family member and laid out at home for visitation. Graves may have been dug by family or friends.

END OF LIFE DOULA ►3

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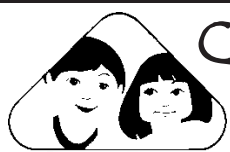
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## County Board adopts 2019 budget

BY JANE MCCLURE

The property tax outlook in St. Paul is coming into focus with the adoption of 2019 levies by the city's three taxing jurisdictions.

The Ramsey County Board approved its 2019 budget on December 11. It includes a 4.4 percent increase in property taxes for general government and a 7.8 percent increase in property taxes for the Regional Rail Authority. Both measures passed 6-1, with Commissioner Janice Rettman casting the lone "no" votes.

The St. Paul City Council approved a 10.5 percent increase in its property tax levy on December 12 (see story on page 1.) Meanwhile, the St. Paul School Board was poised to adopt a 3.9 percent increase in its regular levy on December 18 on top of the \$18.6 million increase in the school district's excess operating levy that St. Paul voters approved on November 6. That raises the school district's overall levy increase to close to 16 percent.

"The thing of it is, it's tough times out there," said Rettman just prior to the County Board's vote. Her district, which includes St. Paul's North End, Frogtown and Payne-Phalen neighborhoods, has seen some of the biggest increases in home market value over the past year and will be seeing some of the highest percentage property tax increases in the city.

### 1◀ FORD SITE MASTER PLAN

However, audience members on December 6, who were not allowed to comment on the HDC discussion, were invited to ask questions and several people said they like the master plan as amended by Ryan. They questioned why anyone on the HDC would oppose it.

"I fully endorse the Ryan plan," said Paul Mason, a 54-year resident of Highland Park. "Ryan is a homegrown developer, and isn't going to put forward a plan that's going to fail." If the City Council does not agree to the amendments, he added, "we're going to end up with a developer from who knows where."

Minneapolis-based Ryan Companies was chosen in June by Ford Motor Company to serve as the master developer of the 122-acre site of its former assembly plant in Highland Park. After five months of due diligence and a series of public meetings, Ryan proposed a plan that keeps the city's master plan largely intact but includes several significant changes.

The amendments include about three dozen single-family homes rather than mansion-style apartment buildings along Mississippi River Boulevard, and three-story rowhouses rather than taller apartment buildings on the west side of the manmade stream that runs north and south through the development.

The larger single-family houses along Mississippi River Boulevard could still be split into as many as four units, according to Tony Barranco, Ryan's senior vice president for development. In fact, much of what happens with those homes and the 3,700-plus other housing units on the site depends in large part on market demand and the development partners that Ryan brings in, he said.

Ryan's amended plan includes 35 single-family homes, 270 rowhouse or townhouse units, 2,250 market-rate apartments, 710 affordable apartments, 400 senior apartments and 80 condominiums. The total of 3,745 homes is down from the 4,000 new homes envisioned by the city's master plan.

Ryan would like to build more structured parking in the area closest to Ford Parkway, increasing the maximum limit on parking from one space for every 400 square feet of gross floor area to one space for every 200 square feet of gross floor area. One of Ryan's goals is to concentrate the commercial and visitor parking in one area of the site, Barranco said, so that traffic is more concentrated. Still, every block on the site, other than the

The tax increases are "too much," said Rettman, who after 20 years on the County Board lost her seat in the November 6 election.

The county's general operating levy will rise from \$299.3 million in 2018 to \$312.4 million in 2019, a \$13.1 million increase. Property taxes make up about 42 percent of the county's revenue. The rest is from federal and state funds, fees for service and other sources.

The county's general operating budget is increasing 3.3 percent in 2019, to \$737.8 million. With no major new programs or staffing changes, the budget increase is largely driven by inflation and increases in salaries and benefits. Other factors are a growth in some social services programs, the expansion of early voting, and the decision earlier this year to add correctional officers at the jail and workhouse.

The county's 2019 capital budget includes the ongoing replacement of cooling systems in ice arenas and the \$11 million replacement of the Dale Street bridge over I-94.

The tax levy for Ramsey County's Regional Rail Authority will be increasing from \$22.52 million in 2018 to \$24.27 million in 2019. That money will help pay for ongoing studies of the proposed \$2 billion Riverview streetcar line between downtown St. Paul, Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and the Mall of America and a transit connection from the Riverview line to Highland Village and the Ford site.

parks and open spaces, will have some structured parking.

A fourth request is to remove a section of Hillcrest Avenue between Cretin Avenue and Finn Street and to add a new north-south street. The city had proposed extending Hillcrest through the Highland Village Center. However, Barranco said, it does not make sense to disrupt what is an "active, thriving shopping center."

Without the four amendments, Barranco said, redevelopment of the Ford site is not feasible. Ryan Companies "will not proceed with the project without approval of these requests," he said.

The additional off-street parking raised the most debate among HDC board members. Some said the request is reasonable, while others said that adding parking is contrary to their vision for the site.

Ryan's plan "encourages driving," said HDC board member Sally Bauer. "Ford Parkway is already a disaster."

"We're out in the community working with retailers," Barranco said. "They won't go into this project if they don't have adequate parking. Our concern is that we'll have vacant buildings."

Ryan's plan calls for a total of 5,490 parking spaces in the development, all of it in ramps or included in multifamily residential or commercial buildings. Developers consider parking to be a "loss leader," Barranco said. "We lose money on every parking stall we build." But without it, businesses will not lease space in a development. "We'll lose the entire project if we cannot provide parking," he said.

The issues surrounding parking demand and traffic congestion at the Ford site will become clearer once the alternative urban areawide review is completed. The AUAR is scheduled to begin in January. It will examine and makes predictions about a wide range of potential environmental impacts.

The master plan was developed with an eye toward encouraging the use of mass transit, Barranco said. One idea under consideration is to build parking structures so that they can be converted to residential, retail or office uses in the future, he added.

The St. Paul Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Ryan Companies' amendments to the Ford site master plan on January 25. The Planning Commission's recommendation on the master plan amendments will then be reviewed by the City Council for a final decision.



## 1 ◀ END OF LIFE DOULA

Much of her job as a death doula is listening, Whitlock said. She uses guided meditation or recalling life experiences to calm the dying person and those who are close to him or her. She talks with those who are dying about their concerns to help them express any regrets or unspoken gratitude and plan for a ceremony of remembrance.

She will also offer respite care for primary caregivers or bring in a nourishing meal for the family of the dying or sit with the person who is dying if others do not feel up to the task. She can coordinate communications with medical practitioners to make sure the wishes of the dying and his or her family are followed.

People often do not realize they have options between an all-out attempt to prolong life and “giving up,” Whitlock said. She may suggest palliative care to make the dying person as comfortable as possible and to promote cherished memories of his or her last days for those who are left to mourn.

“One of my clients has young kids, and she is worried about what she can do to get her kids and her spouse ready,” Whitlock said. She helped another client make mantra pillowcases for her children with sayings on either side of what she would tell them in the morning when they woke up and at night when she tucked them in bed.

Whitlock can help families create a game plan for the hard times following death. That way birthdays, anniversaries and holidays can become times of sustaining remembrance. “The place at the table where the person used to sit can be hard,” she said. “What do you do about that gaping space?” One client thought of making a place mat with comments the deceased always said. Her family could take turns sitting in her place and reflect on what was to come.

“People who are grieving feel so isolated, and people who are dying feel so isolated,” Whitlock said. “We aren’t very good at creat-

ing a sacred space for people.”

Heather Niocora, who is a reporter for National Public Radio, hired Whitlock recently when her mother’s health took a sudden downturn leading to her death. Whitlock suggested ways for Niocora and her mother to find comfort in a time for which few people are prepared. “Jane said, ‘Just sit with her,’” Niocora said. “She taught me that if you are patient enough you will capture moments of beauty even in the darkest of times.”

As a result, Niocora has wonderful memories of her mother in her final days. “I sang to her, read poems, lit a candle by her bedside,” she said. “I gave her a crystal heart to hold, and now I hold it. These are things I wouldn’t have thought of.”

Whitlock did everything from spiritual guidance to practical guidance to good home cooking. “I couldn’t remember the last time I had eaten, and she dropped off a casserole,” Niocora said. “She was like a butterfly that lit down among us from time to time. I was very grateful to have her as a part of the process.”

Melissa Mosedale was distraught when her father-in-law, who had been in ill health for some time, decided to die and stopped eating and drinking. “I felt like he was abandoning us,” Mosedale said.

Whitlock counseled the family to honor his decision. “Jane talked me through it,” Mosedale said. “She told us to stroke his head, touch him a lot, make him feel comforted. She has been through it, and knows what she is doing. She is just incredible.”

Whitlock calls herself a death educator. “The primary role of an end of life doula is to be comfortable talking about death, opening a door for people,” she said. “I provide a sense of calm and peace at a time when everything seems to be falling apart.”

“I meet with a family after a terminal diagnosis, or with a parent who is starting to fail, and ask, ‘What do you want from this time you have left?’ Death is going to happen. The way we choose to die is our final gift to our family.”



End of life doula Jane Whitlock poses beside an altar she created as a memorial to her grandmothers. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

## 1 ◀ 2019 CITY BUDGET

leaders were not listening. “We need to look at moving toward a community-first safety mode,” she said.

Earlier this year, St. Paul Police Chief Todd Axtell asked Carter for 50 more police officers. The 2019 budget expands the Police Department’s ranks from 626 to 635 sworn officers. That includes three new officers focused on mental health and six new officers to fill jobs left vacant with the promotion of officers to new police commander posts downtown and in the sex crimes unit and the assignment of four new investigators to handle a backlog of property crimes cases. The backlog of cases in the sex crimes unit were cited during budget talks. Investigators in that area handle almost 250 cases a year.

City Council members said they will continue to address concerns about community-police relations. Ward 2 council member Rebecca Noecker said she wants more police as well as more community accountability. “I

don’t think it’s an either-or situation,” she said.

The city budget increased by \$37 million or 6.5 percent from 2018 to 2019—from \$569 million to \$606 million. The city’s property tax levy increased by 10.5 percent—from \$141.2 million to \$156 million. That is down about \$1.5 million or a full percentage point from Mayor Carter’s proposed budget. The savings were realized by shelving police vehicle purchases and continuing to use Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) funding reserves to support the city’s Department of Planning and Economic Development (PED). PED has drawn on such HRA funds as property sales proceeds to support its operations for several years.

Carter and City Council members praised the 2019 budget for meeting key needs, such as affordable housing, more police and police mental health officers, and more opportunities for youths and families. The budget eliminates fines for overdue library materials, provides money for bike and pedestrian improvements, and spends \$333,000 on a new

Office of Financial Empowerment to help the city’s neediest residents gain and maintain financial security.

In drafting his first budget as mayor, Carter held a series of listening sessions this summer with citizens and the representatives of more than two dozen civic groups, including housing, parks and social justice advocates, economic and community development organizations, immigration groups, Black Lives Matter, the St. Paul Bicycle Coalition and the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill.

Several people at the December 5 budget hearing spoke for increased spending on recreation centers and legal services for immigrants. Some praised the city’s additional spending on housing, especially the \$10 million to expand affordable housing and beef up the housing trust fund.

John Slade, an organizer for the Metropolitan Interfaith Coalition on Affordable Housing (MICA), said the levy increase is “really the only tool the city has to maintain quality.”

Eric Hauge, executive director of Home-

line, a housing resource program, said the budget will help the 2,500-plus households in St. Paul who face eviction every year.

The HRA tax levy for 2019 was trimmed from a proposed \$4.5 million to \$4.1 million in support of an HRA budget of about \$61 million in 2019. Mayor Carter and the City Council are committed to spending \$71 million on affordable housing over the next three years. The HRA budget also includes \$1.8 million to promote several cultural districts around the city, \$625,000 for the Open for Business initiative for small businesses, and \$300,000 for the business assistance program Full Stack St. Paul.

The 2019 budget includes \$2.75 million in street, sidewalk and bike improvements and \$1.4 million in recreation programming and facilities. Another \$523,000 will go toward expanding basic life support services in the Fire Department to assist with lower-priority medical calls. The budget also provides \$100,000 to help immigrants who are facing legal issues.

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## Council OKs design for bike, walking trails on old rail spur

By JANE MCCLURE

A preliminary design for repurposing the old Canadian Pacific Railroad spur through the West End and Highland Park neighborhoods of St. Paul with new bicycle and pedestrian trails and possibly mass transit was unanimously approved by the City Council on December 5. While it could be many years before the trails are available for public use, the preliminary design will guide future design and engineering work along the five-mile corridor.

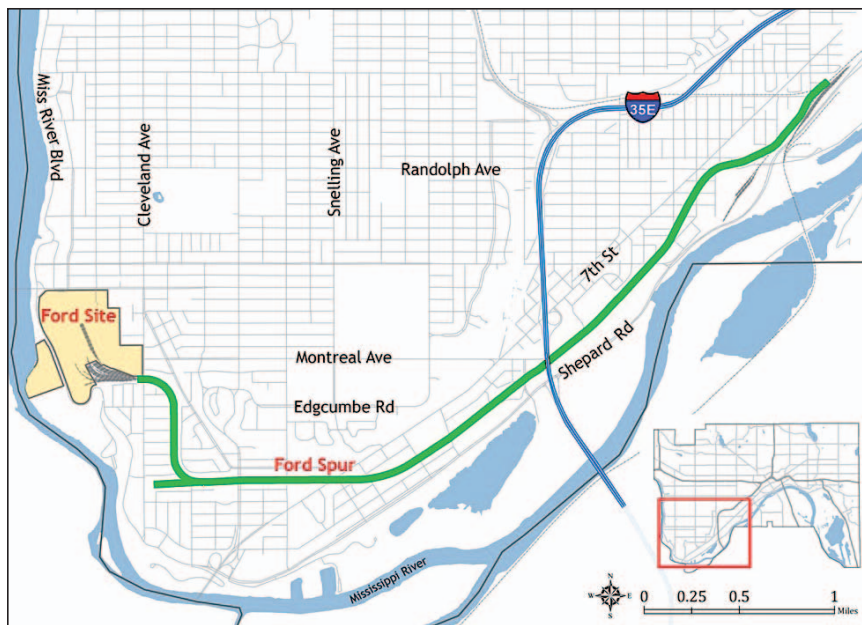
Ward 3 City Council member Chris Tolbert praised the design and the course it sets for future development. "I think this lays out a really good road map for the project," he said.

The railroad spur extends from the former Ford Motor Company plant in Highland to a point near St. Clair Avenue and West Seventh Street where the spur connects to other railroad lines. It was built to serve Ford and other industries along West Seventh, though it has not seen much use since the Ford Plant closed seven years ago.

The cost of the project has been estimated at \$12.4 million with bike and pedestrian trails and \$13.1 million if mass transit is included. Those figures do not include the cost of purchasing the property from CP Rail. CP Rail has indicated that the rail line is still considered active and has not commented on the prospects of spur reuse.

St. Paul city planner Mike Richardson cautioned that the approved design is "very preliminary" and should be considered as nothing more than a foundational document. "Much more detailed work needs to be put into this," he said.

Decisions remain on whether the city or county would acquire the rail property, what type of transit it could accommodate, and what its capital and operating and maintenance budgets would be. Land ownership and the transit mode chosen would determine the strategy for funding the project.



The St. Paul City Council has approved the preliminary design for a new bike and pedestrian trail along the route of a largely unused railway between the former Ford Plant in Highland Park and the east end of St. Clair Avenue.

