



Geography you can sink your teeth into.
Teresa Coy, 4, was present last week at the creation of the United States as rendered with 50 different cakes baked and decorated by the 4th-graders at St. Mark's Catholic School. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Basement use remains sticking point at Grand Place

BY JANE MCCLURE

A portion of one of the most prominent vacant commercial spaces on Grand Avenue could become a HealthEast clinic if an agreement can be reached on using the basement at Grand Place, 870 Grand Ave. A proposal by building owner Grand Place LLC was discussed on May 6 by the Summit Hill Association's Zoning and Land Use Committee. The committee and district council will review the request over the next few weeks in order to make a recommendation to the city.

"I don't want to reject the thing out of hand just because of the basement," said SHA board member Mark Sutherland.

"The space has been vacant for a long time," said fellow board member Linda Winsor. According to her, the traffic and parking demand generated by a health clinic are among the factors that need to be considered.

At the center of the debate is a complicated 2005 legal agreement that forbids reusing the basement as anything other than storage space. Ward 2 City Council member Dave Thune is looking into whether the agreement may have to be reopened by the city.

Grand Place, the commercial building and parking ramp at the southwest corner of Grand Avenue and Victoria Street, has had about 20,000 square feet of vacant space ever since eq-life closed its spa, salon and retail store in the fall

of 2007. Prospective tenants have been pursued ever since, but a downturn in retail leasing has turned up no takers, said Rob Stolpestad, president of Exeter Realty Company, the property's manager.

"We'd really like to get the space leased," he said, "and we believe that bringing in a clinic would be something the neighborhood would benefit from."

The basement has about 2,000 square feet of space that eq-life used as a spa with six treatment rooms. HealthEast would like to use the space for offices, medical record storage, or medical imaging and scanning, Stolpestad said. HealthEast

GRAND PLACE ►4

McWatt recounts 200-year struggle for civil rights

His book 'Crusaders for Justice' honors activists famous and forgotten

BY BOB GILBERT

In his new book *Crusaders For Justice*, Summit-University author Arthur C. McWatt chronicles the 200-year struggle of African Americans in St. Paul to achieve racial equality. From the 1929 campaign to stop KSTP Radio from using the n-word on the air, to efforts in the 1930s to convince the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* to capitalize the word "Negro," to the lobbying at the state Capitol that led to the nation's first anti-

lynching law following the hanging in 1920 of three African-American men by a mob in Duluth, McWatt's book honors the local men and women who brick by brick dismantled the wall separating African Americans from mainstream society.

"When I was 14 years old, I read a book called *Black Boy* by Richard Wright," said McWatt, 83. "One comment I remember from the author is that he felt he was in that society but not of that society. I always felt that the African-American community was on the outside of mainstream Minnesota society and not accepted. So I always had it in the back of my mind to do what I could to improve it. I had a desire to bring fairness to this society."

A lifelong resident of St. Paul, McWatt grew up

near the corner of University Avenue and Grotto Street and attended the University of Minnesota, where he earned bachelor's and master's degrees in history. He was hired by the St. Paul Public Schools—the fifth African-American teacher to be hired by the school district, he said—and taught history at Marshall Junior High School for seven years and at Johnson Senior High School for 34 years before retiring in 1991.

McWatt's 236-page book begins in 1802 with an account of the first known African American in Minnesota, a fur trader named George Bonga. It ends in 1985 at the midpoint of Ronald Reagan's presidency, an administration whose policies served to reverse many of the gains in civil

'CRUSADERS FOR JUSTICE' ►3

School closings, transportation cuts planned for St. Paul district

BY KEVIN DRISCOLL

Three public elementary schools will be shuttered at the end of the 2009-10 school year or earlier under the so-called Large Scale System Change plan presented to the St. Paul School Board on May 5. The three schools—Longfellow in Merriam Park, Roosevelt on the West Side and Sheridan on the East Side—were chosen based on the condition of the buildings, their academic performance and their enrollment in relation to the capacity of their buildings, according to superintendent Meria Carstarphen.

If the School Board approves the closings, the Longfellow and Roosevelt buildings would be mothballed and Sheridan's would be converted to a new purpose yet to be determined.

The proposed elementary school closings are only part of the plan for Large Scale System Change. It also rec-

ST. PAUL SCHOOLS ►2

CITY BEAT

Parks commission supports upgrading youth baseball fields at Dunning ►7

GARDENING



West End is in bloom ►22

CLOSE TO HOME

Newly named St. Thomas More has a long history of serving city's faithful ►12

ARTS



Bringing poetry to the pavement ►27

SPORTS



Blazing a trail in playoffs ►31

NEWS BRIEFS	6
VIEWPOINT	8
DISTRICT COUNCILS	18
CRIME REPORT	19
FOOD	23
KIOSK	25

School Board considers \$25.1 million in cuts for 2009-10

Superintendent's plan restores some money for music and sports

By Kevin Driscoll

St. Paul Superintendent of Schools Meria Carstarphen on May 5 unveiled a proposed general fund budget of \$459.2 million for the 2009-10 school year. That is down \$17.2 million from the current school year, or \$25.1 million when inflationary increases are factored in, according to Jaber Alsiddiqui, the school district's chief budget analyst.

Much of the decrease is due to a projected decline in enrollment—from the current 38,560 students to 37,628—and the resulting reduction in per-pupil aid from the state. Carstarphen's budget includes \$10 million in long-term structural cuts to address the decline in enrollment and \$15.1 million in short-term cuts to account for decreases in revenue due to the downturn in the economy.

Among the cuts is a two-year freeze on staff and teacher wages and health benefits. The freeze, which still must be negotiated with the various labor unions, would save the district \$6.5 million over two years.

With 932 fewer students, the district expects to lay off a host of teachers and class-

room paraprofessionals for the coming year. A total of \$10 million would be cut from the individual budgets of district schools. English Language Learner and Special Education programs would be cut \$800,000 each. Another \$650,000 would be cut from the district's budget for outside consultants, and \$100,000 from the implementation of a new behavioral management program.

Carstarphen would also cut \$2.3 million from the central administration's budget. That cut is \$900,000 more than what the superintendent originally planned, allowing her to reduce from \$1.4 million to \$700,000 the proposed cut for itinerant instrumental music teachers and from \$650,000 to \$450,000 the proposed cut to athletics districtwide. The school district expects to save \$700,000 on its transportation budget next year, \$100,000 in food service and \$580,000 in operations due to declining enrollment.

The school district's interim chief of finance, Michael Baumann, presented the School Board with a contingency plan that includes another \$10.4 million in budget cuts. That plan, which would cut an additional \$8.95 million from districtwide programs and \$1.45 million from individual school budgets, would be implemented if state aid to schools is reduced as proposed by the Minnesota Senate.

The House, Senate and governor have each

proposed different plans for addressing the state's \$4.6 billion budget deficit for the coming biennium. The Legislature was scheduled to adjourn on May 18, as this issue of the *Villager* was going to press, and if a compromise is not worked out by then, a special session may be in the offing. The School Board must approve its budget for the coming year by June 30.

"The Minnesota House and governor's budget plans are much less onerous," Baumann said. "If the Senate bill prevails, we'll be in much deeper trouble."

Also left out of Carstarphen's proposed budget for 2009-10 is the \$29 million the district has received in federal stimulus money, including \$18 million for Title I programs and \$11 million for Special Education.

"The reasons we're not including that money in the budget," Carstarphen said, "is that we're restricted in how we can use it and it's only good for two years. How we use the stimulus money now will help determine the quality and fate of urban education for the next 30 years.... We need to use it to start and strengthen programs that can eventually be sustained without federal help."

School district administrators have proposed spending the federal stimulus money to perform an audit of the current curricula, to strengthen assessment tools, to provide ongoing teacher training, to develop and

enhance data systems to better evaluate and track student performance, to reform curricula and instruction and to reduce paperwork for teachers.

Should the School Board approve the budget as proposed, eight of the 15 elementary schools in the area served by the *Villager* would see their budgets increase modestly, including Adams, Capitol Hill, Expo, Four Seasons, Highland Park, Horace Mann, J.J. Hill and Linwood-Monroe. Wellstone Elementary would see a \$616,550 or 17.26 percent increase. Benjamin Mays, Museum, Groveland Park, Randolph Heights and Webster elementaries would all see modest cuts in their budgets. Longfellow's budget would be cut \$188,193 or 9.41 percent.

Ramsey Junior High would see a \$308,378 or 9.84 percent budget cut. Highland Junior High would lose \$294,000 or 8.11 percent of its budget. Linwood-Monroe middle school would see a \$132,158 or 5.54 percent cut.

The grades K-12 Open School would see its budget cut by \$234,119 or 9.35 percent. Central High School would see a \$196,782 or 2.32 percent cut. Highland Park Senior High School would see a \$203,576 or 3.58 percent budget cut.

The School Board will hold an open forum on the budget and other matters on Thursday, June 11. The board is expected to approve the district's 2009-10 budget on June 16.

1◀ ST. PAUL SCHOOLS

ommends reforming the district's school choice system to reduce transportation costs by as much as \$2.2 million per year.