The preliminary design of the Ford spur transit corridor had its challenges, including the changing topography and the variety of adjacent land uses. The spur extends through several residential, commercial and industrial areas, between back yards and close to homes. The width of the railroad right-of-way ranges from less than 50 feet to more than 70 feet. The proposed two-way bike trail ranges from 10 to 12 feet wide, and the pedestrian path from six to 10 feet wide.

During two years of planning, the project has met a largely favorable response. The West Seventh/Fort Road Federation supports reuse of the spur solely as a bicycle and pedestrian route. The Highland District Council supports its reuse for bikes, pedestrians and transit.

The project has the support of Ryan Companies, the master developer chosen for the Ford site. While Ryan is currently focused on the 122-acre Ford site and is not in formal talks with CP Rail regarding the spur, the development team is very interested in the spur project, according to Tony Barranco, Ryan's senior vice president for development. "We think (the new transit corridor) would really enhance the Ford site," Barranco said.

Bicyclists have embraced the proposed route as a convenient commute to and from downtown St. Paul. Others have been excited about the recreational

opportunities with bike and pedestrian connections to local parks and other trails. One idea that members of a planning advisory committee suggested is some kind of bike and pedestrian bridge where the spur crosses West Seventh Street near St. Paul Avenue. However, the bridge would add about \$8 million to project costs.

Only one person testified at the City Council hearing on December 5. Highland resident Jim Schoettler, who is active in transit and transportation issues, said the key to paying for the project could be routing a portion of the proposed Riverview transit line along the spur, through the Ford site and to a new crossing over the Mississippi River, rather than having Riverview cross the river near the Highway 5 bridge.

The study of a new transit route connecting the proposed Riverview line along West Seventh Street to Highland Village and the Ford site is scheduled to get underway in 2019. That transit connection could follow the Ford spur or neighborhood streets.

The Riverview line would connect downtown St. Paul, Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and the Mall of America. A modern streetcar has been proposed for the Riverview line using downtown streets, West Seventh Street, the Highway 5 bridge and a portion of the light-rail Blue Line (see story on next page.)

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# St. Paul bans pet shop sales of cats and dogs to combat bad breeders

By JANE McCLURE

Dogs and cats cannot be sold at pet shops in St. Paul as the result of an ordinance adopted unanimously on December 12 by the City Council. The intent is to discourage the sale of pets from large-scale commercial operations that are often accused of breeding animals in poor conditions and producing pets with health and behavioral problems.

Ward 2 council member Rebecca Noecker authored the ordinance, which is similar to those found in almost 300 other cities around the country. In Minnesota, Roseville and Eden Prairie have similar rules.

Noecker said "there's been a lot of passion" expressed in the comments the city has heard regarding the ordinance, which she said will protect animals from harm and consumers from disreputable breeders. She added that it is not her intent to punish those who raise and breed dogs and cats responsibly.

"I don't think pet stores are the bad guys," she said. "I think that puppy mills and kitten mills are the bad guys."

The ordinance states that pet shops in the city cannot sell, deliver, barter, auction, give away or otherwise transfer or dispose of cats or dogs. It also says that it is not the city's intent to prevent people from working with reputable breeders, where the buyer can have direct contact and see the conditions in which animals are bred.

The new rules do not affect pet supply stores like the Highland Petco at 2277 Ford Pkwy., which has worked with rescue groups to host adoption days for animals who need new homes. Such collaborations with animal shelters, animal rescues and animal control authorities will still be allowed, though the pets must be more than 8 weeks old.

A public hearing on December 5 drew dozens of calls and emails to council members, with some including pictures of dogs rescued from puppy mills. Several dozen supporters of the ordinance, including representatives of the Animal Humane Society and animal rescue groups, attended the hearing. They were

joined by pet owners who have adopted animals from disreputable breeders.

In one case, a family bought a pet that they later learned came from a puppy mill. The puppy became ill while being transported home from a pet store, and died soon after it was adopted. Other speakers described animals kept in small cages, who never got to walk on grass until they were rescued.

"Pet stores operate like a curtain that shields the puppy mills from view," said Christine Coughlin, Minnesota director for the Humane Society of the United States.

Kathy Mock of the Animal Humane Society said the conditions that animals are bred and raised in can be "heartbreaking." The society has four locations, including one in St. Paul, and three full-time agents who work on mistreatment and cruelty cases.

"We see a number of medical and behavioral issues" with animals bred in poor conditions, said Dr. Graham Brayshaw, a veterinarian and director of animal services at the Animal Humane Society. Speakers said ill animals also can pass along diseases to humans.

Only one person testified against the ordinance. Kristin Smith, who owns Four Paws and a Tail in Blaine, described her pet shop as the last of its kind in the Twin Cities. "A lot of these ordinances are passed on feelings, rather than facts," she said.

She said her store works with a reputable breeder and though it is not directly affected by the St. Paul ordinance, Smith is concerned about the effects it will have on anyone wishing to operate a pet store the city.

The council also received a letter of opposition from the American Kennel Club, which said it does not want to see reputable dog breeders penalized.

Although a handful of St. Paul stores specialize in reptiles, fish or birds, St. Paul currently has no traditional pet shops where an array of creatures and pet supplies are sold. The last remaining shop, Petland in the Sun Ray Shopping Center, closed in February. That store had drawn numerous complaints about ill animals and concerns about how the dogs and cats sold there were bred.

## Riverview transit gets another hearing

By JANE McCLURE

The Metropolitan Council is seeking public comments on the locally preferred route and mode of transit for the proposed Riverview Corridor line between downtown St. Paul, Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and the Mall of America.

Modern streetcars were recommended last year as the preferred mode of transit for Riverview by the cities of St. Paul and Bloomington and the counties of Hennepin and Ramsey. These local governments also chose a preferred route. However, the Met Council still needs to amend the region's long-range Transportation Policy Plan to reflect those decisions.

Much of the 12-mile route would be on West Seventh Street in St. Paul. However, the streetcars would use the Green Line's light-rail tracks in downtown St. Paul and the Blue Line's light-rail tracks in Hennepin County. The new tracks would cross the Mississippi River on a new bridge near Highway 5 and pass through a new tunnel under Fort Snelling.

While modern streetcars have been touted as less disruptive than larger light-rail trains, West End residents and business people are still concerned about the loss of parking and increased traffic congestion on West Seventh.

Ramsey County is the lead agency on the \$2 billion project, and it has asked that the locally preferred alternative be amended into the region's Transportation Policy Plan.

That step is needed for the project to move forward. Ramsey County led the pre-project development study for the transit line and will continue to manage the project through environmental review and early engineering work.

The Met Council will hold a public hearing on Riverview at 4 p.m. Wednesday, January 9, in its chambers at 390 N. Robert St. However, public comments may also be made by email at [public.info@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:public.info@metc.state.mn.us); by mail to Public Information, 390 N. Robert St., St. Paul, MN 55101; or by calling 651-602-1500 (TTY 651-291-0904). The public comment period closes at the end of the day on January 21.

The Riverview Corridor Task Force, a group made up of members of the West Seventh/Fort Road Federation and the West End Business Association, will hold a public meeting on transit service at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 30, at the Palace Community Center, 781 Palace Ave.

According to federation board president Becky Yust, the meeting has been planned as a facilitated community conversation rather than a public hearing. The intent is to gather information about the neighborhood's short-term and long-term transit needs.

It could be 14 years before the Riverview line is up and running, according to some estimates.

"We just can't have everybody put things on hold," Yust said. "We need improvements now."



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# Marshall rezoning leads to doubling of students next door

## BZA OKs conversion of a student rental home into a duplex

By JANE MCCLURE

In the wake of the large-scale rezoning of west Marshall Avenue earlier this year, a single-family home at 2097 Marshall Ave. that is registered as a student rental is being converted to a duplex, potentially doubling the number of student renters on the property.

The St. Paul Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) on December 3 granted father-son developers Jon and Max Schwartzman a side-yard setback variance to allow the duplex conversion, meaning the property could be home to as many as eight students.

More than a dozen Merriam Park residents attended the BZA hearing to oppose the variances. They argued that allowing the conversion could potentially double the problems associated with student rentals, including late-night noise and parking and traffic congestion. The Union Park District Council's Land Use Committee had recommended denial of the variances.

The new duplex is located on an 8,950-square-foot lot, more than the minimum 6,000 square feet required for a duplex. However, the minimum sideyard setback is 9 feet, or 3.3 feet more than the existing setback of 5.7 feet.

The property was rezoned from single-family to low-density multi-family housing as part of the recent rezoning of Marshall from Hamline Avenue west to the Mississippi River. The new zoning would allow the

Schwartzmans to tear down the five-bedroom house and build a new, four-unit apartment building with up to 20 residents without any other zoning changes or variances.

According to Max Schwartzman, a duplex with four bedrooms per unit would have fewer negative impacts on the surrounding area than a four-unit apartment building. However, the project has some Merriam Park residents wondering how many more registered student rental homes could be converted to duplexes.

According to Jerome Benner II of the BZA staff, there is only one other registered single-family student rental home on Marshall that has had its underlying zoning changed and could be made into a duplex. Registered student rental certificates are issued for a property, and properties that are converted from single-family to duplex use do not need a second certificate, Benner said.

The portions of Merriam Park and Macalester-Groveland that are closer to the University of St. Thomas are covered by a student housing zoning overlay district that establishes a minimum distance requirement of 150 feet between off-campus student rental homes and duplexes. More than 260 homes and duplexes in this area are registered as student rentals. Many of the properties were grandfathered in before the overlay district took effect in 2013.

Landlords have referred to the certificates as "the golden ticket." They can make a property more valuable, according to Teresa Fisher Boardman, a Realtor who has worked with property owners in the overlay district.

The Schwartzmans, who tore down two houses last year at the northeast corner of Marshall Avenue and Moore Street are now constructing a five-story, 16-unit apartment building there, said they have fought the battle over density with Merriam Park neighbors before. "This is nothing new," Jon Schwartzman said. "We've heard the issues before. The reality is, there's a housing crisis. We're trying to have a sensitivity toward the neighbors."

The house at 2097 Marshall is in good shape, the Schwartzmans said. The only visible change with the duplex conversion will be the second front door, Max Schwartzman said. The existing open front porch will remain, they added.

The developers weighed many options for the property, but decided that renovating the existing house as a duplex was the "most conscientious option," Max Schwartzman said. "This is the best use for us and for the neighborhood. The area has been rezoned, and

it's inevitably going to change."

"We're excited about this property," Jon Schwartzman said. "It's a good house and it will be a good house for tenants."

Neighbors contended that the Schwartzmans started work on the duplex conversion before the variances were approved because there was a dumpster behind the house. The developers denied that claim, however, saying they were disposing of old appliances.

The neighbors said the property was already being listed on websites as a student rental duplex for the 2019-20 academic year, at \$3,000 per month for one unit and \$2,750 for the other unit.

"We're not embarrassed to say we're in this to make money," Jon Schwartzman said.

"Doubling the capacity of students next door will have a definite impact on our quality of life," said Anne Squire, who lives next door. She is the third generation of her family to live in that home.

One finding the BZA must make in granting a variance is that a property owner will have practical difficulties in meeting the zoning code. Neighbors disputed that being the case. "There is not practical difficulty in keeping this as a single-family home," said Lillian Hang, who also lives next door.

Allowing the duplex conversion would alter the character of the neighborhood, according to David Sill, who has lived in a nearby home for the past 45 years. "It would add to the parking and noise problems we already have on our block."

Dan Taylor, who recently stepped down as president of the UPDC board of directors, said the board has called the stretch of Marshall between Cretin and Cleveland avenues a potential concern for upzoning and a doubling of the number of registered student rental houses. He pointed out that the demand for housing will be more acute next school year as St. Thomas demolishes a dormitory and a faculty apartment building to make way for two new dormitories on campus.

BZA members said they understood the neighbors' sentiments against more student housing, but that the developers' request met the requirements for variances.

"This does allow for the preservation of an existing structure," said BZA member Thomas Saylor.

"For me, it's a question about what is better, to maintain an older home or to totally maximize the density possible on the site?" said BZA member Luis Rangel-Morales.



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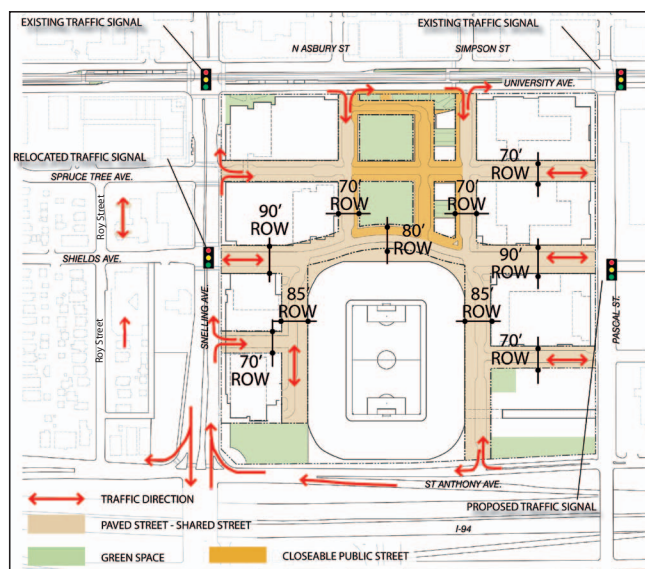
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The vision for the traffic flow around Allianz Field from the 2016 master plan, with the possible addition of Roy Street as a two-way between Spruce Tree and Shields avenues.

## Traffic plan still evolving around new Allianz Field

By JANE MCCLURE

A proposal to convert a one-block stretch of Roy Street between Spruce Tree and Shields avenues from a one-way to a two-way street won support on December 10 from the Union Park District Council (UPDC) Transportation Committee. The recommendation will go to the full district council on January 2.

The change is part of a larger traffic plan for the new Allianz Field soccer stadium that is scheduled to open on Snelling and St. Anthony avenues next spring, said Elizabeth Stiffler of the St. Paul Department of Public Works. Roy was made a north-bound one-way street in 1967, though Stiffler said records do not show why. According to committee member Pete Clasen, the change was made in response to construction of I-94 so Roy would not become a cut-through street for motorists seeking a faster route to the interstate.

Though the section of Roy eyed to become a two-way is small, it could mean big changes for the adjacent neighborhood. It is part of a larger residential permit parking district. The block has three houses and an apartment building on the west side and Bethlehem Lutheran Church on the east side. Roy is used for on-street parking by Bethlehem as well as nearby Central Baptist Church.

The committee's support came with conditions. One is that parking on both sides of the Roy block be retained. The second is to improve signage. Committee members said the signs on University Avenue that direct motorists to turn south on Fry Street to reach Spruce Tree should be looked at and possibly removed. Spruce Tree has long functioned as a bypass for motorists to avoid the Snelling-University intersection, which is one of the busiest and most polluted in the state.

The City Council will hold a public hearing and final vote on the street configuration. That process is expected to take about 60 days. Property owners along the street will be notified prior to the hearing. If the change is approved, signs will go up in the spring.

Only a few neighbors attended the Transportation Committee meeting. The Reverend Joel Lawrence, senior pastor at Central Baptist, said he understood why the change to Roy was proposed, but he still had concerns. He said on-street parking must be retained on Roy, since both churches use it on Sundays. He also said better signage is needed as well as attention to traffic speeds. Committee members asked Public Works to monitor those issues after the change to Roy is approved.

Street issues tied to construction of Allianz Field have been a bone of contention between city officials and UPDC. A year ago, the district council passed a resolution outlining its values for pedestrian safety in connection with the stadium project, especially at Spruce Tree Drive and Snelling.