Currently, 89 percent of the students in the district are bused to school. The new plan would divide the city into three regions. Students who live a mile or more from school would still qualify for free bus service, but only within their region. Parents who choose a school outside of their region would have to provide their own transportation.

Free transportation would still be available to seven citywide magnet schools, including Central High School, Open School (grades K-8), Capitol Hill (grades 1-8) and the L'Etoile du Nord French Immersion, Crossroads, Four Seasons and American Indian elementary schools. Other popular magnet school programs would be replicated within each of the three regions.

The plan for Large Scale System Change calls for the School Board to negotiate new labor agreements with teachers that are flexible enough to support the district's changing educational needs and would allow it to access \$10 million in Q-Comp funds. That money is awarded by the state to school districts that base teacher salaries on effectiveness rather than seniority.

The plan also includes a host of new teacher training programs in literacy, math and science, the use of new assessment tools, and new ways to engage students and their parents in improving academic performance.

The proposed school closings would end 126 years of educational history at Longfellow, one of the oldest schools in the city. "There are a lot of mixed feelings around the school," said Longfellow principal Mark Vandersteen. Some people are sad, some are angry, and others are "resigned to the fact that the district has to do something given the continued decline in enrollment," he said.

Longfellow was expected to enroll about 200 students in September, and that was before the proposed closing was announced. The building at 318 Moore St. has room for 455 students.

The school district has scheduled two public forums on the plan for Large Scale System Change. Close to 150 people attended the first one at Central High School on May 12. The second one will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Thursday, May 28, at Harding High School.

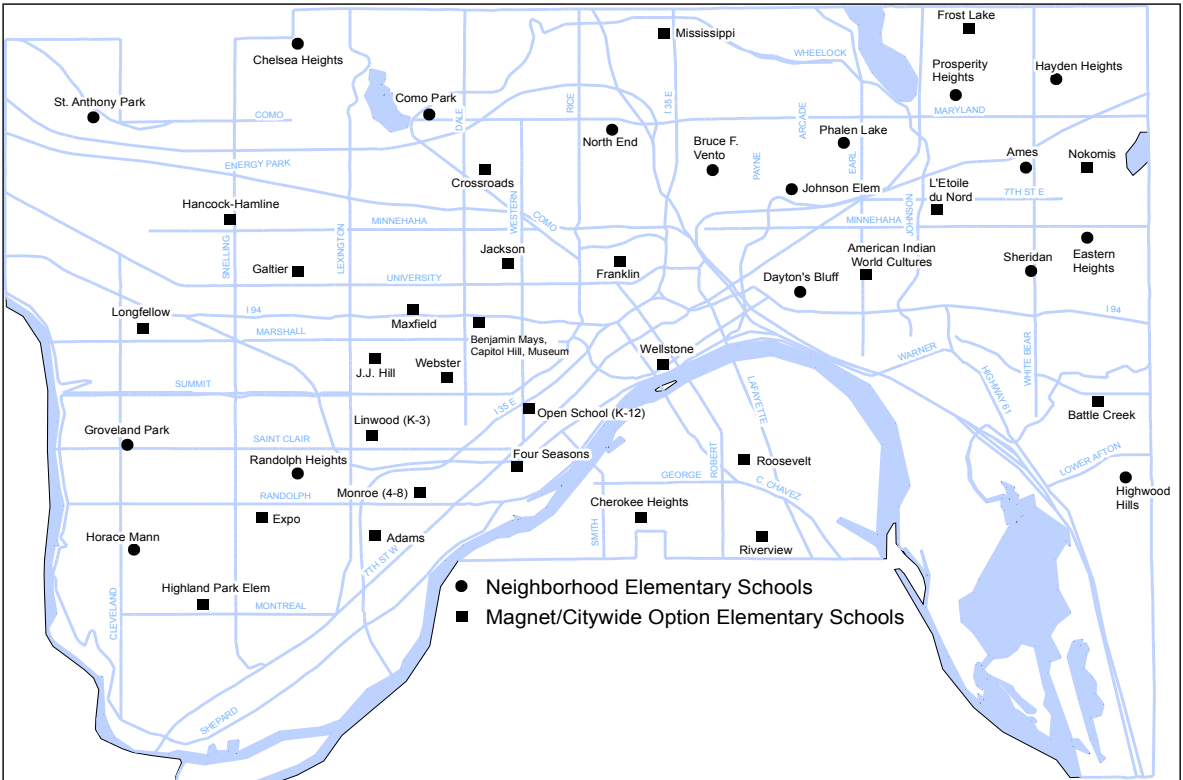
At the May 12 forum, it was apparent that parents across the city are not happy with the school closings. West Side resident Carlos Garcia-Velasco accused the school district of "institutional racism. It's always the communities least able to organize that get hurt the most," Garcia-Velasco said. He and other Roosevelt parents asked school district officials to set aside their concerns about building capacity and work toward creating smaller class sizes.

According to Sheridan parent and site council member Crystal Jackson, that school is known "as the gem of the East Side." For six years in a row, it met its goals for "adequate yearly progress" under the federal No Child Left Behind law, she said, "and in 2008, it was just barely under (the goals)."

Nancy Stachel, the district's chief of schools, reminded the parents that academic performance was only one of several criteria used to determine which schools would close. "We plan to keep the Sheridan building open because it sits on a major bus line (White Bear Avenue) and is close to a lot of other services and retail businesses," she said.

The school district is already moving forward with a plan to move Humboldt Junior High School into the Humboldt Senior High School building this fall.

The elementary school closings, which are expected to save the district close to \$2.5 million a year, are long overdue, according to Carstarphen. "We're about six or seven

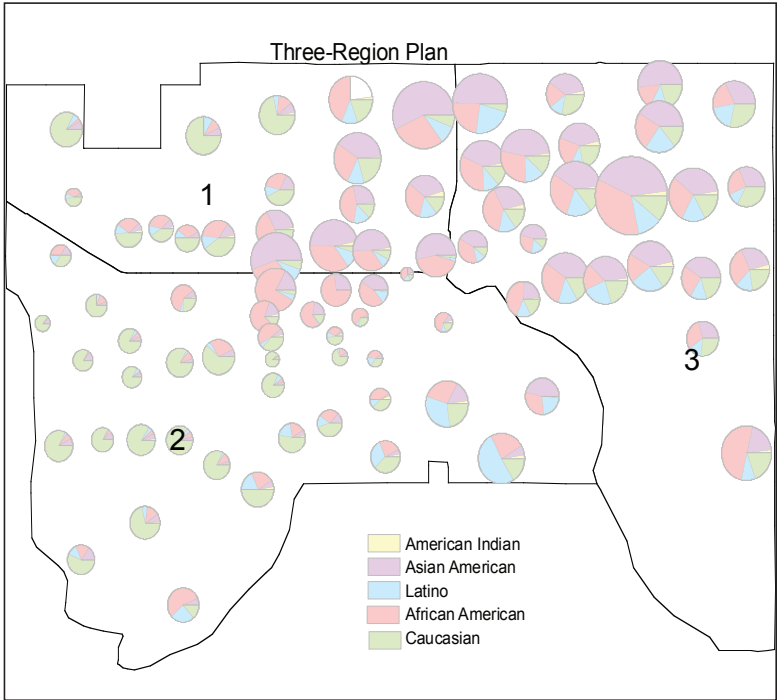


The St. Paul Public Schools' neighborhood and citywide-option elementary schools.

years behind on this kind of effort," she said. "The district absolutely has to change the way we do business, or the structural deficits of money and underused and deteriorating buildings will put us in a hole we'll never be able to get out of."

The district's schools reached their capacity of 45,000 students in the late 1990s, according to Carstarphen, when enrollment began declining to its current level of 38,500. Enrollment is projected to continue declining for the next four years at least, she added, and the only way to address the problem is to "provide an equitable distribution of educational opportunities by closing and in some cases repurposing school buildings and bringing fixed infrastructure costs in line with existing budgets and enrollment."

A School Board decision on the plan for Large Scale System Change is expected by June 16, when the board is scheduled to approve the district's budget for the 2009-10 school year. For more information, visit www.spps.org.



Superintendent Meria Carstarphen's plan for Large Scale System Change would divide the St. Paul school district into three regions as shown above. The chart indicates the racial makeup of the district students living within those regions. The size of the circles reflects the relative numbers of those students attending district schools.

1◀ 'CRUSADERS FOR JUSTICE'

rights that had been made over the previous three decades, according to McWatt.

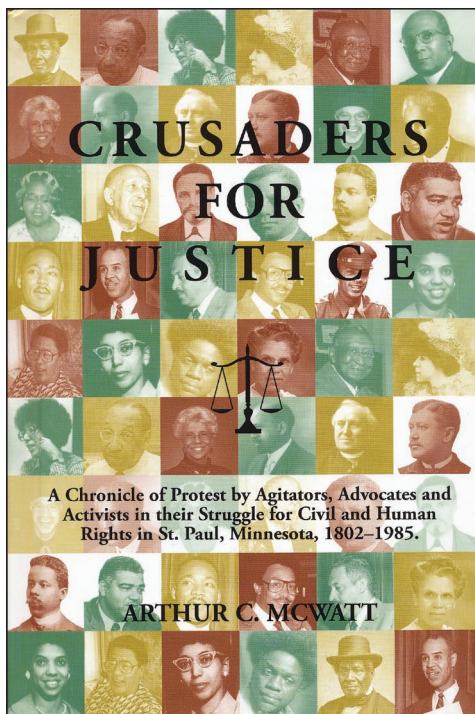
In between those chapters, McWatt tells of the many Minnesotans who were responsible for those gains. "We seem to attract some very strong characters to our state," he said. "Government leaders here had strong feelings about fairness, and they're the people who I looked to."

St. Paul, according to McWatt's book, was the proving ground for Frederick McGhee, the state's first African-American trial attorney and one of the founders of the Niagara Movement, a forerunner of the NAACP. Roy Wilkins, who headed up the NAACP for 22 years, also hailed from St. Paul. Whitney Young, executive director of the National Urban League from 1961-71, was a graduate student at the University of Minnesota when he first went to work for the Urban League's St. Paul branch.

However, most of the advances in civil rights over the past two centuries were carried out by men and women who have largely been forgotten, according to McWatt. They are remembered in his book.

The author spent untold hours researching *Crusaders for Justice* with the help of the Minnesota History Center's microfiche collection. Some of his material is firsthand knowledge, taken from the role that he and Katie McWatt, his wife of 58 years, played as leading members of such local organizations as the Catholic Inter-Racial Committee, the St. Paul Human Rights Commission and the St. Paul branch of the NAACP.

Anura Si-Asar of Papyrus Publishing, the small Brooklyn Park press that published *Crusaders for Justice*, said he wasn't aware of the long history of local African-American activism before reading McWatt's manuscript. "I found out that there was a community behind me," said Si-Asar, a St. Paul firefighter who grew up in the Summit-University neighborhood and graduated from Central High School in 1986. "(McWatt) is the institutional memory of the elders of our commu-



nity. He has tapped into the stories of those who worked so hard for equality.

"To continue a legacy, you have to know about it," Si-Asar said. "*Crusaders for Justice* is like an umbilical cord that reattaches us to the past and shows us that we are part of a heritage."

Such African Americans as Michael Jordan, Oprah Winfrey, Tiger Woods and Barack Obama stand at the center of American culture today. However, their acceptance by mainstream society would not have happened without the small victories made by McWatt's generation, Si-Asar said.

McWatt said he found Obama's election as the country's first African-American president especially gratifying. "I feel more comfortable in America right now than I've ever felt in my life," he said.

McWatt will discuss his book in free programs beginning at 11:30 a.m. Friday, June 5, at the Rondo Library, 461 N. Dale St., and at 6:00 p.m. Friday, June 19, at Golden Thyme Coffee and Cafe, 921 Selby Ave.



Author Arthur McWatt poses beside the bust of one of his crusaders for justice, Frank Boyd, the late civil rights activist for whom a Ramsey Hill park is named.

PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

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Selby shops are weathering a season of road construction

BY STEVE PEASE

Standing inside Arthur Murray Dance Studio on the afternoon of May 7, you might have thought *Riverdance* was being performed just a few feet away. But it wasn't Michael Flatley and his leggy lasses who were shaking the floorboards. It was the earthmovers of Arndt Construction laying a new roadbed just outside the Selby Avenue storefront.

This spring the city of St. Paul embarked on the third phase of a street reconstruction project that over the past six years has given Selby Avenue a new landscape from Lexington Parkway Street east to Kent Street. This year's reconstruction of Selby between Kent and Arundel streets was meticulously planned by city staff and local business owners, which is why it came as a surprise when business owners learned on May 4 that what they had worked so hard to avoid had transpired.

"Bad morning!" read the e-mail from Jeff Gardner, president of the Selby Area Business Association and owner of the Sel-Dale Laundromat. "As of this morning, there is no access to businesses on Selby east of Dale Street off of Dale Street. So the information we have been telling our customers over the past months is no longer true."

The plan was to keep Selby Avenue open to traffic throughout much of the project, but when engineers discovered what city inspector Jamie Heiden described as a "hump" in the intersection of Kent and Selby, crews were forced to work beyond the midpoint and tear up the entire intersection.

The good news is that the project is moving along quickly. It appears to be as much as a week ahead of



Reflected in the window of Arthur Murray Dance Studio, Selby Avenue between Kent and Arundel streets is getting a brand new roadway this spring along with broader boulevards, new lighting, sidewalks and utilities. The portion of the project west of Mackubin Street could be completed as early as next week and the remaining segment by the end of June.

PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

schedule, according to Gardner.

In addition to new sidewalks, curbs, gutters and twin lantern-style lighting, the \$1.3 million project is giving the two blocks of Selby new gas lines, copper water lines, updated phone lines and a new roadway that is 10 feet narrower, leaving room for more expansive grass or

brick boulevards on either side.

Crews are working from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, weather permitting. On May 12 they were pouring new sidewalks and helping customers navigate the labyrinthine paths to Selby businesses. According to Heiden, the intersection of Mackubin and Selby

could be closed to traffic as early as this week, and that if all goes well, the project could be done sometime in June.

"As far as I can tell, (the city has) spec'd this one out very strictly," Heiden said. "I don't anticipate any big hiccups unless we run into a couple of weeks of rain."

The day after the unexpected closure of Selby and Kent, Gardner walked from his laundromat at 662 Selby Ave. to Kent. "You should have seen it," he said. "It looked like a roundabout here." Multiple vehicles were either awkwardly slowing down at the flashing "Road Closed" sign or whipping quick U-turns to head back west on Selby, he said.

The traffic detour and heavy machinery didn't phase Selby resident Elen Bahr, who was planting vegetables just feet from the thunderous metal beasts. "The noise hasn't been nearly as disturbing as the vibrating," she said. "But on a personal level, the crews have been really respectful."

Standing in the relatively sound-proof foyer of Great Harvest Bread Company, owner Bonnie Alton chatted with Gardner about how everyone has been "bending over backwards" to keep the project on time and customers happy.

"The local residents are at the heart of the neighborhood, and that's who drives our businesses," Gardner said. "This street is too critical. It would be a shame to lose what we've gained over the last 30 years. What's happened on Selby has been a renaissance, and there are a lot of people involved in its future."

Stephen Trevino, who directs the art gallery in the rear of FiveTwoSix Salon at 526 Selby Ave., said he had seen the writing on the wall before construction commenced. Earlier this year he turned a former storage area into a new rear entrance for the gallery.

"When the sidewalks are torn out, I'm sure we'll have a lot of headaches," Trevino said. "But Selby Avenue businesses are very proactive. We'll just make lemonade out of lemons."

1 ◀ GRAND PLACE

would also lease about 8,000 square feet on the first floor of the building. The remaining vacant space would continue to be marketed for retail use.

Grand Place and its parking ramp generated months of controversy when it was first proposed, and a fight over the project's site plan wound up before the City Council on appeal in 2000. One condition of the site plan that was ultimately approved was that the basement be used only for storage. At the time, the neighbors were concerned about traffic and

parking in the vicinity of Victoria Crossing.

However, Bound to Be Read, one of the original Grand Place tenants, obtained city building permits in 2001 to remodel the basement for office space. That irked neighbors, who said it violated the original site plan.

In the spring of 2005, after Bound to Be Read closed, city staff decided that eq-life could move in without providing additional off-street parking. The SHA appealed that decision to the St. Paul Board of Zoning Appeals, which upheld the appeal in August 2005. That sent the quarrel to the City Council, which worked with eq-life, neighbors and the SHA

to hammer out an agreement that allowed eq-life to use the basement space for a spa so long as it agreed to validate Grand Place parking for employees and customers.

The legal agreement was for eq-life only. If a new tenant moved in, the use of the basement was supposed to be looked at again.

The agreement stated that any future change in use at Grand Place would require a review by the city zoning administrator for compliance with the original site plan. The agreement also prohibited the use of a city parking regulation known as the "rule of five" in regards to Grand Place. The rule of five allows

a building to be expanded or to have a more intensive commercial use without additional off-street parking as long as the parking that would normally be required for the expansion or new use is five or fewer spaces.

Former eq-life employees Rick and Tracy Fiebigler tried in vain to open their phresh spa salon in part of eq-life's former space, including part of the basement. However, they ended up opening a block and a half west last year instead after the SHA's Zoning and Land Use Committee declined to schedule a neighborhood hearing to discuss amending the agreement.

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Deadline looms for selling Grand lots

St. Thomas, neighbors are at odds over the marketing of off-campus property

By JANE MCCLURE

Local residents on the West Summit Neighborhood Advisory Committee (WSNAC) have turned their thumbs down on St. Thomas' latest proposal for selling off three residential properties on Grand Avenue across the street from the university's campus.

Prospective developers Craig Anderson and Frank Greczyna had asked WSNAC on May 12 what it thought about changing the zoning of one of the three contiguous properties from residential back to commercial.