The UPDC asked the city and state to consider a well-marked, unsignalized pedestrian crossing with a refuge median on Snelling and Spruce Tree. Instead a long median and fence were erected on Snelling with a small gate at Spruce Tree that will only be open on game days. The traffic signals at Spruce Tree and Snelling came down several weeks ago, with new signals installed at Shields and Snelling last week. Shields will be extended west to Pascal Street and will front the new stadium.

One reason for the change to the one-block stretch of Roy is access to the Spruce Tree Centre parking ramp at the southwest corner of Snelling and University. Since the retail-office building opened in 1988, vehicles could access its parking ramp by turning from Snelling onto Spruce Tree. However, the median and removal of signals now prevents that.

## Even Santa has to update his formal wear

(61% of Villager readers\* plan on purchasing men's apparel over the next 12 months.)

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# Viewpoint

## City could stop the howling by scaling back organized trash

BY REGINA PURINS

The city of St. Paul is peeing on our leg again. It has rejected a valid petition for a referendum on Ordinance 18-39, the ordinance setting up organized trash collection. City Attorney Lyndsey Olson said that repealing the ordinance would interfere with a valid and legally binding contract and violate state law. But if placing the petition on a ballot violates state statutes, then why did the City Council put it to a vote, with one council member, Dan Bostrom, voting to allow the petition to move forward? A prohibitive state statute would render any vote, for or against, meaningless.

Although Minnesota Statutes 443.28 and 115A.94 give cities the authority to organize trash collection, neither statute requires it. The City Council has said that it cannot undo its contract with the consortium of trash haulers, yet the city encountered no difficulty in undoing our own trash contracts with those haulers. As St. Paul Ordinance 18-39 reads, “All previous private contracts between solid waste haulers and RDUs (i.e., us) became null and void on October 1, 2018.”

As I see it, the City Council has three choices:

1. Allow the trash petition to move forward to a referendum.
2. Address the issues that are the most offensive by amending Ordinance 18-39 to allow the sharing of carts among the tenants of multifamily buildings and among the residents of single-family homes and allow residents to opt out of the program.

The city can do this under Minnesota Statute 115A.941: “A city or town...may exempt a residential household or business...from the requirement to have solid waste collection service if the household or business ensures that an environmentally sound alternative is used.”

Why was the trash contract set up with no provisions for sharing carts or opting out? My guess is, it was a signing incentive. It was like the shepherd calling to the wolves, “Hey, boys, fresh sheep! Never been fleeced! All yours if you sign on the dotted line.” But don’t expect city officials to own up to this. Instead, they will say something like, “We did this out of fairness to all of our residents.” In rebuttal, I would point to the apartment buildings of five or more units: They still get to share a dumpster. As for solving the problem of illegal dumping, sharing carts is not illegal dumping.

3. The City Council’s third choice is to defend its organized collection program in court. I’m not a lawyer and will not personally bring suit, but there are plenty of people who may do just that, and they are welcome to any of my suggestions.

The city may have violated Minnesota Statute 115A.94, Subd. (4c): “The governing body must provide public notice and hold at least one public hearing before deciding whether to implement organized collection.” Even if the city held a public hearing, if notification of the hearing was made without a meaningful public announcement, then the public hearing was meritless. My understanding is the notification was buried under other City Council business.

St. Paul officials have stated that one of the goals of the organized trash collection contract was to preserve the market share of small independent haulers. However, of the 15 original members of St. Paul Haulers LLC, only eight now remain. How did the City Council manage to run so many local haulers off the road? That’s easy. The signing incentives made the contracts extremely lucrative. So much so, that the biggest wolves wanted an even bigger bite.

Under Minnesota Statute 115A.94, a city that organizes trash collection and the organization of trash collectors are both immune from liability under state laws relating to antitrust, restraint of trade, unfair trade practices and other regulation of trade or commerce. In other words, they can collude to their stomachs’ content.

If I were the City Council, I would pick Door No. 2 above and use the superpowers it assumed under Ordinance 18-39 to claw this thing back. The haulers will be steamed, but with a revision, they won’t so much be losing money as simply not making the killing they were initially promised.

Regina Purins is a resident of Highland Park.



## Inbox

### A seat at ‘Christmas Dinner’

Once again the *Villager* and writer Roger Barr gifted me with “A Simple Christmas Dinner” (*Villager*, December 5). As a senior citizen who lives alone and by choice enjoys my Christmas alone with my personal traditions, I can yet appreciate those who are more social than I am and who enjoy the company of others on Christmas. So the narrative in Barr’s 2018 Christmas story—about touching lives in moments that just flow in connecting with others even accidentally but God-created—is beautiful and heartwarming.

I commend those who reach out to others or are available for the moments that wind themselves into connections. Roger Barr’s “A Simple Christmas Dinner” is a gift to us all and has added a rich dimension to my Christmas season.

Thank you, Roger!

Helen T. Kock  
Highland Park

### Whitewashing history

The temptation to change a narrative to suit one’s sense of history is nothing new. The St. Paul City Council’s recent appeal to paint over the murals in the council chambers not only indicates their desire to create a narrative that reflects what they feel is currently relevant, it reflects their painfully short memory.

One wouldn’t have to go far to see how shortsighted they are being. In fact, they’d have to go no further than the state Capitol. Ask the City Council to investigate how much was spent to uncover a mural in the basement during the recent renovation of the Capitol. The mural in question was painted over in a moment of patriotic fervor during World War I when its German subject matter was deemed backward and questionable. With the perspective of the passing years, people were able to appreciate again the mural’s inherent value as a work of art. There was even a sense of amusement at the fear that generated such rash behavior in the first place. Apparently, this understanding does not extend to our current City Council.

It seems childish and narcissistic for City Council members to think that the only story that should be reflected in art is their own. Art often presents a historical perspective and uncomfortable ideas. The city would do well to understand the difference between art and propaganda. If they really

want to document their current agreed upon narrative, maybe they can paint another room in City Hall. It will offer everyone a fabulous contrast.

Michelle Berg  
Macalester-Groveland

### Save the murals, fill a pothole

Dear St. Paul City Council, quit looking for a problem. We don’t need you to be our purveyors of virtue and social justice. You have been voted into office to represent us and make sure our city runs efficiently and in our best interests. We don’t need you telling us that 80-year-old artwork in our City Hall is all of a sudden offensive and somehow racist.

You are purportedly responding to concerns that the images of Indians and blacks are outdated and unwelcoming and must be replaced with something more representative of the times. Those “concerns” are undoubtedly generated by yourselves or some guilt-ridden white progressive that has nothing better to do. Do your jobs. Leave your agendas at the door and perhaps read about the history of the artist who painted those phenomenal murals and why he painted everyday workers and their relation to the progress of this city in the 1930s.

As for the \$34,000 that was so readily available to rewrite history, fill a couple of potholes, please.

Todd Muntifer  
Highland Park

### Money makes the city go ‘round

So where’s the big surprise that the single-family houses proposed by Ryan Companies for the Ford site will have prime views of the river? (*Villager*, November 21) It has nothing to do with transition into the surrounding neighborhood. It’s all about money. Them that has the most get the best. And naturally, the city is griping about having fewer homes on the site than originally planned because they won’t have as large a tax base.

Why couldn’t those prime river views be allocated to cohousing or to the people with fewer resources who will be living in the affordable housing units? The joy of a better view might add immensely to those whose lives are not filled with lots of frills. As for the plans for the development along the



## 8◀ INBOX

downtown riverfront, same thing (*Villager*, December 5). It's about the money. This site was formerly occupied by West Publishing and the Ramsey County Government Center and jail—too nice a view for the likes of them. So those serviceable buildings were torn down.

The jail, built in 1979 at a cost of millions of dollars and awarded multiple architectural awards for innovative design and stellar integration into its river bluff site, could have been converted to office space. Or it could've been converted to safe, secure housing with 160 beds for the homeless—at the same time the Dorothy Day Center was building a facility with approximately that many beds for homeless people.

This city is eradicating notable parts of its history. And it's all about money. It's always about money.

**Kathleen Deming**  
Macalester-Groveland

## Pleased with the trash pickup

We are well into the city's revamped trash service. Being retired, and with an alley facing my home office, I have been able to observe the change firsthand. Yes, I'm sad we lost our old service, Ken Berquist and Son Disposal, but our service now is working well. They are timely, and now I see one rubbish truck a week, not the seven or eight we once saw. What an improvement in alley wear and tear, noise, pollution, safety and congestion.

**Bob Brereton**  
Macalester-Groveland

## High taxes, perilous potholes

I called St. Paul City Council member Chris Tolbert's office twice in the past three months to complain about potholes, higher taxes and the clear-cutting of ash trees in our neighborhood without the planting of replacement trees. Twice I was promised by one of his assistants that Mr. Tolbert would call me. I haven't heard back from him.

I have no problem paying taxes, but I need to see these monies being used to improve the quality of the roads. We should be ashamed of the state of the city's roads. It's the first thing my out of town visitors comment on: "Are we still in a civilized place?" When I called Mr. Tolbert's office, his assistant was incredulous, wondering where the potholes were. They were on Hamline Avenue near Randolph Avenue.

Winter has not officially started, yet the potholes are here and our city representatives are in hibernation.

**Gerard Engelen**  
Highland Park

## Parking for a revamped 9-hole

I've lived in Highland for close to 50 years, and I'm in favor of the Highland 9-Hole course being used for as many activities as the space allows. I'm also a golfer and will miss the convenience, but it is not serving the majority of St. Paul citizens and especially the youth.

As for the solution to parking, I would suggest a four-story parking ramp on the southeast corner of Montreal Avenue and Edgumbe Road. That space is used very little anyway. The parking ramp would also serve the Highland Pool and Circus Juventas. Additional surface parking in the vicinity of Highland Park High School's football field could serve both the high school games and new park activities.

A bigger picture for the city would be to take all of the property between Snelling, Edgumbe and Montreal and come up with a full-blown master plan with better fields to provide both the school and other Highland organizations more space to participate.

**Bob Jackson**  
Highland Park

## A study in citizen apathy?

St. Paul residents: Your property taxes will not be going down anytime soon, and from what I witnessed at two of the three Truth in Taxation hearings, you don't care. Two people showed up at the St. Paul School Board's tax hearing on December 4. At the city of St. Paul's tax hearing on December 5, one person stood up to say that St. Paul could not afford any type of tax increase. Another thanked the City Council for raising our taxes.

I hope the City Council heard what one of the last persons to speak said: Don't do any studies to figure out if there is a problem. Just listen to the people for what is going on; they know. Doing a study will give you the same answers, but it will be too late to fix it.

**Mark Lehner**  
West End

## Our new ghetto

Please expand the picture on page 8 of the December 5 issue of the *Villager* to a full page. In the artist's rendering of Ryan Companies' amendment of the Ford site master plan, you will notice the faces of the good people of St. Paul aghast at the enormity of the project and the lack of a huge park along river road. Highland Park in 20 years will have to be renamed Robin's Roost, Chickadee Acres, Ryan's Folly or Our New Ghetto.

**T. Knowles**  
Merriam Park

## Still smoking after all these years

Santa waving a cigar in the air: Is this your choice of the new modern Santa? (*Villager* advertisement, December 5). What were you thinking? Or were you thinking? When tobacco smoking, which includes cigars, is known to be a health hazard both to the smokers and to the people who are forced to breathe their pollution, you chose to promote smoking. Why? Are the *Villager's* managers closet smokers who want to be able to smoke everywhere and force their noxious habit on nonsmokers?

**Stephanie Digby**  
Hamline-Midway

## Do write, won't you?

The *Villager* welcomes letters to the editors and longer guest editorials. To be considered for publication, however, all commentary must be signed, include a telephone number for verification purposes and indicate the neighborhood in which the writer lives. You may email your letter or guest editorial to the *Villager* at [letters@myvillager.com](mailto:letters@myvillager.com) or send it to our offices at 757 S. Snelling Ave., St. Paul, MN 55116. The *Villager* edits all commentary for grammar, spelling and length. To spare yourself the unkind cut of the editor's pen, keep your commentary brief and to the point.

# VILLAGER

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**Maurice F. Mischke, 1920-1991**

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# Pedestrian safety measures sought near Keg & Case Market

By JANE MCCLURE

The testing of pedestrian safety improvements along West Seventh Street will continue next year under the direction of the St. Paul Department of Public Works and the West Seventh/Fort Road Federation. The federation board voted on December 10 to have the city install a temporary safety measure at the intersection of West Seventh and Toronto Street. Meanwhile, temporary safety measures will remain in place at the intersections of West Seventh and Perlman Street and West Seventh and Goodrich Avenue.

The West End is the first neighborhood where the city has conducted such tests. The goal is to make the improvements permanent if local residents and business people agree that they work and if funding can be found.

The streets around West Seventh can be

especially challenging for pedestrians to cross because of the angles of the intersections, and federation officials have clamored for safety improvements for years. Several years ago, a pedestrian who was crossing West Seventh near James Avenue was struck by a car during a federation board meeting nearby. Board members rushed out to help, but the pedestrian died of her injuries.

Pedestrian safety improvements are especially needed near the new Keg & Case Market, located in the old Schmidt Brewery keg house at 928 W. Seventh St. The market's two dozen restaurants and small vendors have drawn huge crowds in the first few months. Patrons often park in the neighborhood and cross West Seventh on foot. But with the closest semaphores several blocks away, many try to cross the busy street without the benefit of a traffic light.

Federation board members requested the new improvement at Toronto Street because it is closest to the Keg & Case patio entrance. Just how the pedestrian crossing will be improved will be determined by Public Works street design staff.

The temporary improvements at Perlman and Goodrich have been the subject of a survey on the city's website since they were installed in June. A temporary corner bumpout at West Seventh and Douglas Street was removed in November to allow for winter street maintenance. A temporary pedestrian median at West Seventh, Armstrong Avenue and Bay Street was also removed in November.

Federation board members discussed on December 10 which of these pedestrian safety initiatives they would like to see made permanent. The testing of these improvements and the response of local residents and business

people will inform future capital expenditures by the city.

Temporary bollards will remain in place at the intersection of West Seventh and Victoria Street, according to federation board president Becky Yust. They serve to extend the corners and shorten the crossing for pedestrians. However, board members suggested that new parking restrictions be considered as a way to improve sight lines and prevent traffic accidents as vehicles turn from Victoria to West Seventh.

Permanent pedestrian safety improvements typically happen when a street is reconstructed or receives a new mill and overlay, according to Fay Simer, pedestrian safety coordinator in the Department of Public Works. West Seventh is a state highway, and the Minnesota Department of Transportation has plans to do a mill and overlay project there in a few years.

# Cretin Avenue safety improvements recommended by UPDC

By JANE MCCLURE

New strategies for slowing traffic on Cretin Avenue in Merriam Park are en route to the St. Paul City Council and Department of Public Works. The Union Park District Council (UPDC) adopted the recommendations on December 5. The proposals were drawn up by the UPDC's Cretin Avenue Working Group, which was organized a year ago to identify problems and possible strategies for making Cretin safer for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists alike.

Among the recommendations are widening the sidewalk on the east side of Cretin, installing new signs to remind motorists to watch for pedestrians, and devising a safer pedestrian median at Cretin's intersection with

the entrance ramp to eastbound I-94. Adding a sidewalk or trail on the west side of Cretin between I-94 and Marshall Avenue and consolidating the bus stops there are other suggestions.

Several suggestions were made for the intersection of Cretin and Marshall, including more visible crosswalk markings, better bus shelters, and installing sidewalk ramps that are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act and "walk" signals that let pedestrians start crossing before traffic is allowed to go. A pedestrian median has been recommended for the intersection of Cretin and Dayton Avenue. The UPDC is also asking the city to consider redesigning Cretin between Marshall and Summit avenues to improve the safety of pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists.