The zoning of the lot at 2076 Grand, which has a maintenance garage on it, was changed from commercial to residential as part of the 2004 agreement among St. Thomas, its neighbors and the city of St. Paul that allowed the university to extend its campus to the two blocks bounded by Summit, Cleveland, Grand and Cretin avenues.

According to Anderson, the cost to acquire all three properties and demolish the existing buildings is too great to make redeveloping all three lots as housing feasible in the current market. The two houses at 2080 and 2084 Grand could be renovated and sold, but that leaves the maintenance garage. "What the heck can you do with that?" Anderson asked.

Anderson suggested reopening the 2004 agreement to allow the rezoning of 2076 Grand to commercial use.

WSNAC members representing the Macalester-Groveland and Union Park

district councils, the Summit Avenue Residential Preservation Association and Neighbors United made it clear that they are opposed to any change that would force the reopening of the university's special condition use permit and the complex legal agreement that amended it in 2004.

"It's frustrating to me that we're in this situation," said WSNAC co-chair Scott Banas. According to him, any amendment could unravel the entire 2004 agreement and negate years of progress in university-neighborhood relations.

The fear is that if the special condition use permit is reopened to address one issue, its other points could all come into play as well.

The 2004 agreement created WSNAC and the processes used to review campus projects. It requires St. Thomas to buy 30 rental houses in the neighborhood around the campus over the course of 12 years and return them to owner-occupied status. The agreement also calls for the university to sell all of its off-campus properties by August 11, 2009.

The off-campus properties are to be sold strictly to owner-occupants and are not to be redeveloped as student housing. The intent of this provision was to discourage the longstanding practice of property owners in the neighborhoods around St. Thomas from selling or bequeathing their property to the university, according to Marc Manderscheid, a Macalester-Groveland resident and member of WSNAC.

Over the past few years, three pro-

spective buyers have backed out of plans to redevelop the three Grand Avenue properties. "We're going to continue to market them and try our best to sell them," said Mark Vangsayd, St. Thomas' chief financial officer.

"But clearly we're running out of time," said Doug Hennes, St. Thomas' vice president for intergovernmental relations. "We honestly thought we could sell the properties, but life has gotten a lot more complicated," he said, referring to the downturn in the housing market.

St. Thomas officials asked WSNAC members last month if the university could continue to use the maintenance garage until a new maintenance facility is built as part of the new Anderson Athletic complex that will be completed in the next couple years. However, WSNAC rejected that idea because of its potential for reopening the university's special conditional use permit.

WSNAC members discussed redeveloping the three properties as rental housing, possibly for senior citizens, but that would also require reopening the 2004 agreement. Another idea is to allow the maintenance garage property to be redeveloped as a parking lot for a nearby business. Davanni's restaurant just to the east had expressed an interest in the property a few years ago.

A few WSNAC members suggested knocking down the garage and selling it as a side yard for the adjacent house. Another suggestion was to demolish the maintenance garage and move a house onto the lot. St. Thomas owns all but one of the houses remaining in the two-block campus expansion area and has plans to redevelop those properties with either classroom buildings or student housing.

Neighbors aren't wild about Onion's request

SHA recommends against allowing drinks to be served to outdoor diners

By JANE MCCLURE

The Wild Onion's quest to serve liquor with meals on its patio may be blocked before it even reaches the St. Paul City Council. The Summit Hill Association's Zoning and Land Use Committee voted on May 4 to oppose the restaurant's request for an extension of its liquor service. The full SHA board voted 13-3 on May 14 also to recommend denial. That recommendation now goes on to city staff.

The Wild Onion, 788 Grand Ave., is seeking the liquor service extension under regulations that were relaxed last year by the City Council. Previously, a restaurant needed the consent of 90 percent of property owners within 300 feet to have a license extension considered by the council. Now the council will also consider petitions that receive 60-89 percent consent, but the council is likely to attach conditions to the license. Petitions with less than 60 percent consent require district council support.

The Wild Onion received the consent of only 33 percent of surrounding property owners on its petition. The business got more than 60 signatures, but many of those were from neighboring tenants, not property owners. Wild Onion co-owner Jay Salmen said tenant signatures

should be considered as well because they too would be affected by the extension of the liquor license.

Under the proposal presented on May 4, liquor would only be served with meals at tables, and outdoor service would end at an agreed-upon time.

"We want to clearly state that this is not intended to be an after-dusk operation," Salmen said. Food service would be separated from the patio area that is currently used by smokers. Customers would not be allowed to sit on the patio after dining service ends.

Salmen said the Wild Onion is the only Grand Avenue restaurant with a patio that is not allowed to serve liquor outdoors. He argued that the SHA should be consistent and recommend approval of the request.

Grand Avenue Business Association executive director David Regan also argued that the SHA should approve the request. He said not allowing the Wild Onion to serve liquor with meals on the patio puts it at "a competitive disadvantage."

Several neighbors argued that the request should not be granted, citing ongoing problems with litter, noise and patron behavior at the Wild Onion. They said allowing liquor to be served on the patio would only make the problems worse.

"We're greatly impacted by the Wild Onion on our block," said Lincoln Avenue resident Tom Richardson, according to him, noise from the business can be heard as far south as Goodrich Avenue.

"I'd have to say that the noise is ex-

tremely disturbing," said Lincoln Avenue resident Bill Pesek. According to him, neighbors would hear more noise if liquor was served on the patio.

Salmen referred to the neighbors who are critical of the Wild Onion's request as a "band of four" who oppose everything the business attempts to do. He said the Wild Onion has worked hard to meet the terms of an agreement made with the SHA last year to pick up trash and address patron behavior in the neighborhood. He said decibel readings are conducted regularly and have shown that the business is not generating excessive noise.

Wild Onion co-owner Joe Schaefer suggested one way to reduce noise and still have liquor service on the patio is to not have the indoor music start up until outdoor dining service ends.

The Wild Onion's patio is located to the east and south of its building, closer to residential neighbors than some other Grand Avenue patios. Salmen and Schaefer said there is separation and buffering with the parking lot, a fence and trees, but neighbors said that is not enough.

SHA committee members disagreed about the impact that the liquor service extension would have on neighbors. "I really don't think (liquor service on the patio) would increase the noise level all that much," said board member Ken Bayliss.

Other committee members disagreed. "I think you've done a good job trying to address past problems," said SHA board member Mark Sutherland, "but there's still a lot of ongoing concern."

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V

News Briefs

Mac-Grove resident promotes more eco-friendly park visits

Deb Alper of Macalester-Groveland is hoping to convince more people to use mass transit as a more environmentally sensitive way to get to parks and other natural areas in the Twin Cities.

"I've long been concerned about the loss of our green space on the urban fringe and how increasingly difficult it is for city dwellers to access it," said Alper, who is organizing public transportation to area parks through her volunteer work with the Sierra Club's North Star Chapter.

One such trip took place in March when the public was encouraged to find ways other than driving to get to Crosby Farm Regional Park in Highland. A handful of travelers boarded the bus at Grand and Snelling avenues for the 20-minute ride to the park, while others used a combination of bus and light rail to arrive there. The group met at the top of the bluff and then walked down to Crosby to explore the park's trails and sandy river banks.

Similar excursions are being planned each month, Alper said, with the next one starting at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, June 6, at Rice Park in downtown St. Paul. Participants will walk or bike approximately 2 miles to a proposed park-and-bike facility as well as to Wacouta Commons and Bruce Vento State Park. Participants are encouraged to bring water and a lunch to eat if desired.

"If you're looking for a new type of outdoor adventure that is both environmentally and socially friendly, please join us," Alper said.

For help with bus schedules or directions, call Alper at 651-699-9667 or visit www.metrotransit.org.

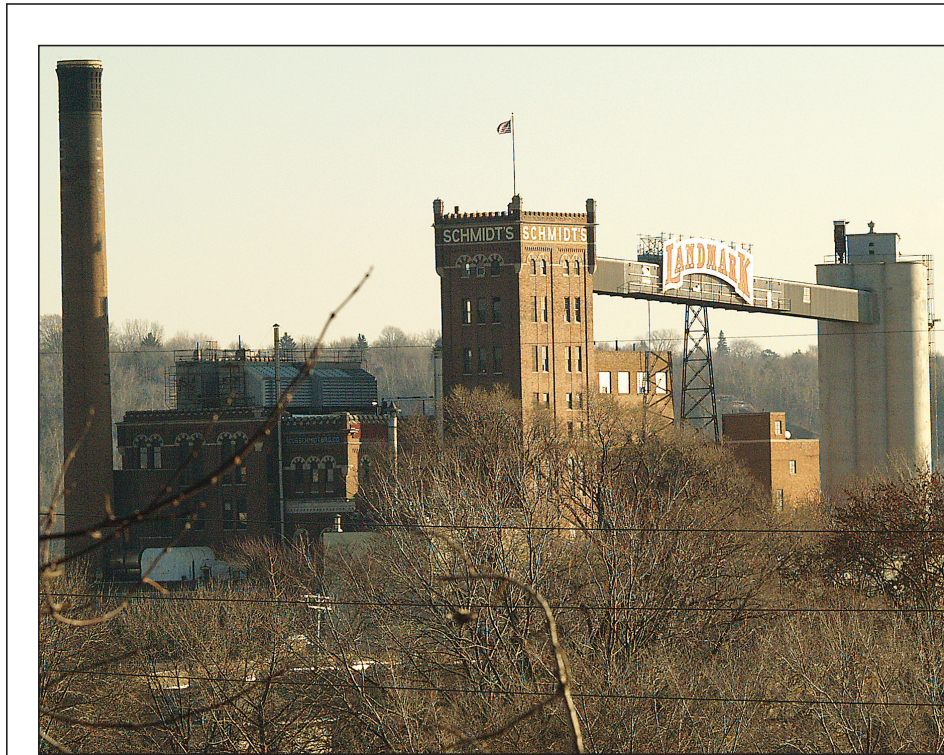
Brewery water, proceeds to get flowing again in West 7th

The public water taps should be turned on once again at the former Schmidt Brewery in June. The West 7th/Fort Road Federation unanimously approved an agreement on May 11 with property owner BHGDN that will provide the district council with income from the sale of the water, which will be sold at 50 cents a gallon. People must bring their own containers.