According to the St. Paul Police Department, more than 50 traffic accidents occurred over the last 18 months on the half-mile of Cretin between Marshall and I-94. Five of the accidents involved injuries and five were hit-and-runs.

Cretin is a major thoroughfare between I-94 and the neighborhoods to the south. Though it is only 40 feet wide in most places, it carries about 26,000 vehicles per day between I-94 and Marshall, according to a 2012 traffic count, and over 15,000 vehicles per day between Marshall and Grand Avenue, according to a 2014 traffic count.

The posted speed limit is 30 mph. The segment north of Marshall was 35 mph; however, the St. Paul City Council voted in June to ask the Minnesota Department of Transportation

(MnDOT) to reduce the speed limit there to 30 mph.

Merriam Park residents have complained for years about high traffic volume and high speeds on Cretin. Cars come off the freeway ramps at 50 mph or more and maintain that speed on Cretin, they say. Crossing Cretin on foot can be challenging, especially north of Marshall. The sidewalks there are narrow or nonexistent.

MnDOT is working on a proposal to redesign segments of the I-94 corridor, and members of the Cretin Avenue Working Group would like the state to improve traffic flow on Cretin at the same time. MnDOT is considering rebuilding the interchange between I-94 and Highway 280, and that could add as many as 3,000 vehicles per day on Cretin.

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The Bill Lindsay family, with deep roots in Highland, have owned Soapy Joe's Car Wash, 1340 West Seventh Street, Saint Paul, for more than seven years. Two of the four children, daughter Ali Gloege and son Joe, operate the business.

Recently, the full-service facility temporarily closed for an upgrade. The place has been retooled, redesigned, redecorated and reopened. It is, again, welcoming customers, old and new.

"When we say we own a family car wash," noted Gloege, "people don't always understand what that means. I can tell when customers have had a horrible day. They feel comfortable opening up to us, especially when we greet them at the car. It's really fun when insanely dirty cars come in, because when you see how they leave, it's kind of a day-maker for everybody."

Why? Perhaps it's the marble-tiled walls in the wash bays. Maybe it's the children's play area in the waiting room. It could be because Soapy Joe's uses eco-friendly Zep car wash products and new technology. More than likely, it's the smiling faces on the Soapy Joe's crew members who know their customers and love their jobs.

Bill Lindsay has been in car wash chemicals sales for decades. He has wanted to own his own shop for years. To him, a successful business depends on connections among clients, customers and staff. He has passed along his personal and professional values to his children.

Joe Lindsay said, "I think we were lucky enough to have parents who have instilled



Soapy Joe's Car Wash general manager Joe Lindsay and company marketing director Alison Gloege.

in us the importance of building relationships with different people. Shaking hands builds an impression and makes customers feel they are part of something."

Lindsay added, "What really drives our success has been our employees. They reinforce the sense of community that we bring to Soapy Joe's. These guys get up in the morning, and instead of saying 'I have to go to work,' they say, 'I get to go to work.'"

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# District Council News

## Highland Park

highlanddistrictcouncil.org • 651-695-4005

**Neighborhood Honor Roll**—Nominations for up to three candidates whose outstanding contributions have made Highland Park a better place to live are now being sought for inclusion on the St. Paul Neighborhood Honor Roll. A celebration honoring the nominees from all 17 district councils will be held on Friday, January 25, at the University of St. Thomas. Nominations should be submitted to the Highland District Council by January 4. Visit the HDC website under “events” to obtain a nomination form.

**Cleveland Avenue fire**—A fire broke out on the top floor of a three-story apartment building on the 500 block of South Cleveland Avenue around 1:15 a.m. Friday, December 7. One person was taken to the hospital for an injury that was not life-threatening. Two of the units were destroyed and a third was severely damaged. A fundraiser has been set up for the tenants at [gofundme.com/support-for-our-neighbors-in-the-fire](http://gofundme.com/support-for-our-neighbors-in-the-fire).

**Holiday office hours**—The Highland District Council office will be closed from December 24-January 1 and will reopen on Wednesday, January 2.

**Upcoming meetings**—board of directors, 7 p.m. Thursday, January 3; and Transportation Committee, 7 p.m. Tuesday, January 8. All meetings are held at the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy.

## Macalester-Groveland

macgrove.org • 651-695-4000

**New director sought**—The Macalester-Groveland Community Council is accepting applications for a new executive director. Liz Boyer, who has served in that position since May 2014, will be leaving at the end of the year to take a job in the advancement department at Macalester College. Applicants for the executive director position are encouraged to submit their resumes by December 21 for best consideration. Learn more at [macgrove.org/ed-job-posting](http://macgrove.org/ed-job-posting).

**Calling all creative types**—The community council is looking for people to submit T-shirt designs that represent the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood. The winning design

will be printed on shirts that will be sold to the public. The submission deadline is December 31. For full contest details, visit [macgrove.org/2019tshirt](http://macgrove.org/2019tshirt).

**Frost Fest 2019**—The 11th annual Frost Fest will be held from 1-3 p.m. Saturday, January 19, at Groveland Park. The winter celebration will feature free hot chocolate, ice skating, games, treats from Nothing Bundt Cakes and more. Free skate rental will be provided by the Groveland Recreation Center.

**Neighborhood Honor Roll**—Nominations of outstanding Macalester-Groveland community members and volunteers are being sought for inclusion on the St. Paul Neighborhood Honor Roll. The inductees will be honored during a citywide celebration in January. Email [mgcc@macgrove.org](mailto:mgcc@macgrove.org) with the names of nominees and why they should be recognized.

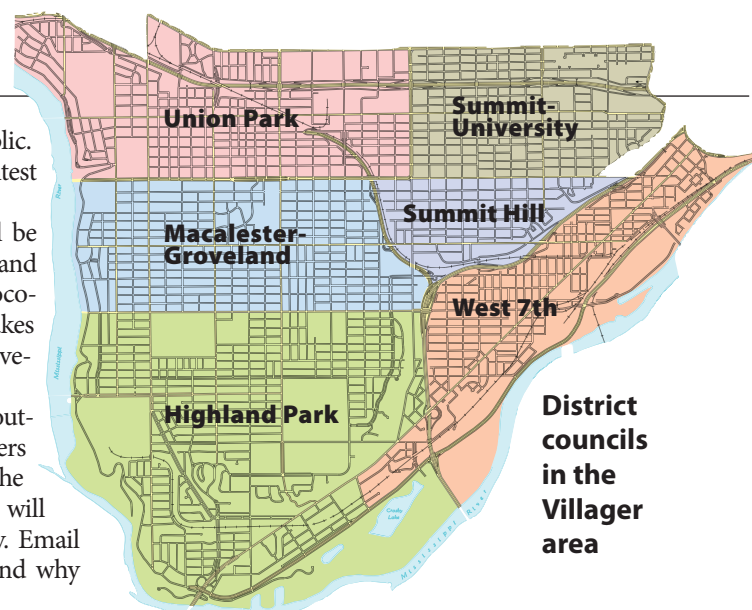
**Home Improvement Fair**—Registration is now open for businesses and organizations that want to participate in the Macalester-Groveland & Highland Park Home Improvement Fair. The 27th annual fair will take place from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, March 16, at Cretin-Derham Hall, 550 S. Albert St. Visit [macgrove.org/hif2019](http://macgrove.org/hif2019) for a registration form.

## Summit Hill

summithillassociation.org • 651-222-1222

**Neighborhood Honor Roll**—The Summit Hill Association is seeking nominations for inclusion on the St. Paul Neighborhood Honor Roll. This year, one honoree will be selected from each of three categories—individuals, businesses and organizations. Email nominations to [info@summithillassociation.org](mailto:info@summithillassociation.org), or visit the SHA website citing the name of a nominee for each group and including a brief statement about why they should be recognized. Nominations will be accepted until the end of the year.

**SHA book club**—The association is inviting residents to participate in a neighborhood book club in 2019. The club was inspired by the Read Brave St. Paul intergenerational reading program. During four monthly meetings, the club will read and discuss books related to the theme of housing. The first will be *Evicted* by Matthew Desmond at 7 p.m. Tuesday,



District councils in the Villager area

January 22, at the Linwood Recreation Center, 860 St. Clair Ave. It will include a discussion about housing insecurity. Childcare, food and beverages will be provided. For details and to sign up, visit the SHA website.

## Union Park

unionparkdc.org • 651-645-6887

**Neighborhood Honor Roll**—Every year, the Union Park District Council recognizes outstanding community members or groups from the area for inclusion on the St. Paul Neighborhood Honor Roll. The inductees will be honored during a citywide celebration in January. Email [brandon@unionparkdc.org](mailto:brandon@unionparkdc.org) by December 28 with suggestions for this year's honorees.

**Upcoming meetings**—board of directors, 7 p.m. Wednesday, January 2, Otto Hall at Episcopal Homes, 1860 University Ave.; Transportation Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, January 14, 1821 University Avenue, Suite 127; and Environment and Parks Committee, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 16, 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 @UnionParkDC and subscribe to its e-newsletter, “Neighborhood Matters,” by emailing [alexa@unionparkdc.org](mailto:alexa@unionparkdc.org).

## Tis' the season for holiday cheer and shopping



### Winterberry Kisses Bouquet

Like walking through a winter forest, this gorgeous holiday gift delights the senses with bright Christmas blooms and a beautiful, hand-blown glass cube with frosted finish and magical dusting of glitter. Flowers include red roses, red spray roses, and white button spray chrysanthemums arranged with dusty miller, variegated holly, noble fir, white pine, and birch. Delivered in a Winterberry Kisses cube.

Approximately 12" W x 11" H

**\$54.99**

### Halls of Holly Centerpiece

The holiday table shines with this festive centerpiece of roses and winter greens, artfully arranged inside an oven-to-table stoneware serving dish that's hand-painted with a classic holly motif! Flowers include white roses, miniature red carnations, and white button spray chrysanthemums are accented with flat cedar, variegated holly, and white pine. Delivered in a Halls Of Holly dish.

Approximately 17 1/2" W x 16" H

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| Sat | Dec 22 | 8am to 5pm  |
| Sun | Dec 23 | 10am to 5pm |
| Mon | Dec 24 | 8am to 4pm  |

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## CHRISTMAS 2018 AT HOUSE OF HOPE

### Monday, December 24, Christmas Eve

4 p.m. Multigenerational Christmas Service

7 and 9:30 p.m. Carillon Recitals

7:30 and 10 p.m. Candlelight Services  
Rev. Dr. Andrew McDonald, preaching

Both Candlelight Services will include Christmas anthems and feature music by the Motet Choir and The Bach Chamber Players. 10 p.m. service also includes Vivaldi's *Gloria*.

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

There is no worship on  
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Visit our website for live-  
streaming of the Candlelight  
Christmas Eve Services.



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## Καλά Χριστούγεννα! Blessed Christmas!

### Monday December 24 Forefeast Eve of Nativity

8 am Royal Hours Service  
10 am Vespertal Liturgy

### Tuesday December 25 Nativity of Our Lord

9 am Orthros Service  
10 am Divine Liturgy

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### December 24

#### Christmas Eve Mass

Lessons and Carols at 4:30 p.m.  
Mass at 5 p.m.  
Celebrant Reverend Doug Dandurand

### December 30

#### Feast of the Holy Family

Mass at 10:30 a.m.

### January 6

#### Feast of the Epiphany

Mass at 10:30 a.m.



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## Christmas Eve Candlelit Services of Holy Communion

**4 PM** (3:45 prelude) – **Intergenerational**  
Childrens' choirs, Pastor Rome Preaching

**6:51 PM** – **Celtic Contemplative**  
Carols & Celtic instruments  
Reflections by Pastor Tomer

**10 PM** (9:45 prelude) – **Festival**  
Chancel Choir, Pastor Tomer Preaching

Pastor Carol Tomer & Pastor Jen Rome  
1935 St Clair Ave, St. Paul • [PilgrimStPaul.org](http://PilgrimStPaul.org)

Sunday Morning Worship 8:30 & 11  
(9:30 Dec 23 & 30)

## Macalester Plymouth

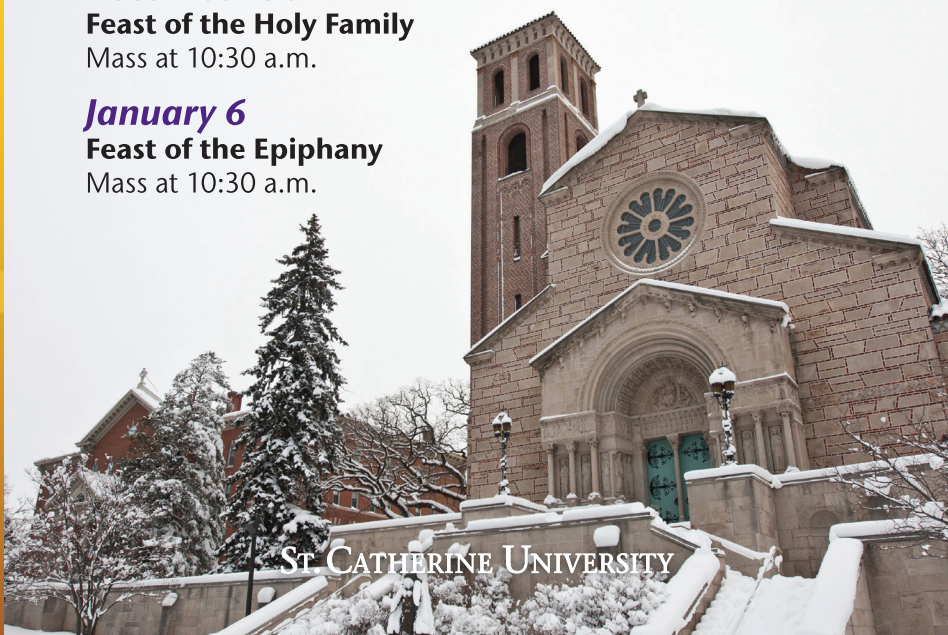
UNITED CHURCH

# Christmas Eve Worship

5pm Family Service with ASL Interpreter

10pm Candlelight Service \* Prelude 9:30pm  
Featuring Antonio Vivaldi's Gloria  
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**A Light in the Darkness**  
A Christmas Solstice service

**MONDAY DEC. 24 - 4:00 PM**  
**Christmas Eve (early)**  
A service for all ages, with candlelight

**MONDAY DEC. 24 - 10:00 PM**  
**Christmas Eve (late)**  
Service of Lessons & Carols



## Christmas Worship

**Christmas Eve:**  
4 pm and 10 pm

With extended  
musical prelude  
before each service

**Christmas Day 10 am**

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10:30 Worship [www.faumc.net](http://www.faumc.net)



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

## Christmas Eve Instant Christmas Pageant for All Ages

Monday, Dec. 24 at 4:00 p.m.

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

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

Holy Eucharist with Organ and Choir

Whoever you are or wherever you are from, you are welcome at St. Paul-Reformation!

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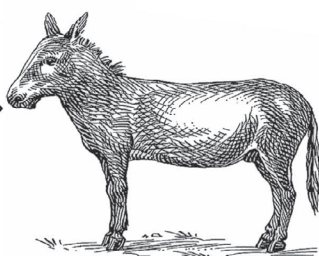
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Meet me in the  
manger! We'll  
have birthday  
cake and a  
party!



## Christmas Services at Area Churches



### CATHOLIC

**Lumen Christi:**  
Christmas Eve Masses at 4:00pm and 6:00pm.  
Christmas Day Masses at 8:30am and 10:30am.

**Holy Spirit:** Christmas Eve Carols at 4:00pm and 9:30pm,  
Mass at 4:30pm and 10:00pm. Christmas Day Mass at 9:00am.

**Nativity of Our Lord:**  
Christmas Eve Masses: 3:00pm (church and school  
auditorium), 4:30pm (church), 6:00pm (church), Midnight  
(church with 11:30pm prelude).  
Christmas Day Masses at 7:00am, 8:15am and 11:00am.



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

**St. Mark's:** Christmas Eve Family Mass at 4:30pm,  
Carols at 11:30pm and Midnight Mass.  
Christmas Day Mass at 10:00am.

**St. Peter of Mendota:**  
Christmas Eve Masses 4:00pm and 8:00pm.  
Christmas Day Mass 10:00am.  
Caroling one half hour before all Masses.

### CATHOLIC cont.

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

### EPISCOPAL

**St. Mary's Episcopal:** Christmas Eve Services  
at 4:00pm and 8:00pm.

### LUTHERAN

**St. Luke:** Christmas Eve at 6:00pm.  
Christmas Day at 9:30am with Holy Communion.

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

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

### PRESBYTERIAN

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

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# Crime Report

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

## Highland Park

**Burglary**—Bakers Square, 2239 Ford Pkwy., was burglarized around 4:27 a.m. Friday, December 7.

**Theft**—A laptop computer and iPad were stolen from a vehicle on Randolph and Snelling avenues the evening of December 1-2. A cymbal bag also was taken from a vehicle there between 10-11:20 p.m. Thursday, December 6.

—Money was stolen from two vehicles on the 1100 block of Bowdoin Street around 4:15 a.m. Monday, December 3.

—An employee's wallet was stolen by a customer at the Superday Gas Station, 2525 W. Seventh St., at 3:02 p.m. Friday, December 7.

—A laptop computer, amp and microphone were stolen from a vehicle on the 2200 block of Ford Parkway around 11:17 p.m. Saturday, December 8.

—A trailer was stolen on the 1800 block of Beechwood Avenue on December 8-9.

—Vehicles were reported stolen on the 800 block of South Syndicate Street on December 7 and on the 1300 block of West Maynard Drive on December 9.

—Framing and trim nail guns, a car organizer and paperwork were stolen from a vehicle on the 1300 block of Juno Avenue during the evening of December 10-11.

**Miscellaneous**—Two tires were slashed on a vehicle at the Highway Motel, 2152 W. Seventh St., at 3:17 p.m. Saturday, December 1.

—Police received a 911 hang-up call from the Watergate Marina around 4:32 a.m. Saturday, December 8, and arrested a 28-year-old man for a DWI warrant. The man was found asleep behind the wheel of a vehicle.

## Lexington-Hamline

**Theft**—Luggage, an iPhone and a checkbook were stolen from a vehicle on Marshall and Hamline avenues between 1-7:15 p.m. Saturday, December 1.

—Two purses with iPhones and a workout bag were stolen from a vehicle on the 1100 block of Selby Avenue at 7:05 p.m. Monday, December 3.

—Vehicles were reported stolen on the 1100 block of Portland Avenue on December 4 and at the Midway Target on December 9.

—A 44-year-old man was arrested for

trying to steal more than \$500 in items from the Midway Target at 7:25 p.m. Monday, December 10. A 40-year-old woman also was arrested for trying to steal a cellphone at the store at 9:16 that same evening.

**Assault**—A 16-year-old boy was arrested for making felony threats after police received a call of a fight at Central High School at 10:45 a.m. Friday, November 30. A fight and an assault also were reported at the school between 10-10:59 p.m. Friday, December 7.

**Weapons**—A 23-year-old man was arrested for possession of a stolen handgun at 8:08 p.m. Saturday, December 1, on Lexington Parkway and St. Anthony Avenue.

—Police received a report that a man was shot near the Dunning Recreation Center, 1221 Marshall Ave., at 10:20 p.m. Sunday, December 2. The victim was dropped off at Regions Hospital.

—A weapon was recovered by a security officer at Central High School around noon Tuesday, December 4. It was turned over to the administration.

**Miscellaneous**—Police responded to a report of drug dealing and cited two people for possession of synthetic marijuana at 12:04 p.m. Saturday, December 1, in the parking lot at White Castle, 1120 University Ave.

## Macalester-Groveland

**Burglary**—Spyhouse Coffee, 420 S. Snelling Ave., was broken into at 4:38 a.m. Saturday, December 1.

—A refrigerator and stove were stolen from a home being remodeled on the 400 block of Warwick Street during the evening of December 10-11. The owner said appliances also were stolen during several other burglaries at the home.

**Theft**—A laptop computer was stolen from a vehicle at Everest on Grand, 1278 Grand Ave., at 8:12 p.m. Tuesday, December 4.

—Backpacks, an iPad, MacBook, Xbox and hard drive were stolen from a vehicle on the 1500 block of Grand Avenue between 8:30-9:30 p.m. Thursday, December 6.

—A vehicle was stolen on Brimhall Street and St. Clair Avenue between December 6-10.

## Mendota Heights

**Burglary**—Two home break-ins were reported on the 1800 block of Walsh Lane at 3:13 p.m. Wednesday, November 28.

**Theft**—Nearly 20 pieces of stainless steel were reported missing from a construction

site on the 2000 block of Executive Drive at 9:42 a.m. Sunday, November 25.

—Keys were taken and used to steal a vehicle at a business on the 700 block of Highway 62 at 9:57 p.m. Wednesday, December 5.

## Merriam Park

**Theft**—A laptop computer, passport and wallet were stolen from a vehicle on Cleveland Avenue and Gilbert Street between 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, December 6.

—A 20-year-old man was arrested for felony theft after police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle on Fry Street and Marshall Avenue at 9:08 a.m. Friday, December 7. A juvenile female passenger was cited for tampering with a motor vehicle.

—A vehicle was stolen on the 1700 block of Iglehart Avenue between December 8-11.

**Weapons**—An officer was sent to Four Season Elementary School, 318 Moore St., around 9:39 a.m. Thursday, December 6, regarding a girl who brought a knife to school and reportedly threatened to hurt another student with it. The knife was confiscated and the girl's parents were notified.

## Snelling-Hamline

**Robbery**—A strong-arm robbery was reported at 8:39 p.m. Thursday, December 6, on the 1500 block of Marshall Avenue.

**Theft**—Tools were stolen from a vehicle on Albert Street and Marshall Avenue during the evening of December 1-2.

—A cellphone was reported stolen on the 1500 block of Hague Avenue at 9:58 p.m. Wednesday, December 5.

—Vehicles were reported stolen on the 200 block of North Hamline Avenue on December 7 and on the 1400 block of Marshall Avenue on December 10.

**Assault**—Two men ages 23-27 were cited for assaulting an employee while attempting to steal merchandise at the Midway Cub Foods at 5:13 a.m. Friday, December 7. A 25-year-old woman also was cited for theft.

## Summit Hill

**Theft**—Laptop computers were reported stolen from two vehicles at Milton Mall, 917 Grand Ave., at 7 p.m. Saturday, December 1.

—Two backpacks with laptop computers, an iPod, iPhone, diabetic monitor and other items were stolen from a vehicle at the Red Rabbit, 788 Grand Ave., between 6-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 4.

—A laptop computer, iPad, glasses, wallet and other items were stolen from a vehicle on the 1000 block of Grand Avenue between 6:39-7:09 p.m. Monday, December 10.

—Multiple computer items were reported stolen from a vehicle on the 900 block of Grand Avenue around 2:40 p.m. Monday, December 10.

**Weapons**—Gunfire was reported in the area of Linwood Avenue and Victoria Street at 1:28 a.m. Sunday, December 9.

**Miscellaneous**—All four tires were slashed on a vehicle on the 900 block of Summit Avenue during the evening of December 7-8.

## Summit-University

**Robbery**—Three females tried to steal beer and threatened to mace employees at Selby Wine and Spirits, 778 Selby Ave., at 9:20 p.m. Saturday, December 8. Staff were able to recover the beer.

**Burglary**—A safe was stolen from J. Selby's, 169 N. Victoria St., around 5:15 a.m. Saturday, December 1.

**Theft**—A trailer was stolen on the 400 block of Portland Avenue between 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, December 1.

—A laptop computer and wallet were stolen from a vehicle at Statera Fitness, 1025 Selby Ave., between 5:45-7 p.m. Wednesday, December 5.

—A bicycle worth over \$1,000 was stolen on the 200 block of Marshall Avenue between 12:49-2:37 p.m. Saturday, December 8.

—A laptop computer was stolen from a vehicle on the 500 block of Selby Avenue between 6:35-8:21 p.m. Monday, December 10.

## West End

**Theft**—Vehicles were reported stolen on the 900 block of Armstrong Avenue on December 1 and on the 900 block of Bayard Avenue on December 10.

—A cellphone was stolen from Sholom Home, 740 Kay St., between 1:30-2:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 4. A wallet also was reported stolen there at 8:25 a.m. Saturday, December 8.

**Sex crime**—Rapes were reported on the 300 block of North Smith Avenue at 10:20 a.m. Tuesday, November 20, and at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, November 29.

**Weapons**—A man was arrested for drug possession and possession of a firearm by a felon on the 800 block of Concordia Avenue at 5:29 p.m. Tuesday, December 4.

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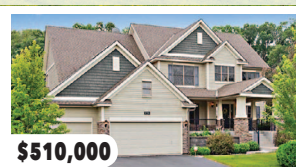
**\$1,495,000**

**ACTIVE** 660 Hidden Creek Trail/Mendota Heights



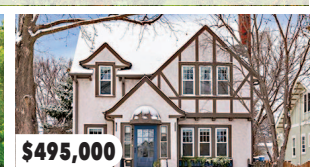
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**JUST LISTED** 1846 Parker Rd/St Louis Park



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**ACTIVE** 17354 Joplin Ave/Lakeville



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**ACTIVE** 4848 Ewing Ave S/Mpls



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**ACTIVE** 2927 Thomas Ave N/Mpls



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**SOLD** 1966 Rome Ave/Highland



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# The Kiosk

## Wednesday/December 19

**HAVE SUPPER WITH SANTA** from 5:30-7 p.m. at the Groveland Recreation Center, 2045 St. Clair Ave. There will be free food, crafts and entertainment by local youths. Bring a camera and take a photo with St. Nick. Call 651-695-3714.

## Friday/December 21

**SAMBA SCHOOL**, a beginning class in samba percussion, will be offered to women and men from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Women's Drum Center, 2242 University Ave. The cost is \$20, instruments provided. To register, visit [womensdrumcenter.org](http://womensdrumcenter.org).

## Saturday/December 22

**THE FRIENDS OF COLDWATER** will lead a full moon walk in the park at Coldwater Spring. The public is invited to gather at 7 p.m. at the park entrance, located off the frontage road southeast of the intersection of Highway 55 and East 54th Street in South Minneapolis.

## Thursday/December 27

**A FREE SUPPORT GROUP** for persons with anxiety disorders meets from 6:30-8 p.m. today and the second and fourth Thursday of every month in Room 108 at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 S. Snelling Ave. For more information, call the National Alliance on Mental Illness at 651-645-2948.



**A jolly happy soul.** Wild Birds Unlimited owner Tony Kurtovich reaches for a card in front of Parker the Snowman No. 33, who was waiting to be found by scavenger hunters during Holiday in Highland on December 8. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

## Friday/December 28

**EMOTIONS ANONYMOUS**, a 12-step program for people who want 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. For more information, call Paul at 651-402-6774 or visit [emotionsanonymous.org](http://emotionsanonymous.org).

## Saturday/December 29

**A ROYAL TEA** will be served by the

Dakota County Historical Society from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the DuPuis House at the Sibley Historic Site, 1357 Sibley Mem. Hwy. in Mendota. The event will celebrate the history of royal teas with an authentic three-course meal paired with a variety of teas and champagne. Admission is \$40 for nonmembers. Call 651-452-1596.

## Sunday/December 30

**THE ST. PAUL HIKING CLUB** will gather for a five-mile hike stepping out at 2 p.m. from the corner of Summit and Western avenues. The group will follow Summit to the Cathedral and continue downtown to Mears Park and Landmark Center. New members are welcome. Call 651-455-0052.

## Wednesday/January 2

**THE CARD CLUB** will gather for games of bridge, 500 and cribbage beginning at 8:30 a.m. at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 S. Snelling Ave. New members are welcome to join in the competition every Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. An optional lunch is served at noon for \$10 per person.

## Thursday/January 3

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

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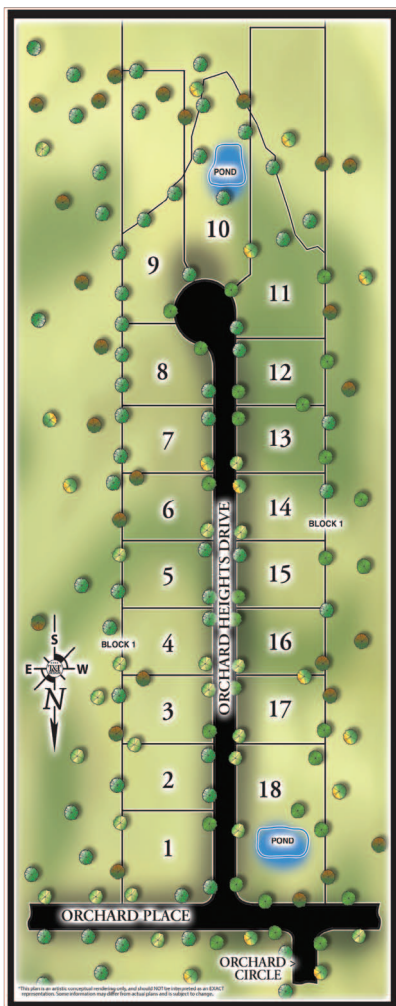


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## Business Briefs

**The Residence Inn by Marriott** opened on December 10 at 200 Grand Ave., adjacent to the oldest firehouse still standing in St. Paul. The five-story, 100-suite inn is designed for stays of five nights or more. Each suite has a large work area and a fully-equipped kitchen with residential-sized appliances. The inn offers free hot breakfast daily, a grocery delivery service, 24-hour onsite food and beverage market, dry cleaning services, and onsite guest laundry room. It also includes a business library, indoor pool, meeting room and fitness center. The hotel was developed by Kaeding Development, and is owned by St. Paul Hotel Ventures and managed by Compass45 Hospitality of Bloomington. The adjacent 1871 fire station is being turned into a wine bar that is set to open next spring.

**Katie Sterns** of Highland Park and her sister Angela Sterns have launched You Betcha! Box as part of their Share Local Love company. The subscription and corporate gift box service features handcrafted food made by small businesses across Minnesota. A portion of the sales proceeds support small nonprofit organizations in Minnesota.

**Flirt Boutique**, 177 N. Snelling Ave., received this year's Choice Award from *Best of Intima* magazine as one of the best lingerie stores in the country. The 10-year-old shop specializes in classic looks reminiscent of old Hollywood glamour.

**United Family Medicine**, 1026 W. Seventh St., has named Melissa Parker as its chief executive officer. Parker had been serving as interim CEO since January.

**The 2018 Twin Cities Indie Business Awards** were presented by the MetroIBA on November 13. Winners were OffiCenters with the Founders Award, Can Can Wonderland with the Emerging Award, Mississippi Market Co-op with the Impact Award, Springboard for the Arts with the Nonprofit Award and Jackie Menne with the Gary Mazzone Award. Visit metroiba.org.

**Jason Koenig**, a Highland Park resident and owner/partner of the Odd Couple Team at Keller Williams Integrity Realty, has been named the recipient of the 2019 Doc Chopp Award from the Grand



Avenue Business Association (GABA). The award is named after William "Doc" Chopp, a Grand Avenue dentist who led a crusade during the 1960s and '70s to make the street more attractive to businesses, customers and residents. Since joining the GABA board, Koenig has served as chair of its membership committee and now is the board president.