The agreement is expected to net the federation about \$60,000 per year—welcome revenue at a time when district councils are also facing a city funding cut of as much as 14 percent.

Residents filled water jugs at the brewery for decades, but the taps were shut off in 2005 during the battle over the Gopher State Ethanol plant that operated there. The federation is working with BHGDN to secure funds for environmental cleanup and get the property ready for sale and redevelopment.

The federation had hoped to have the taps turned on sooner, but water testing has taken time, said federation executive director Ed Johnson. So has getting bids from vendors to



The old Schmidt Brewery on West 7th Street. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Schmidt Brewery makes top 10 list of endangered historic places

The former Schmidt Brewery, 882 W. 7th St., has been placed on the St. Paul-based Preservation Alliance of Minnesota's list of the 10 Most Endangered Historic Places for 2009. The list is intended to spotlight the plight of historic properties that face imminent danger through demolition, neglect, severe alteration or public policy.

With its crenellated towers, Gothic details and basement rathskeller, the main brewhouse is considered to be a superb example of turn-of-the-last century German breweries in the U.S. and likely the largest and most intact design by Chicago archi-

tect Bernard Barthel. Other buildings in the brewery complex were added over time and were designed by other architects.

Beer was brewed at the plant until 2002 and the complex housed an ethanol plant until 2004. Plans to redevelop the 15-acre site as a mix of artist lofts, apartments, condos, and retail, office and entertainment space fell victim to financial constraints. The property owner is now working with the West 7th/Fort Road Federation and city officials to develop an alternate plan.

For the entire list of endangered places, visit www.mnnpreservation.org.

get the taps running again. The work has included putting in a pump, updating electrical and plumbing service, and installing a water purification system, new tap dispensers, and a security alarm and camera system. It is costing about \$40,000 to get the taps turned on again.

Hearings set on standards for infill housing, home additions

The St. Paul Planning Commission has scheduled two public hearings on its recently released recommendations to strengthen design standards for infill housing and housing additions. The hearings will take place at 8:30 a.m. on Fridays, May 22 and June 5, in the lower level of City Hall. The public may testify or submit written comments on the recom-

mendations.

Pressure to amend the design standards came after a few prefabricated houses were placed sideways on neighborhood lots. In at least two cases, walls without windows ended up facing the street. There also have been cases of large home additions with few if any windows, garages placed at the front of lots, and large homes built on small lots that block light and cause drainage problems for neighboring properties.

District councils, block clubs and community development corporations have all pushed for the new standards as more vacant houses are demolished in the city. The Planning Commission and city staff have discussed the proposed guidelines for more than a year, but the St. Paul City Council put the project on a fast track over the last few months.

The proposal before the Planning Commission amends existing city design standards and adds several new ones. They include new standards for building facades facing the street, a minimum area of window and door openings on exterior walls of residential structures, access to and setbacks of residential garages, the width of garage doors, and the width and extent of residential driveways in front yards.

The proposed standards may be viewed at www.stpaul.gov/index.asp?NID=3000.

Expanded STAR funds include Holy Spirit playground project

Three groups that had been shut out of the city of St. Paul's 2009 Neighborhood Sales Tax Revitalization (STAR) program received good news on May 13. The St. Paul City Council adopted an expanded set of recommendations that included funds for playground improvements at Holy Spirit School as well as two other projects that had been passed over by the board. Holy Spirit will receive slightly over \$5,000 to replace the gravel on its two playgrounds with wood chips.

Local projects also receiving STAR grants include the African American cultural and information center on Selby Avenue (\$15,000), Historic St. Paul's home restoration program on the West End (\$25,000), a rubber shredder for JJV's Randolph Avenue facility (\$25,000) and improvements to Mississippi Market's new store on West 7th (\$25,000).

The total awarded for the 14 projects came to around \$300,000, which comes from the city's extra half percent sales tax.

Funding approved to stabilize buildings on fort's Upper Post

The Hennepin County Board of Commissioners has approved an agreement with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and as a result will receive a \$500,000 grant for emergency stabilization of historic structures at the Fort Snelling Upper Post, the state's first national historic landmark.

The Upper Post is located on the 141-acre Upper Bluff near Fort Snelling's golf course and athletic fields. The area was a fully operational military post from the time it was built in the 1820s until the end of World War II, but fell into disrepair after it was decommissioned in 1946. The post has been owned by the DNR since 1971 and was declared one of the nation's 11 most endangered historic sites in 2006.

Over the past few years, Hennepin County organized a coalition of interested parties to discuss potential redevelopment of the site, which includes 27 deteriorating buildings. The grant will pay for structural repairs to Building 65 (the jail) and Building 67 (the headquarters).

NEWS BRIEFS ►7

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Commission supports upgrade of youth ballfields at Dunning

Recommendation also includes improving Oxford soccer fields

By JANE MCCLURE

The St. Paul Parks and Recreation Commission voted unanimously on May 13 to recommend a plan put forward by booster club members to renovate the youth baseball fields on the western portion of Dunning Field. The recommendation also supports improving the soccer fields at the nearby Oxford Community Center. The recommendation now goes to the St. Paul City Council.

The latest version of the plan calls for creating a baseball diamond near Dunning Field's parking lot entrance at Griggs Street, adding a multi-use field at Syndicate Street and Marshall Avenue, refurbishing an existing practice field on Syndicate, and adding trees, a walking path, a picnic pavilion and other amenities. Work would start this year and be completed by 2010.

The project also has the support of the Union Park District Council (UPDC) Parks and Recreation Committee, the Lexington-Hamline Community Council, Concordia University-St. Paul and Arts-Us, a nonprofit organization that leases the Dunning Recreation Center building.

However, the UPDC board has voted twice to oppose the baseball field improvements. Board members living near Dunning said the area should remain open for passive recreation. UPDC board member Brenda Petry said residents of nearby Skyline Towers, 1245 St. Anthony Ave., also do not want to see the area fenced off and want to have the space left open for pickup soccer games. Petry is on the staff at Skyline Towers, a high-rise located north of I-94. Residents there use a foot bridge to get to Dunning.

Other board members objected to the amount of organized youth sports already scheduled at Dunning. St. Paul Parks and Recreation director Mike Hahm said the amount of organized scheduling will not change and there will still be plenty of opportunities for public use of Dunning.

Hahm said he respected the district council's position, but added that the Dunning im-

provements have wider neighborhood support and are needed. "My conclusion is that we shouldn't walk away from this project at this time," Hahm said. "We're excited about this project because it does good things for our program."

The UPDC's objections came despite numerous changes that were made at its request over the past several months to address neighborhood concerns. Hahm said one key change leaves the southwest corner of the field open so a small slope can continue to be used for sledding. The revised plan will also reduce on-street parking near that corner, the fence for the outfield will not contain advertising, and the field's gate will only be locked if heavy rains could result in damage to the turf.

Parks commissioners said the project will improve Dunning at a time when the city has no money budgeted for it. "Having an awesome playing space there counts for a lot," said commissioner Therese Kelly.

No city money would be used for the field project, which has an estimated cost of \$267,000. The Parks and Recreation Commission recommended accepting a \$124,590 grant from Major League Baseball's Baseball Tomorrow Fund on May 13 on behalf of the nonprofit Friends of St. Paul Baseball, which is now working to raise matching funds. Donations also are coming from major leaguers Paul Molitor and Joe Mauer, both of whom played youth baseball at Dunning. The city is expected to donate \$18,500 in in-kind services and would continue to own the field. The Dunning Booster Club would continue to maintain the fields and run the youth baseball programs there. More than 1,000 youths participate in the programs at Dunning annually.

The resolution adopted on May 13 states that Parks and Recreation should also improve the soccer fields at Oxford, which is located across Lexington Parkway from Dunning. Although UPDC members and Skyline staff have objected to people having to walk a couple of blocks farther to play soccer, Hahm believes people will flock to them once the fields are ready. "When we have established turf fields at Oxford, they'll be used," he said.