**The Minnesota Real Estate Hall of Fame**, established in 2010 by the University of St. Thomas, recently inducted three new members. They include Russ Nelson, a Macalester-Groveland resident and industry ground-breaker who was among the first to exclusively represent tenants; Jim Nelson, who helped spearhead the new U.S. Bank Stadium; and Tom Holtz, a driving force behind industry giant CBRE.

**Brake Bread**, 1174 W. Seventh St., has launched Share the Loaf as a way for the public to give and receive bread freely. Purchased in the store or online at brakebread.com, Loaf Shares are hung by the register and can be exchanged for a free loaf of bread on a first-come, first-served basis. Baker and owner Nate Houge said the idea was inspired by customers who regularly paid for extra loaves and asked the store to find good homes for them.

**The St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce** will hold its 151st annual meeting from 5-9 p.m. Thursday, February 28, at St. Paul RiverCentre. The meeting will include a reception, dinner and program. The keynote speaker will be Mike Roman, the new CEO of 3M. The cost is \$85-\$150. To register, visit tinyurl.com/yatuspbm.

## Names in the News

**Clay Wilkens**, 17, of Troop 9091, sponsored by Pilgrim Lutheran Church, was presented with the Eagle Scout Award on September 25. Wilkens is a Macalester-Groveland resident and a senior at Central High School. His Eagle service project entailed building boardwalks for a marshy path at the Ordway Field Station property that Macalester College owns in Inver Grove Heights.



**Author Marty Haugen** of Eagan and **illustrator Stephen Nesser** of Merriam Park have teamed up to produce *Child of Wonder* (GIA Publications), a picture book that celebrates children and the baptismal and baby-naming ceremonies of six diverse cultures. Haugen wrote the song "Child of Wonder" as a gift for the baptism of his godson, Joshua. The song is sung in many Twin Cities churches at baptisms. Nesser created watercolors for the new book that show six families welcoming their babies in their respective traditions.

**Kim Heikkila** of Highland Park was presented with the Solon J. Buck Award from the Minnesota Historical Society for her article "Unwed Mothers at Booth Memorial Hospital, 1961-63" that was published in the *Minnesota History* magazine in 2017. The award recognizes originality, excellence and creativity in research and writing.

**Bob and Marveen Minish** have received the Minnesota DAR Community Service Award for their years of service to the Sibley Historic

Site in Mendota. In 1996, the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) donated the Sibley, Faribault and Dupuis houses to the state after owning and running the site for 86 years. In the final years of its ownership, Marveen Minish inventoried the thousand of artifacts at the site, while Robert Minish lent his legal expertise to the DAR for the transfer to the state. The Minishes also established the Friends of the Historic Sibley Site. To learn more, visit sibley-friends.org.

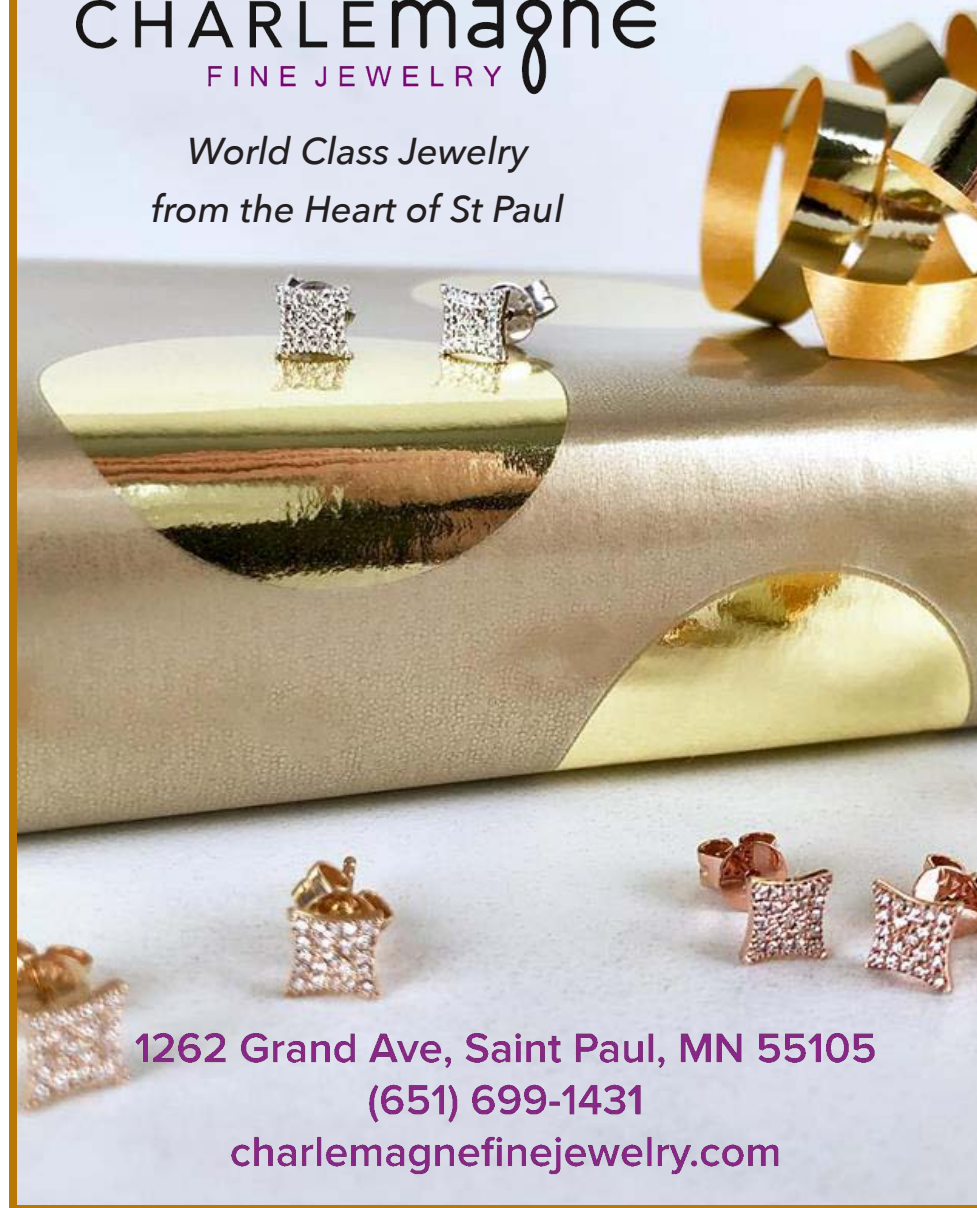
**Jamie Urban**, a Mendota Heights resident and recent Cretin-Derham Hall graduate, has been named the 2018 Miss Minnesota Teen for the National American Miss Pageant. While a Raider, she was an honor student, active on the student council, and played varsity hockey and softball. She now attends the University of St. Thomas.

**Ramsey County Commissioner Toni Carter** recently received the President's Award from the Association of Minnesota Counties for her years of service and leadership in county government. Carter was first elected to the County Board in 2005 and was recently appointed to the Governor's Law Enforcement and Community Relations Council and the Young Women's Initiative. She is the mother of St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter III.

**Matthew Goldade** of Mendota Heights was recently sworn in as a midshipman in the U.S. Naval Reserve at the Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York. He is a 2018 graduate of St. Thomas Academy, where he held the school's highest rank of cadet colonel his senior year.

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# On the Town

## Soup's on!

Grand Ave. serves up 11 delectable ways to ward off the cold this winter

Dixie's on Grand co-owner Peter Kenefick has been dishing out free samples of his restaurant's soups at the past six or seven Grand Meanders. "This year we're going to break a record," he said of the 2018 Grand Meander Soup-Tasting Contest on December 1. "The people were already lined up at 10 a.m. when we started."

The Grand Meander is the traditional start of the holiday shopping season on Grand Avenue, and this year I was asked to be one of the judges of the event's traditional Soup-Tasting Contest. Dixie's, 695 Grand, was the 10th and final stop for the judges. It was around 2:30 p.m., and the Meander's soup giveaway was winding down. However, Kenefick was still pumped as he continued to ladle out samples of executive chef Miguel Salas' Roasted Tomato Bisque to everyone who walked through the door.

"We usually serve about 750, but this year we'll hit 1,000," he said.

The weather on December 1 proved to be the perfect backdrop for soup-tasting: cold and blustery with the threat of a blizzard in the air. We judges started out at the site of last year's winning soup: French Meadow Bakery and Cafe at 1662 Grand. General manager Francois Paradeise escorted the four of us to a table in the packed restaurant. Chef Sam's Tarragon and Red Pepper Soup with leeks and onion was brought out. As thick as pasta sauce, it had a compelling, but slightly bitter taste. All agreed it made a better dip for the yummy bread that was served on the side.

We boarded our transport van and headed east to the next stop, Colossal Cafe at 1340 Grand, which got my award for the Best Soup But for the Bad Timing. Despite its name, the Colossal is on the small side as restaurants go and so it held its soup-tasting on the sidewalk around the corner from the front door. Just as we rounded the corner of the building, a gust of wind nearly blew the clipboard out of my hand. It made all of us anxious to get back in the van, which we did the second we'd had a sip of chef Marcos' Thai Chicken & Peanut Soup.

Truth be told, the Colossal's was the one soup I would've gladly made a meal of. Later, at least one of the other judges agreed with me: The Thai Chicken & Peanut Soup was among the most flavorful of the soups we



### Hot Dish By Morgan Smith

*While I'm not a big fan of yams, Iron Ranger's Roasted Sweet Potato Soup had a seductive, creamy texture. I wouldn't choose it for my last supper on earth, but I had no trouble polishing off the sample we were given.*

sampled. If we hadn't been bowled over by the wind, it may not have won the contest, but I would've enjoyed a second helping.

Our next destination was the Lexington, 1096 Grand. I hadn't had a chance to check out the restaurant's new second-story patio, so I was happy to discover that was where several bundled-up employees were ladling out the Lex's Turkey & Sausage Gumbo with Rice. Taking pity on my shivering hide, one of the servers handed me a hot chocolate. The gumbo was OK, but the hot chocolate was a lifesaver. The Lexington, with its heat lamps, Christmas movie playing on a giant screen and plenty of seating, took my prize for the Best Outdoor Venue.

Iron Ranger, 1085 Grand, provided the biggest surprise at the Grand Meander. While I'm not a big fan of yams, its Roasted Sweet Potato Soup had a seductive, creamy texture. I wouldn't choose it for my last supper on earth, but I had no trouble polishing off the sample we were given.

I'd never been to Himalayan Java Coffee before, but I plan to go back to the restaurant at 949 Grand. However, it won't be because of chef Nareen's Potato & Bacon Soup. The stew was blessed with several nice hunks of bacon, and it was plenty tasty. In fact, it received



The Roasted Poblano Soup served at Brasa Premium Rotisserie, one of 11 entries in the annual Grand Meander Soup-Tasting Contest on December 1. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

the People's Choice Award in the Meander's Soup-Tasting Contest. But it was Himalayan Java's cinnamon rolls that were calling me even as I wrote these words. The rolls are the size of small bread loaves. I almost lost my fellow judges as I lingered open-mouthed beside the bakery case.

A former People's Choice Award winner, St. Paul's United Church of Christ at 900 Summit Ave. gets the Longest Name Award for its Roasted Squash & Apple Soup with Lemon-Parsley Pesto and Yogurt Garnishes. Chef Bruce also gets the Artistic Award for the fancy pesto and yogurt swirls he put in the soup. My cup had a reproduction of Van Gogh's "The Starry Night" on the surface before I dipped my spoon into it.

Chef Juan at Billy's on Grand, 857 Grand, gets the Grand Avenue Soup Tasting's Thank God at Least One Restaurant Served Chili Award for his tangy Pork Chili Verde. Once again, we were sampling the soup outside, but in a place that was somewhat protected from the wind. So we hung around a bit longer than at Colossal.

I wasn't as enthused as the other judges about the Roasted Poblano Soup at Brasa Premium Rotisserie, 777 Grand. But I washed it down with a terrific housemade ginger ale that came just as I was pining for liquid refreshment.

Next, we walked across the avenue to the newly opened Red Rabbit, 788 Grand. We arrived just in time to try the last of executive

chef Todd Macdonald's Roasted Cauliflower and Black Butter Soup. For those who, like me, have never heard of black butter, it's a step beyond brown butter—or what my brown butter usually becomes. The soup didn't taste burnt, so there must be some trick to it.

Our last stop was Dixie's. By this time, all of the walking and the windchill had robbed me of my appetite and probably that of the other judges as well. Dixie's Tomato Bisque was fine, but we were all especially delighted when Saji-Ya agreed to bring chef Noe's Traditional Miso & Seaweed Soup over to us at Dixie's rather than have us get up and walk the 39 steps to neighboring Saji-Ya.

While I'm a big fan of Saji-Ya, I'm not particularly fond of miso. I got the impression the other judges weren't either. It could've been the best miso in the world, and it still wouldn't have risen to the top. Being last is tough in almost any contest, but when it came right down to it, we all agreed that Red Rabbit's Roasted Cauliflower and Black Butter Soup struck the most high notes.

Just as we judges made the decision to give Red Rabbit Best Soup honors, the snow began to come down especially hard. My drive home was miserable. Still, I'm hoping to be invited back as a judge for the Grand Meander Soup-Tasting next year.

Do you suppose they could reschedule it for September?

Just joking—kind of.

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# On the Town Briefly

## Music

**Celebrate Christmas** with Cantus. The eight-man vocal ensemble is presenting the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols re-imagined for the modern day. The concerts will begin at 7:30 p.m. December 20 in the Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas at the University of St. Thomas, 7:30 p.m. December 21 in the Ordway Concert Hall, 7:30 p.m. December 22 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Stillwater, and 2 p.m. December 23 at Hamline Church United Methodist, 1514 Englewood Ave. Ticket prices vary by venue. Call 612-435-0055.

**Twin Cities singer Katie McMahon** will be back with her annual Celtic Christmas show at 7:30 p.m. Friday, December 21, in the O'Shaughnessy at St. Catherine University. Joining McMahon and her band of fiddler Zack Kline, percussionist Marc Anderson and Karen Mueller on autoharp, guitar and hurdy-gurdy will be singers Tim Jay, Erik Pratt and Jenny Russ, Orkestar Bez Ime and the Corda Mor Irish Dancers. Tickets are \$28 with discounts for students, seniors and veterans. Visit oshag.stkate.edu or call 651-690-6700.

**Folk artist Tracy Grammer**, renowned for her pure voice, deft guitar and violin work, and spell-binding stories, will appear in concert at 8 p.m. Friday, December 21, in Weyerhaeuser Auditorium at Landmark Center. Dennis Warner is the opening act. A cocktail hour with a cash bar will precede the show. Tickets are \$25 at the door, \$20 in advance. Call 651-292-3063.

**"A Tudor Christmas,"** joyful music from the courts of Renaissance England and Scotland, will be performed by 12 singers from the Rose Ensemble and harpist Ginna Watson at 8 p.m. Friday, December 21, at Nativity of Our Lord Church, 1900 Wellesley Ave.; 8 p.m. Saturday, December 22, at the Basilica of St. Mary in Minneapolis; and 3 p.m. Sunday, December 23, at Church of the Holy Cross, 1621 University Ave. NE. in Minneapolis. Tickets are \$38, \$28 and \$15; \$10 for students with ID, free for children age 12 and under. Call 651-225-4340 or visit roseensemble.org.

**Trans-Siberian Orchestra** returns with "The Ghosts of Christmas Eve" at 3 and 8 p.m. Saturday, December 29, at Xcel



**A winter warm-up.** Bill Arnold, Bob Stromberg and Michael Pearce Donley star in *Triple Espresso: A Highly Caffeinated Comedy*. The drama recaptures the magic of vaudeville through the reminiscences of a hapless comedian, musician and illusionist. A long-running hit at Minneapolis' Music Box Theatre, *Triple Espresso* is being staged through January 13 with various casts on the thrust stage at Park Square Theatre, 20 W. Seventh Place. Tickets are \$25-\$52.50 with discounts for seniors, children and military personnel. Call 651-291-7005 or visit parksquaretheatre.org. PHOTO BY ANNA EVESLAGE

Energy Center. Paul O'Neill's rock opera tells of a runaway who finds her way into a mysterious abandoned theater. Based on the DVD by the same name, "Ghosts" features such enduring hits as "Christmas Eve/Sarajevo 12/24," "O Come All Ye Faithful," "Good King Joy," "Christmas Canon," "Music Box Blues," "Promises to Keep" and "This Christmas Day." For tickets, visit xcelenergycenter.com.

**"Remembering Bobby Vee,"** the music of the Midwest hitmaker of the 1960s performed by his sons, nephew and grandson, will be presented in concert at 8 p.m. Sunday and Monday, December 30 and 31, at the History Theatre, 30 E. 10th St. Tickets are \$40, \$47 on Monday with a New Year's Eve toast and dessert. Call 651-292-4323 or visit historytheatre.com.

**The Minnesota Orchestra** under the baton of Osmo Vanska will perform works by Bernstein, Copland, Gershwin, Paulus and Harbison in a New Year's Eve concert at 8:30 p.m. Monday, December 31, in Orchestra Hall. Making his debut with the orchestra will be jazz pianist Aaron Diehl in Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue." Tickets are \$50-\$136. Call 612-371-5656.

## Exhibits

**The Minnesota Museum of American Art** has reopened at 350 N. Robert St. with 20,000 square feet for exhibits and educational programs. Its inaugural exhibit, "100 Years and Counting," features a selection of works from the MMAA's permanent

collection. "Softly...Before the Supreme Court," a fiber art installation by New York artist Sheila Pepe, graces the two-story sculpture court. Duluth artist David Bowen has created the multi-media installation "wave line" for the Window Gallery. The MMAA is open to the public free of charge from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday and until 8 p.m. on Thursday. Fifteen-minute Flash Talks by museum interpreters are offered at noon on Fridays and 11 a.m. Sundays. Curator tours will step out at 6 p.m. on December 20 and January 3, 2 p.m. on January 13, noon on January 16 and 2 p.m. on February 2. For information on studio art classes or workshops, call 651-797-2571 or visit mmaa.org.

## Theater

**Elf**, a musical drama about a young boy who is mistakenly transported to the North Pole, grows up a misfit among Santa's elves and returns to New York in search of his father, is playing through December 30 at the Ordway Music Theater. Based on the 2003 movie comedy, the touring production features songs by Matthew Sklar and Chad Beguelin, book by Thomas Meehan and Bob Martin and choreography by Connor Gallagher. Tickets start at \$53. Call 651-224-4222.

**Complex women who find power** in powerless situations strut the stage in Thomas Middleton's *Women Beware Women* and Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure*, running in repertory through December 23 at Gremlin Theatre, 550 N. Vandalia St. Productions of the Classical Actors Ensemble, the plays alternate with shows at 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sunday. Tickets are priced on a sliding scale from \$18-\$40. Visit classicalactorsensemble.org.

**A Hunting Shack Christmas**, a holiday comedy in the spirit of Minnesota, is being staged through December 29 by Actors Theater of Minnesota in the Cabaret at Camp Bar, 490 N. Robert St. It follows the adventures of Charlie, who on the eve of his 10th wedding anniversary heads up north to his hunting shack to take stock of his life. Nick Wolf, Shana Berg, Maxwell Mars, Marci Lucht and John Haynes star. Show times are 7 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and 5 p.m. Sundays. For tickets, priced at \$27 and

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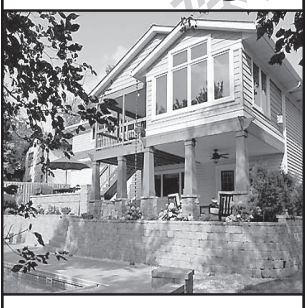
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**Marie & Rosetta**, a musical drama by George Brandt about powerhouse gospel singer and guitar virtuoso Sister Rosetta Tharpe, is playing through December 30 on the proscenium stage at Park Square Theater, 20 W. Seventh Place. Tharpe (1915-1973), who had a strong influence on Elvis Presley, Chuck Berry and Etta James, is being played by Twin Cities singer Jamecia Bennett. Rajane Naturah Brown plays her musical partner and protégé Marie Knight. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$20-\$60 with discounts for seniors, military personnel and those under age 30. Call 651-291-7005 or visit [parksquaretheatre.org](http://parksquaretheatre.org).

## Film

**Trylon Cinema**, 2820 E. 33rd St. in Minneapolis, will screen: *Rock: It's Your Decision* (1982), in which an American teenager attempts to reconcile his loves for God and rock music, and the British short *Doorways to Danger* (1990), about the risks of flirting with the occult, at 7 p.m. December 19 (tickets are \$5); *Forty Guns* (1957) starring Barbara Stanwyck, Barry Sullivan and Dean Jagger, 7 p.m. December 21, 9 p.m. December 22 and 3 p.m. December 23; *China Gate* (1957) starring Gene Barry, Angie Dickinson and Lee Van Cleef, 8:45 p.m. December 21, 7 p.m. December 22 and 4:45 p.m. December 23; director Federico Fellini's *La Dolce Vita* (1960) starring Marcello Mastroianni, Anita Ekberg and Anouk Aimée, 7 p.m. December 23 and 3:30 and 7 p.m. December 25; *Our Man in Havana* (1959) starring Alec Guinness, Burl Ives and Maureen O'Hara, 7 p.m. December 28, 9:15 p.m. December 29 and 3 p.m. December 30; director Billy Wilder's *One, Two, Three* (1961) starring James Cagney, Horst Buchholz and Pamela Tiffin, 9:15 p.m. December 28, 7 p.m. December 29 and 5:15 p.m. December 30; and Billy Wilder's *The Apartment* (1960) starring Jack Lemmon, Shirley MacLaine and Fred MacMurray, 7:15 p.m. December 30, 7 and 9:30 p.m. December 31, and 4, 7 and 9:30 p.m. January 1. Tickets are \$8 unless otherwise indicated. Call 612-424-5468 or visit [trylon.org](http://trylon.org).

**Star Wars: A New Hope**, the complete film with John Williams' score performed live by the Minnesota Orchestra, will be presented on January 3-6 in Orchestra Hall. Sarah Hicks will conduct. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are \$51-\$125. Call 612-371-5656 or visit [minnesotaorchestra.org](http://minnesotaorchestra.org).

## Family

**Highland Park Library**, 1974 Ford Pkwy., will offer the following free programs: Baby Storytime, 10:15 and 11:15 a.m. Wednesdays; Nature Smart, a trading post in natural science and history, 4 p.m. Wednesdays; Createch, high-tech fun for teenagers, 3:30 p.m. Thursdays; Yarn Night, fiber therapy for all ages and abilities, 6:15 p.m. Thursday, December 20; Children's Storytime, 11 a.m. Saturdays and 10:30 a.m. Mondays; Amharic Storytime, 6 p.m. Tuesdays; Mobile Comedy Suitcase, a workshop in how to be funny for children ages 7-11, 3 p.m. Friday, December 28. For information, call 651-695-3700.

**A Charlie Brown Christmas**, a live version of the animated classic by Charles Schulz, is being staged through December 22 at SteppingStone Theatre, 55 N. Victoria St. Directed by Dane Stauffer, it features the talents of SteppingStone youths as well as actor Neal Skoy and pianist Sean Turner. The curtain rises at 7 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and noon and 3 p.m. Saturday. Tickets are \$12-\$18. Call 651-225-9265.

**Merriam Park Library**, 1831 Marshall Ave., will offer the following free programs: Board at the Library, games of Clue, Apples to Apples, chess, checkers and more, 2-4:30 p.m. every Wednesday; Family Storytime, 10:30 a.m. every Friday; You Can Make It, hands-on activities for children ages 7-11, 3-5 p.m. every Monday; a workshop in architecture for children ages 7-11 focusing on the concepts of housing and design, 10:30-11:15 a.m. Thursday, December 27; a workshop giving children ages 12-18 a chance to create a painting about what home means to them, 2-4 p.m. Saturday, December 29. Call 651-642-0385.

**Reindeer Games**, three hours of holiday fun, will be offered from 1-4 p.m. Friday, December 21, at the Edgcombe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St. A variety of seasonal activities and refreshments will be available. Schiffelly Puppets will perform "No Nose for Rudolph" at 3 p.m. Admission is free, but registration is encouraged. Call 651-695-3711.

**See vintage model trains** chugging through a winter wonderland in Night Trains from 6-9 p.m. Saturdays, now through February 23, at the Twin Cities Model Railroad Museum, 668 Transfer Road, Suite 8. The museum's overhead lights will be turned down and the miniature street, train and building lights turned up, giving a warm holiday glow to the landscape. Santa will make an appearance on December 22. Admission is \$15, free for children ages 4 and under. Visit [tcmmr.org](http://tcmmr.org).

**Kwanzaa**, an African New Year celebration, will be held from 12:30-4 p.m. Wednesday, December 26, at the Martin Luther King Recreation Center, 271 Mackubin St. A collaborative art project, live music and spoken-word performances will be featured. Call 651-290-8695.

**Celebrate winter** in the northwoods with art activities, performances, a historical exhibit and an appearance by Paul Bunyan himself between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Wednesday through Tuesday, December 26 through January 1, at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. Admission to the museum is \$12, \$10 for seniors, college students and veterans, \$6 for children ages 5-17. Call 651-259-3000.

## Et cetera

**Celebrate the New Year** with Victorian-inspired food, music, dancing and games from 7-9 p.m. Friday and Saturday, December 21 and 22, at the Alexander Ramsey House, 265 S. Exchange St. Explore three floors of the historic mansion, try 19th-century parlor games and dances, sing along to popular tunes of the era and sample holiday treats fresh from the wood-burning oven. Tickets are \$20, \$18 for seniors and college students, \$10 for children ages 5-17. Call 651-296-8760 or visit [cart.mnhs.org](http://cart.mnhs.org).

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# Sports



## The Wright Call

By Dave Wright

## Defending champs dance to new tune

Normally, Cretin-Derham Hall's 73-59 win at home over Apple Valley in boys' basketball on December 6 might have raised a few eyebrows. After all, it was a rematch of last winter's state Class AAAA title game—one of the best ever as the Raiders won 79-78 on a Daniel Oturu dunk with less than a second on the clock.

The nature of prep sports, however, is that each season is vastly different. Graduation does that to teams. So while CDH's decisive win over the Eagles two weeks ago was pleasing to the hometown folks, head coach Jerry Kline Jr. looked at it as simply one step forward in what is a long process.

"We have only one guy back from last year who played significant minutes (senior guard Jaeden King, a Western Illinois recruit who scored 33 points in a game recently), and they didn't have a Jones on their team for the first time in nine years," Kline said. "Everything's different now."

A year ago, the Raiders were on everybody's radar from the get-go. Oturu, who has already worked himself into the regular rotation as a freshman at the University of Minnesota, and his Raider teammates dominated the boards and pressured teams everywhere en route to a 30-2 overall record and the state title.

Then, as it happens at all schools, the seniors graduated. Kline looked at the returning cast and quickly figured out things would change this season. "We don't block shots like we did last year," he said. "That's fine. We're smaller, younger and quicker."

Still, there's the matter of being the defending Class AAAA champs. New kids or not, the Raiders have everybody's attention when they show up this season. "The pressure comes from the outside only," Kline said.

Goodbye and thanks to Oturu, Sy Chatman, Ryan Larson and Jacob Prince. Say hello to Curtis Jones, Amari Carter and Tre Holloman. Along with King, the latter three are averaging in double figures as the Raiders broke out of the gate this season with a 3-1 record heading into a December 14 game at East Ridge.

Not that it's been easy. On December 11, the Raiders had to rally from a halftime deficit to edge North St. Paul 80-76. "We had a hard time there," Kline said with a sigh. "They're very well coached."

Like every team CDH will face, they took their opponent's best shot. Kline knew this in advance, but now his players know it as well—it'll be like this every time out this winter.

There are more challenges ahead. The annual matchup against St. Thomas Academy is December 21 at CDH. The Cadets were 3-1 and will be revved up for what is the local version of an Army-Navy game. In the last week of the month, CDH will face Benilde-St. Margaret and currently undefeated Eagan in games at the University of St. Thomas.

Then there are the games in the hard-nosed Suburban East

WRIGHT CALL ► 21

## Girls' basketball preview

Local coaches call it like they see it regarding refs

BY BILL WAGNER

As another high school girls' basketball season got underway, area coaches were expounding on an issue that was close to their hearts—officiating. Though no one was willing to name specific individuals, several did cite a general dissatisfaction with the current format. One popular thought was that, even though there are many competent refs, three pairs of eyes are better than two.

St. Paul Academy coach Nick Novak is of that camp and has successfully pushed to have three referees officiating at Spartan home games this season. So far, he said, the extra official has been an improvement.

The problem, though, goes a little deeper than the number of bodies calling the game. Novak said Class AA teams often have the cards stacked against them when it comes to quality officiating, compared to larger schools.

"Overall, (AA) referees are not that great," Novak said. "We've seen some very poor refs."

Other coaches have a slightly different take. Veteran Highland Park coach Deb Williams said her club doesn't use three refs for its home games. And while the Scots have had experience with that format at other venues, she doesn't think it helped.

"My team has been in games where there was a third referee and that referee didn't do a thing," Williams said.

She said there's no magic cure to improve officiating. "We know that the refs are out there and their job is to work hard and know the rules," Williams said, "but the players still have to play the game."

Minnehaha Academy has had the option of using a three-ref format for several years, according to athletic director and former girls' coach Josh Thuro. "Any ref worth his salt would favor (three refs)," he said.

Visitation coach James O'Brien said he plans to make a pitch for three refs. He said the increased speed of girls' basketball games makes it highly advisable to have the extra official. "With that third ref, you'd always have officials who were in position (to make calls)," O'Brien said.

Roosevelt coach Michael Wright, who has worked as a referee himself, said officiating is constantly on the minds of



Central's Biate Russell struggles between St. Croix Preparatory players during the Minutemen's 45-37 loss to the Lions on December 11. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

his fellow coaches, but he doesn't think it's any huge deal.

"Most coaches talk about the refs," Wright said, "but I just let them do their job and I think they do a good job. I have no problem with the refs, maybe it's because I've been around so long."

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

### CENTRAL

**League:** St. Paul City  
**Last year's record:** 15-12  
**Coach:** Marlon McCoy

**Key players:** junior guard Afiya Ward, sophomore guard Alayza Campbell, senior forward Biate Russell, eighth-grade guard Hemetii Apet.

**Team strengths/weaknesses:** Central has guards who are fast and athletic, but the team doesn't have much size. The Minutemaids appear vulnerable to opponents who can pound it inside and hit the boards.

**Outlook:** McCoy has only two seniors on the varsity and will have to rely on quick maturation of his younger players. "We'll trap and mix defenses to hide our size," said the first-year coach. "This will be a rebuilding year."

### CRETIN-DERHAM HALL

**League:** Suburban East  
**Last year's record:** 24-7  
**Coach:** Crystal Flint

**Key players:** senior forward Frannie Hottinger, sophomore guard Audrey

Martinez, senior guard Paige Goaley.