The soccer field improvements at Oxford will take place this year and in 2010.

6 NEWS BRIEFS

The rehabilitation work will be done by Sentencing to Service crews, which have done virtually all the stabilization work so far on the historic buildings. The program provides construction training to criminal offenders, in hopes of enabling them to find employment after they complete their sentences.

In a related action, the board also approved a request to seek \$6.75 million in federal economic stimulus funding to rehabilitate the headquarters building and Building 152 (officers' quarters) for possible reuse as professional offices.

Support rises for bakery's move to Merriam Park site

Thuro Bread could rise in Merriam Park this summer if a rezoning request is approved by the St. Paul City Council. The St. Paul Planning Commission will make a recommendation May 22 on whether or not to rezone 2034-2042 Marshall Ave. from community business to a traditional neighborhood classification. The City Council will likely vote on the matter in June.

The Planning Commission's Zoning Committee voted 5-0 on May 14 to recommend the rezoning, which would allow Minneapolis-based Bonus Vivus, the maker of Thuro

Bread, to move its bakery to a vacant storefront at 2036 Marshall Ave. The company would operate a small retail store in front, but reserve the majority of the space for production.

Thuro Bread, which is a health bar, got its start in 1995 when founder Sarah Couenhoven began researching healthy snacks for her family. She developed the health bar after experimenting with three organic whole grains—amaranth, spelt and oats. Thuro Bread is currently sold in four Twin Cities stores.

Because the business is one of limited production and more than half of its sales are off-site, it is not allowed in a community business zone.

The storefront at 2036 Marshall is one five in the same building, and all must be rezoned. The change in zoning won't affect the other businesses—Izzy's Ice Cream, A Fine Grind coffee house, Pusch Salon and Legacy Chocolates, the latter of which is vacating its space to concentrate on Internet sales.

City staff recommended approval of the rezoning request. The Union Park District Council's Land Use Committee reviewed the request, but made no recommendation.

News Briefs were compiled by Jane McClure, Janet Cass and John Wadell.



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Viewpoint

Now or later, fairer tax rates needed

BY DANE SMITH

Whatever happens in the final days of the 2009 Minnesota Legislature, the combatants will return eventually to the same question that has confronted us since the last fiscal crisis in 2003: Can't we undo at least some of the largest tax-rate reductions in our state's history, thus preserving some of the public-sector investments that are essential for more equitable prosperity?

A growing number of people believe that those income tax cuts, benefiting mostly high-income earners and granted in 1999 and 2000 during an economic boom, are unsustainable. Evidence is mounting that those cuts have created a chronic budget crisis and a level of public-sector disinvestment that has damaged Minnesota's economy. Growth & Justice is just one of several groups that have produced research showing that partial restoration of those tax rates will cause less damage to the economy than wholesale slashing of public goods and services. The state is now forgoing \$1 billion a year in revenue that would still be available if, instead of tax cuts, the budget surplus had been returned through one-time rebates, a strategy employed in previous surplus years by Governors Arne Carlson and Jesse Ventura.

Minnesota's economy is now underperforming the nation's for the first time in decades, and the state's leading economists and demographers are warning us of the effects of eroding investment in the things that created Minnesota's previously competitive advantage.

Last week Growth & Justice tried to bring some common sense to the debate. Research outlined in a policy brief by Marsha Blumenthal, a retired University of St. Thomas economics professor, and Charlie Quimby, a former business owner and Growth & Justice fellow, showed conservatives have a point that must be acknowledged.

The Blumenthal-Quimby study evaluated a proposed fourth-tier income tax bracket for top earners. A new 8.5 percent bracket, which would raise about \$250 million per biennium, would result in some job loss and fewer dollars generated by the economy. Blumenthal and Quimby estimated that 1,000 to 5,000 jobs could be at risk, and since the current House and Senate bills impose even higher rates for the top tier, those job losses could be even greater.

However, the Blumenthal-Quimby study also explained that large reductions in government budgets via cuts do more immediate damage to the economy. "The principle is this," they wrote. "Both spending cuts and revenue increases will contract the economy in the short run. Budget cuts are the more damaging option, in our view, because they have a greater immediate impact on households already spending all they earn, while people with plenty of income typically spend less than they earn. Public-sector budget cuts are more likely to reduce consumption that drives the economy. Tax increases on high incomes are more likely to decrease savings and investment. And an already shrinking economy calls for more demand before more investment."

Complete restoration of the pre-1999 income tax rates for all taxpayers is unlikely this session and might not be a great idea. Property taxes and sales taxes in recent years have been nibbling away at middle and lower incomes, making Minnesota's overall tax system less fair already.

State Senator Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook), the Senate Tax Committee chairman who emphasized at the beginning of the session that it would be impossible to balance the budget with tax increases alone, is refreshingly honest about the tax cuts of 1999 and 2000, for which he and most DFLers voted.

"I would argue that the pendulum swung too far. We made tax cuts that were not sustainable over the long haul," Bakk said when he introduced the Senate's tax proposal last month. "I remember when the 2001 bill came to the Senate, my predecessor and the former tax chair, Doug Johnson, voted against the 2001 tax bill. Senator (Larry) Pogemiller voted against the 2001 tax bill. Majority Leader Roger Moe voted against the 2001 tax bill. They all said the tax cuts are not going to be sustainable. And they were right."

Dane Smith is a resident of Highland Park and the president of St. Paul-based Growth & Justice, a nonpartisan policy research group.



Inbox

Leadership and responsibility

Although I live in Macalester-Groveland, I know that the Highland and Macalester-Groveland district councils periodically collaborate, so I attended the HDC's annual meeting and election. Then I read the May 6 *Villager's* account of the election and the comments made by outgoing HDC president Bill Klein that he is hoping for "a calmer year than the past two" and that "little was getting accomplished" because of the continuing turmoil. After what I saw at the election, I can well believe it.

Mr. Klein, in his position as the chairman of the meeting, took questions from the audience for the purpose of grilling the at-large candidates. Surprisingly, in a packed auditorium of nearly 300 community members, Mr. Klein conveniently took questions from only past or present district council members, and each question was pointed at candidate Georgia Dietz, singling her out for unwarranted attack.

If Mr. Klein is implying that turmoil existed because of one person, I would counter that leadership has its responsibilities, and I would ask Mr. Klein how he thinks his behavior served to alleviate such "turmoil." It's easy to point the finger at one or two individuals and brand them as troublemakers, people who ask questions, people who ask why things are done the way they are. It takes a lot more courage to take some responsibility.

Given the embarrassing squandering of the public tax dollar at the hand of the Highland District Council over the past few years, it is my hope that the newly elected council members, regardless of party affiliation, focus on the job at hand and refrain from personal attacks on individual members. I'm quite certain the 300 people who attended the election have better things to do with their time and money than see the HDC devolve into personal sniping.

Rory Koch
Macalester-Groveland

DFLers can be activists, too

In the April 25, 2007, *Villager* your front page had a story about the large turnout at the Highland District Council's annual meeting and election. All of the newly elected district council members happened to be Republicans, and then- Republican City Committee chair Scott Walker took credit for the win. The *Villager* listed the new members and singled out the new at-large directors, Bill Poulos and Georgia Dietz, as "longtime Republican activists."

Evidently, the *Villager* only takes the time and effort to point out Republican activists, not DFL or Green Party activists. In your most recent issue, "Spirited election helps calm waters..." your reporter listed all the newly elected district council members by name and occupation except Ray Cleveland and Andrew Smith, whom he described as "longtime Republican activist" and "Republican activist," respectively.

Why were the occupations of these two gentlemen not reported to your readers? Why wasn't newly elected HDC board member Cory Tennison, who sought the DFL endorsement for Ramsey County attorney in 2006, labeled a "Democratic activist" in your story?

Mr. Tennison is well known for the many DFL candidates whose campaigns he has assisted. Perhaps you could explain to your readers why you need to point out the hard-working Republicans, while not treating DFL-affiliated members of the community in the same fashion when they take part in community affairs?

My advice as a former newspaper editor would be to ask your reporters to tell readers why folks are taking time to do what they are doing, rather than being satisfied to just write about the election in such a simplistic manner using political party labels to describe only some of the candidates. And if your reporter is going to introduce party labels into the story, then how is it that the Republicans fell only one vote short of winning two of the grid seats on top of the two they did win? What issues motivated such a large turnout by conservatives in Highland Park in 2009?

Perhaps an interview with Georgia Dietz, the Highland Park resident, small business owner, citizen volunteer, former HDC board member and former community organizer extraordinaire who is also a Republican, would have improved your story.

Greg Copeland, Chairman
St. Paul Republican City Committee

Editor's note: Ray Cleveland and Andrew Smith could not be reached for comment prior to the Villager's publication of the story on the Highland District Council's 2009 annual meeting and election. For the record, Cleveland is an Air Force reservist who also works as a systems administrator for the Minnesota Department of Revenue, and Smith works in contractor sales at the Midway Menards store.