**Team strengths/weaknesses:** CDH has good speed and quickness that can force turnovers and get opponents playing tentatively. The Raiders have only one returning starter and two others coming back who saw varsity minutes last year.

**Outlook:** Flint, who arrives here after a successful tenure at Minneapolis North, is taking over a team that won the state Class AAAA consolation title last year. However, she is going to make some changes with this largely different cast. "It's a brand new team," Flint said, "but there's some talent here. Expectations are high."

### HENRY SIBLEY

**League:** Metro East  
**Last year's record:** 12-15  
**Coach:** Harry Jenness Jr.

**Key players:** senior forward Tori Nelson, junior forward Jaelyn Orth, junior guards Sese Burks and Hope Korte, freshman guard Jaylen Rosga.

**Team strengths/weaknesses:** Sibley has some good experience with four starters back from last winter, but lost two guards to graduation. The challenge will be to develop some depth. Jenness said he would like to have a rotation of at least seven or eight players.

**Outlook:** The Warriors look ready to take the next step in the conference. Jenness is hoping they can challenge

GIRLS' BASKETBALL ► 21

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20◀ GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Hill-Murray and Simley at the top of the Metro East. "The girls want to continue to improve and compete with other teams in our section," he said.

HIGHLAND PARK

**League:** St. Paul City  
**Last year's record:** 9-12  
**Coach:** Deb Williams

**Key players:** NA

**Team strengths/weaknesses:** Highland has good outside shooting and solid quickness that should benefit an uptempo style. However, there isn't much height.

**Outlook:** The Scots return four starters from last season, but only one is a senior. This might mean the team will take a while to jell.

MINNEHAHA ACADEMY

**League:** Independent Metro Athletic  
**Last year's record:** 21-9  
**Coach:** Matt Pryor

**Key players:** senior guards Taytum Rhoades and Avery New, senior center Nevaeh Gallo-way, junior guard Mia Curtis.

**Team strengths/weaknesses:** The Redhawks have some good returning players from last season's state tournament squad and that should serve them well this winter. They don't have many weaknesses, unless it's adjusting to a new coach or creating team chemistry.

**Outlook:** Pryor, a Minnehaha graduate, comes over from Concordia Academy, which lost to the Redhawks in last year's playoffs. He has a strong endorsement from previous

Minnehaha head coach Josh Thurow. Pryor said he is looking forward to the new job. "I think state is well within our reach," he said.

NOVA ACADEMY

**League:** Twin Cities Athletic  
**Last year's record:** 20-8  
**Coach:** John Clarkin

**Key players:** NA

**Team strengths/weaknesses:** Nova got off to a good start by winning its season opener. It will rely on defense and an uptempo style to be successful. The team is very young.

**Outlook:** The Knights finished second in the conference last year and lost to Concordia Academy in the second round of the Section 4AA playoffs. "Our goal is to improve, have fun and keep the team together for the next few years," Clarkin said.

ROOSEVELT

**League:** Minneapolis City  
**Last year's record:** 9-16  
**Coach:** Michael Wright

**Key players:** senior forward Jamelia Wright, senior guard Precious Smith, junior guard Kayla Johnson.

**Team strengths/weaknesses:** The Teddies have a strong defense and good inside game, but will need to score more, despite the presence of decent outside shooting. They also need to get stronger, Wright said.

**Outlook:** Roosevelt is shooting for a record above .500 and making the top three in the conference. "We're still kind of young," Wright said. "We're still trying to rebuild."

ST. PAUL ACADEMY

**League:** Independent Metro Athletic  
**Last year's record:** 16-15  
**Coach:** Nick Novak

**Key players:** senior guard Annie Kristal, eighth-grade forward Kennedy Herndon, junior guard Abby Hedberg, sophomore guard Pilar Saaverda-Weis.

**Team strengths/weaknesses:** The Spartans have only two players returning who had good minutes last year, but they have some quickness and speed. They do not have much height or experience.

**Outlook:** Graduation took its toll, but Novak is upbeat that SPA can compete with Providence Academy in the IMAC, though he conceded that Minnehaha may be out of reach. "I'm looking for our young players to get more comfortable with their game and learn to play together better," Novak said.

VISITATION

**League:** Tri-Metro East  
**Last year's record:** 5-18  
**Coach:** James O'Brien

**Key players:** junior guard Ella Hinkemeyer, freshman forward Olivia Johanns.

**Team strengths/weaknesses:** Visitation has some good athleticism and commitment to a strong defense, but lacks senior leadership with four juniors and one freshman starting. Improvement is needed on offense.

**Outlook:** O'Brien looks to upgrade his squad, and has some resources. "We have a lot of athletes," he said, "but they might not have basketball as their No. 1 sport year-round."

Sports Shorts

**Ramsey County** is offering free skating sessions from 2-4 p.m. every Sunday at the Charles M. Schulz-Highland Arena, 800 S. Snelling Ave. Skates can be rented or sharpened for \$5 a pair. Free open skating and open hockey will also be available at the arena from 1-4 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, December 26-28. Visit [tinyurl.com/y8o7ceyp](http://tinyurl.com/y8o7ceyp).

**Wells Fargo WinterSkate**, the free, outdoor rink next to Landmark Center in downtown St. Paul, will remain open through February 3. A new collection of rental skates is available this year. Due to the ongoing revitalization of Rice Park, the city's holiday tree is located at Hamm Plaza on the other side of Landmark Center. For more information, visit [visitsaintpaul.com/winterskate](http://visitsaintpaul.com/winterskate).

**The Highland National Women's Golf Club** presented \$5,500 from this year's annual golf tournament to Women's Advocates, a St. Paul organization that works to eliminate violence in the lives of women and children. The club's total donations to the local nonprofit is now \$10,700 since 2015.

**St. Thomas Academy** recently inducted the following into its Athletic Hall of Fame: William J. Ridley, who served as the school's head football coach in 1964 and 1966-1968; the late Stephen Cronk ('64, football, basketball, baseball); the late Thomas Knox ('73, football, basketball, baseball); Daniel Leighton ('81, football, swimming, baseball); Matt Brzica ('89, football, basketball, tennis); and Fritz Waldvogel ('08, football, basketball).

20◀ WRIGHT CALL

Conference, which is a perfect preparation for section play and beyond. All of which is fine with Kline.

"We're more like what you normally see in a high school team," he said of this year's squad. "They work well together. I really like this team."

Loyalty is a one-way street for some

Apparently, some of the members of the University of Minnesota football team didn't get the message that their appearance in the Quick Lane Bowl in Detroit on December 26 is a reward to be cherished. You get to practice for a couple more weeks and then play on national television against a team from Georgia.

Blake Cashman, a senior linebacker who led the team in tackles, was one who didn't see the value. Cashman decided to opt out of playing in this game in order to get ready for the NFL draft, which for the record is in late April. He told the *Star Tribune* it was a hard decision because, "I love my team and I love being around those guys."

Cashman was very clear that he considered the possibility of getting hurt in such a game a bigger concern than anything else. "Football's a violent game, and the wear and tear of a long season takes its toll on a body," he said.

That football is a violent game isn't exactly breaking news, but this decision does give you an insight into the mind of

some Division I athletes these days. Team loyalty only goes so far. There are still a few D-I schools that manage to breed loyalty in their players, but that number is diminishing every year. As happens with coaches, more players at this level simply view their college as a place to hang out for a while. If things don't go the way they want, they simply move on and find something else.

It's not just football where this occurs. Kendyl Lindaman set a Gopher record for home runs in softball two years in a row. She was a major reason the team went 41-17 a year ago and advanced to the NCAA regional. A couple of weeks ago, she simply announced she was leaving to play at the University of Florida, taking advantage of a rule that allows softball players to transfer and become eligible immediately.

Lindaman didn't say why, but the answer might be here: Florida has been in the NCAA Division I title game three times in the past five years.

Coaches leave all the time for all sorts of reasons. The players are simply following their lead. Such is life at the Division I level.

Highland hockey grad playing in Canada

Jack Branby was under the radar most of the past few years because he tended goal for the Highland Park High School hockey team. But the puck world has big ears and Branby is now ensconced in Canada, playing goalie for the Winnipeg Blues of the Manitoba Junior Hockey League. One of four

Minnesotans on the Blues, Branby has fashioned a 4.33 goals-against average in 10 games.

The college hockey scene has changed dramatically in recent years. It's the rare player—goaltender or otherwise—who can play Division I or III without some time in a junior league. Thus, former athletic director John Heller's vision of developing a high school hockey team at Highland is coming to fruition. The Scots won a playoff game last year and now have a player competing in a first-rate junior league. The current Highland team, which is now a cooperative venture with Central, was 2-2 through December 11.

U.S. Bank Stadium suggestion

It was revealed last week that the U.S. Bank Stadium fund is overflowing with money. The reserve account is reputed to be nearly \$200 million. Here's a suggestion of what to do with some of the cash: Fix the scoreboard. An observer at the recent Prep Bowl noticed that nowhere on the board does it list who has the ball. Nor is there a scoring summary by quarters—a standard feature. The sound system for folks in the seats also is a hit-or-miss proposition.

This may sound like nitpicking, but it isn't. It's the little things that bring people back when a team is underperforming. Just a thought.

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

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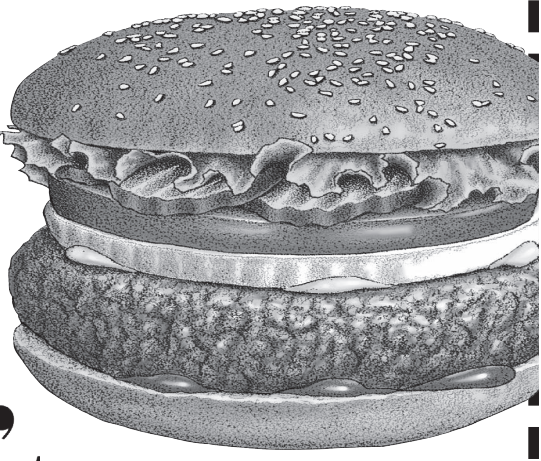
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Deadline: December 21

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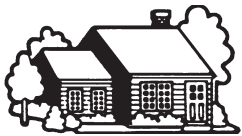
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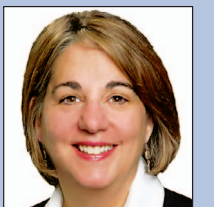
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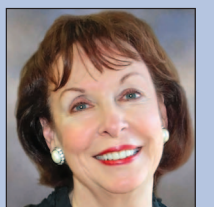
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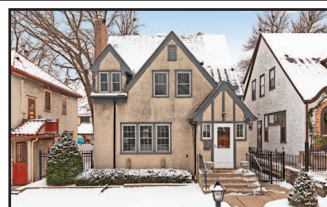
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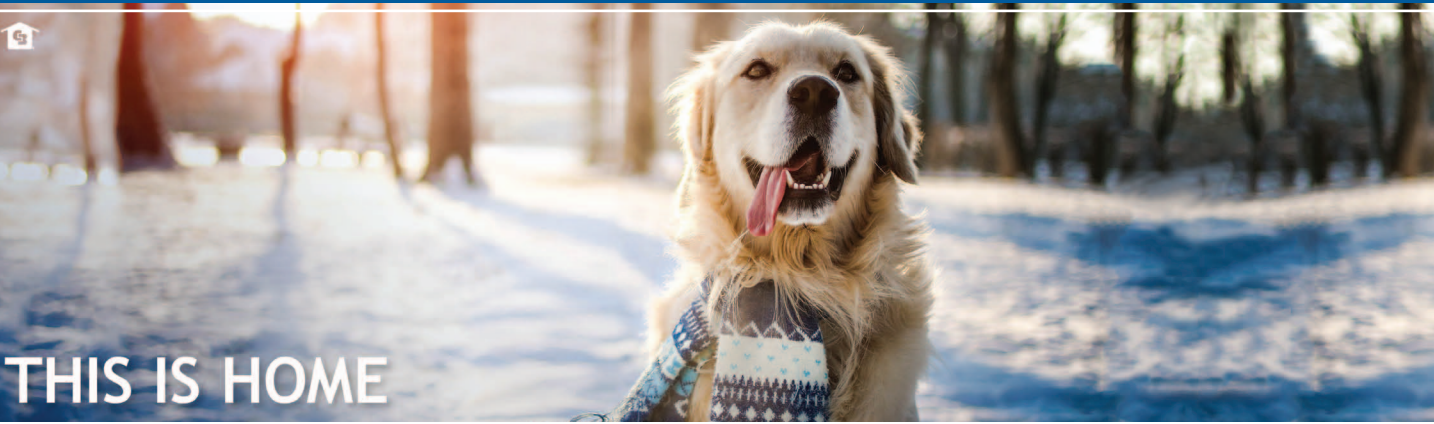
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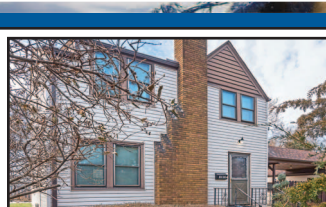
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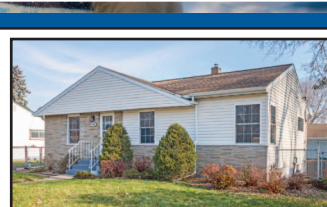
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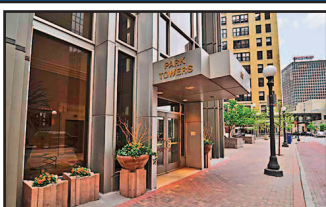
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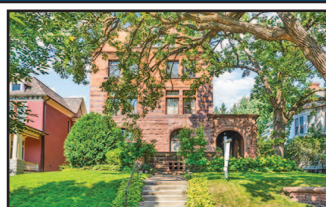
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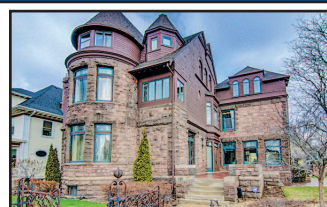
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651-282-9621 • \$650,000



**STUNNING 3RD FLOOR CONDO!**

This delightful 2BR/2BA condo, in the historic Horace Ruggs house, is open and airy with huge windows and fabulous views, a balcony, a 1 car garage and a building elevator. This is a charming treetop retreat with all the amenities. Must see.

**SARAH KINNEY**  
651-282-9621 • \$430,000



**HOME OF FRANK B. KELLOGG!**

This stately Crocus Hill home features 9,000 sq ft, breathtaking interiors, inlaid and pegged floors, a 1/2 acre lot with reflecting pool and a carriage house. This was an ASID showcase home in 2004 and is a designated National Historic Landmark. 633 Fairmount Ave.

**SARAH KINNEY**  
651-282-9621 • \$2,295,000



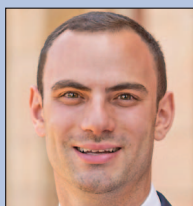
**HISTORIC JAMES J. HILL BUILDING!**

This fabulous 2BR/2BA condo is open, airy, sunny and bright. Features include rare barrel ceilings, arched windows, pristine tile & hardwood floors, updated kitchen and baths, a master BR suite, multiple walk-in closets, a gas fireplace and 2/C garage. 300 Wall Street.

**SARAH KINNEY**  
651-282-9621 • \$525,000



**PETER DONOVAN**  
651-336-8050



**HENRY EDELSTEIN**  
651-270-1667



**TOM EDELSTEIN**  
651-695-4300



**ABE GLEESON**  
651-329-1990



**ROBBIE GROSSMAN**  
651-434-7887