Bad news on the doorstep: Fewer papers on doorsteps

BY BILL STIEGER

I applied for a small-business grant last year in order to buy a computer and other sundry equipment for my home office. To qualify for the grant, I was required to complete a business plan and submit it for examination by a businessman of the foundation's choosing.

The businessman, whom I met at a Perkins restaurant, picked up my business plan, began to read it and then stopped. Gazing up at me over his reading glasses, he said, "But you're in a dying profession."

Despite his dire assessment of my chosen career as a freelance newspaper writer, I received the grant. The businessman may be right, though. The newspaper business has suffered one catastrophe after another in recent years. Many newspapers have capitulated. Others are going or about to go into bankruptcy, and many more have decimated their staffs as a growing number of Americans choose to receive their news exclusively from television or the Internet.

What kind of news are they getting? Here are some of the day's "headlines" I recently perused on CNN's website: Thousands Flee Uncontrolled Wildfire; 'I Wasn't Drunk,' Hasselhoff Insists; Boy Finds \$9,420 in Burned Backpack; Keiffer Sutherland Charged With Assault." You get the idea.

Meanwhile, television news is either short

on substance, insufferably sensationalized or so slanted that the viewer cannot form a reasonable opinion on the subjects the stations cover. The large television news organizations give themselves just a half hour to inform you of what's happening in the world today. And sprinkled in among their reports are fluffy, feel-good features, such as NBC's "Making a Difference," which may be amusing but are hardly informative.

Fox and MSNBC offer "news" clips from Hannity, Obermann, Beck, Matthews and Maddow that often consist of nothing more than semi-hysterical rants. Many of the so-called experts with whom these television shows consult are credentialed by nothing more than the online websites for which they write. Last night I watched Keith Obermann ask the opinion of a "reporter" from that font of journalistic wisdom and integrity, the Huffington Post.

The Huffington Post has about 1,000 bloggers on its website, many of whom love to crow about the imminent demise of this nation's newspapers. In my opinion, their gloating over the death of newspapers stems from the fact that they're lousy writers who couldn't get their foot in the door of a major metropolitan daily newspaper.

I found this headline this morning on the Huffington Post: Online News is Not Arianna Huffington's Dastardly Plot to Destroy the Newspaper Industry and Other

Reality-Based Observations. The headline appeared over a story by Jane Hamsher, who was described at huffingtonpost.com as the founder of firedoglake.com.

Then there was newser.com columnist Michael Wolff's story. Under the headline, Apple Without Steve Jobs Means Twitter, it opened with, "Forget about whether Apple buying Twitter is a boneheaded move. Here's what it is: It isn't a Steve Jobs move."

Just makes you want to keep on reading, doesn't it?

Radio today is rife with political hacks mostly touting the paranoid theories of the far right. Hannity, Limbaugh and others of that ilk live on the nutty fringe of conservatism. These folks, whom I've always regarded as clowns, have become downright frightening of late with their prognostications about this country going to hell in an already burning hand basket.

As far as I can tell, their paranoid theories largely appeal to, well, paranoids, many of whom view their right to own an assault weapon right up there with their right to fire that assault weapon at anyone intent on outlawing its use.

If a functioning democracy depends on a well-informed citizenry, we are headed to hell in that hand basket. The demise of newspapers—and the news as we used to know it—is not good news at all.

8◀ INBOX

Playing politics at the Capitol

I spent several hours at the state Capitol recently with a small group of people engaging in street theater. The production by members of our ad hoc group, Minnesotans for Personal Responsibility (MPR), consisted of a 30-minute skit with an emcee and six characters. MPR is concerned about the possible loss of revenue for education and infrastructure. We are especially concerned about the reduction and possible elimination of services for the poor as the Legislature considers proposals to cut welfare grants by \$100 a month if the family is in subsidized housing and by \$125 a month if a family member receives a Social Security grant for the disabled.

In our performance, we portrayed the richest of the rich—that 10 percent of the U.S. population who own over 71 percent of the nation's net worth. So we were dressed—overdressed, that is—in satin, big hats, a vest made of fake dollar bills and brightly colored feather boas. I wore every piece of my rhinestone jewelry collection dating back to the 1930s.

We had invited reporters to a ceremony at which Governor Tim Pawlenty would be given a Golden Bush Award, exemplifying personal responsibility at its highest level as he proclaimed that taxes

would not be increased no matter what the state's needs might be. A small chorus sang, "We got Pawlenty of nuttin' and Pawlenty's the reason for that."

One unexpected plus of the action was the ability to talk to several groups of school children. Whenever possible, I talked to the children, explaining the satire and how democracy provides the freedom that allows citizens to poke fun at elected officials and their policies without retribution. Unfortunately, I never had sufficient time to go into our underlying political message.

So often, we in the peace movement are asked to quantify our results. Of course, we can't. Many of us don't need that assurance. We have had too many experiences where we later discovered our message was heard and produced change.

*Polly Mann
Phillips, Minneapolis*

For a safer Snelling Avenue

Lots of opinions have been put forth about the proposed Snelling Avenue medians between Grand and St. Clair avenues, but we believe the most compelling reason to install them is one of safety. Medians

INBOX ▶ 10

VILLAGER

Volume 57, Number 6

Maurice F. Mischke, 1920-1991

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Publisher

Michael Mischke
mmischke@myvillager.com

Editors

Dale Mischke
John Wadell
news@myvillager.com
Letters to the editor:
letters@myvillager.com

General Manager

John Rauch

Classified Ads

Lisa Corrigan
Mary Helen Pates
wantads@myvillager.com

Advertising Sales

Tim Carroll
Emmet McCafferty
Bob Stjern
displayads@myvillager.com

Production

John Baichtal
Craig Schuster

CONTRIBUTORS

Anne Brandrud, Tom Conlon, Kevin Driscoll, Larry Englund, Bob Gilbert, Janet Lunder Hanafin, Lisa Heinrich, Janet Hostetter, Brian Johnson, Frank Jossi, Sue Lee, Jo Marshall, Jane McClure, Steve Michaels, Dave Page, Steve Pease, Morgan Smith, Brad Stauffer, Bill Stieger, Bill Wagner, Leslie Walters, Carolyn Will, Judy Woodward, Dave Wright.

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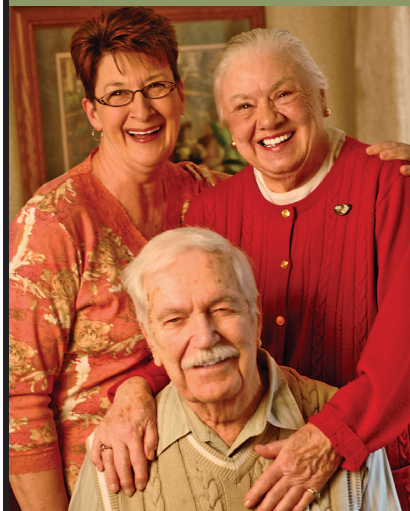
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9◀ INBOX

are a proven roadway safety tool. According to the Federal Highway Administration, medians reduce traffic conflicts and increase safety. That is something this stretch of Snelling, which has experienced many accidents in the last several years, could certainly use.

Public and private funding for this initiative has been lined up. However, if St. Paul City Council member Pat Harris does not allow a resolution to accept these funds, there is a very real chance of losing much of that funding in the coming weeks. In pursuit of a safer and more livable neighborhood for drivers and pedestrians alike, we support the Snelling medians and we ask that Pat Harris support them as well.

*Nancy Wiens, Richard Nelson
Macalester-Groveland*

Welcome Walgreens

I live on Pinehurst Avenue, right behind the Marathon gas station at Ford Parkway and Finn Street. From what I have observed, Marathon gasoline deliveries and some or all of the regular convenience-store deliveries have stopped. The regular unleaded tanks are empty and their pump handles have been shrouded with plastic bags since May 11.

This property has steadily deteriorated for years. Cracked pavement and driveways have gone without serious attention at least since I moved in in 2002. Ever since an electrical fire knocked out the car wash, it has remained boarded up but not cleaned up. It's clear to me that this property will soon be empty and abandoned if it is not sold and redeveloped.

Walgreens is a well capitalized, proven company ready and able to bring the site up to a standard of design and investment that adds value to both the Highland Village business area and the surrounding residential community. Opponents worry that Walgreens intends to drive Snyder Drug out of business and therefore is not building for permanence, since it already has stores at Randolph and Snelling avenues in St. Paul and at Hiawatha Avenue and 46th Street in Minneapolis. Whatever the merits of that argument, Walgreens is a good citizen as retail chains go. Its buildings are well constructed, maintained, operated and stocked. Its site plans acknowledge pedestrian needs by placing the main entrances on the sidewalk.

I hope to see Walgreens up and operating as soon as

possible, with a good plan and good landscaping, lighting and design. Snyder Drug will, of course, be affected, but it will also be challenged and, hopefully, expand and improve its own inventory and operations. It is worth considering placing the Walgreens building at the Finn Street property line, rather than the east property line, so as to create a large shared parking area for both Snyder and Walgreens.

Many older city neighborhoods have great difficulty attracting basic businesses such as pharmacies, grocery stores and banks. We ought to be grateful that Highland Village is a magnet for them. It bodes very well for the future.

*Mathews Hollinshead
Highland Park*

Don't fence us out

My son attends Expo Elementary School, our neighborhood school on Warwick Street in the old Derham Hall High School building. We are outraged by the recent actions of our neighbors, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. Three weeks ago, professional landscapers installed fencing on both sides of the sidewalk in front of their expansive property, to protect fresh top soil and grass seed. In and of itself, not a problem, except that it has created a tremendous inconvenience for the students and staff of the school who no longer can access the public street via the boulevard.

Three busloads of students now need to wait to access their buses until the other buses load up completely and leave, so that there is space in front of the school for these buses, which have traditionally been parked in front of the sisters' property. This has created chaos, particularly during a thunderstorm that occurred during this transition time. The students and supervising staff were forced to wait in the otherwise busy vestibule of the school, resulting in a stressful end of the day, to put it mildly. I want to give great credit to the principal and staff who handled the situation with grace and note that the students appear to be respectful of the fencing, so far.

It is ironic that this same sidewalk was rarely tended to this past winter and was a treacherous walkway for weeks on end. This negligence in part resulted in numerous falls and members of the Expo community opting to walk on the public boulevard for safety's sake.

This deliberate action by my neighbors makes me question the priorities of a Christian facility that has two "peace" signs

displayed near the door, but also has two signs near the public sidewalk stating "No Trespassing Allowed."

*Susan Rose
Macalester-Groveland*

Enjoy life in moderation

My deepest sympathy goes to the family and friends of University of St. Thomas freshman Dan Zamlen, whose body was found on May 1 in the Mississippi River near the Ford plant. My hope is that something good can come out of this tragedy. Maybe other teenagers and college students will realize that actions always have consequences.

Underage drinking may or may not have led to Dan's death, but many bad things can result from the impairment that accompanies alcohol consumption. Casual drinking may seem harmless at the time, but poor decision-making can lead to being caught in dangerous situations, regrettable sexual encounters, unplanned pregnancies, dropping out of school, abusive or damaged personal relationships, arrests, embarrassment to you and your family, and even death.

The consequences may not be immediate, but I would suggest that many people, myself included, who participated in underage drinking, experimented with drugs, engaged in casual sex and so on regret doing those things.

College students and teenagers: You are our nation's future. Please remember what happened to Dan and many others like him. Life is difficult enough without complicating it with the consequences of alcohol. Enjoy life in moderation, and think before you act. Don't end up as another statistic.

*Scott Olson
Highland Park*

Do write, won't you?

The *Villager* welcomes letters to the editors. The more the merrier. To be considered for publication, however, letters must be signed and include a telephone number for verification purposes only. To spare yourself the unkind cut of the editor's pen, keep your letters brief and to the point. Send your letter to the *Villager* at 757 S. Snelling Ave., St. Paul, MN 55116, e-mail it to editors@myvillager.com or fax it to 651-699-6501.

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Staff member Tammy explains CEREC

fabricated in a day or two. CAD/CAM technology also allows Dr. Fischbach's staff to save teeth that most other dentists would extract.

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Retired 3M exec, longtime district volunteer to run for School Board

Jean O'Connell, a retired 3M executive, has announced her candidacy for the St. Paul School Board. A lifelong resident of St. Paul and a graduate of Central High School, O'Connell has served the school district over the years as a parent volunteer, tutor, science fair judge and Junior Achievement teacher. She also chaired Superintendent Meria Carstarphen's Advisory Committee on Large-Scale System Change.

O'Connell said she has the experience to help the school district implement the large-scale system changes it needs. "We can't make incremental changes and expect to see significant improvement in the achievement gaps between student groups," she said. "Speed and decisiveness are the key to helping all of our students achieve."

O'Connell worked for 3M for 34 years in a variety of capacities. As the company's director of community affairs, she consulted with school district administrators on the development and implementation of its 2006-11 strategic plan. As a volunteer in the public schools, she served as a tutor in math and basic skills, introduced the 3M Visiting Wizard program in elementary school classrooms and discussed careers in science and math with junior and senior high school students.

A graduate of the University of Minnesota-Duluth with a degree in mathematics, O'Connell served as a student teacher at Duluth East High School and Holy Rosary Catholic School. She now lives with her husband John in the Como Park neighborhood. They have two daughters—Meghan, a graduate of Central High School, and Kelly, a graduate of Cretin-Derham Hall.



Jean O'Connell

By redirecting current resources to proven, research-based programs, O'Connell believes the district can achieve better results for the students and families it serves. "Long-term, our community can only be as successful as our children," O'Connell said. "We need to look at new ways to engage parents, businesses and community members in improving the achievement of our students."

O'Connell is running for the School Board as an independent. Five other candidates have announced their intention to seek one of the three open seats on the board: DFL-endorsed incumbents John Brodrick, Tom Goldstein and Elona Street-Stewart, and Republican-endorsed John Krenik and Richard Easton.

CommonBond is granted a parking variance for Lex-Ham development

Central Avenue residents complain that their curbs are already congested

By JANE MCCLURE

CommonBond Communities' plan to convert a former 120-bed nursing home at 375 N. Lexington Pkwy. into 48 low-income efficiency apartments took another step forward on May 4 with the approval of a parking variance by the St. Paul Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA).

The variance was granted on a 6-1 vote despite the opposition of nearby Central Avenue residents who presented a petition with the signatures of 20 neighbors against it. The local Union Park District Council had asked in April that the variance be laid over to allow the council's board of directors more time to adopt a position on the variance.

"Just because the residents will be low-income people doesn't mean they won't have vehicles," said Central Avenue resident Joe Shasky.

The one block of Central Avenue between Lexington Parkway and Dunlap Street has been squeezed for parking by several recent developments. When the nearby Central Medical Building instituted permit parking a couple of years ago, some of its patients began parking on Central. So do patients from the nearby Open Cities Health Clinic, and employees and customers of other nearby businesses.

"During the day our street is completely full," Shasky said.

The nursing home, which operated from 1968 to 2005, had only 35 off-street parking spaces, although 70 were required by city code. Common Bond's apartment building would require 72 off-street parking spaces.

However, the nursing home's previous parking shortfall is grandfathered in for the new residential use, according to BZA staff member John Hardwick. That reduces Common Bond's parking requirement to 37 spaces, Hardwick said. CommonBond plans to provide 27 parking spaces, and thus needed a 10-space parking variance.

City staff recommended approval of the parking variance on the condition that CommonBond add bicycle racks or bicycle lockers for residents.

CommonBond believes its apartment building will not demand as much parking as the nursing home. CommonBond operates a similar apartment building in Minneapolis, and no more than 10 residents there have owned vehicles at any one time, according to CommonBond project manager Rachel Robinson. The CommonBond building will be staffed 24 hours a day, but only by a few people. "We feel we're not creating a burden for the neighborhood," she said.

CommonBond and the Union Park District Council have yet to reach agreement on a community-benefits agreement, a provision that is meant to protect nearby residents from the impact of the new and renovated buildings. CommonBond has also promised to erect a large privacy fence to deter residents and their visitors from cutting through the Central Avenue neighborhood on foot.

Last month CommonBond secured the approval of the St. Paul City Council to vacate an alley on the block. However, it still needs to rezone a portion of its property in order to build its new headquarters at Lexington Parkway and Central Avenue. A former clinic and a vacant house have already been torn down to make way for the headquarters. The office building will have 90 covered parking spaces. CommonBond has about 70 employees, not all of whom own vehicles, according to Robinson.



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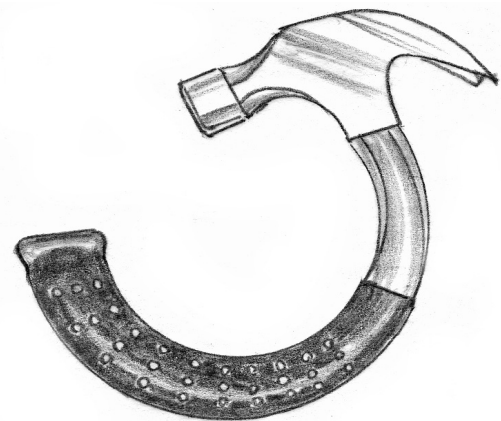
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Traffic passes by St. Thomas More's east campus at Summit and Lexington.

Communion of saints

Newly named St. Thomas More has long history of serving city's faithful

Sitting prominently at the northeast corner of Lexington Parkway and Summit Avenue, the church that until recently was named St. Luke's serves as a gathering place for a parish with a long history in St. Paul. It is now the St. Thomas More Catholic Community following last year's merger of the St. Luke's and Immaculate Heart of Mary parishes. The former St. Luke's makes up the eastern campus while the old IHM is the western campus. The east-west alignment is particularly fitting, since St. Luke's has moved westward down Summit before.

A visitor does not need to go inside to appreciate the splendor of the former St. Luke's Church. As its parish centennial memoir states, the Bedford stone exterior is richly decorated with biblical stories, saints and other features. On the west side the Angel Gabriel guards an octagonal baptistry. On the north side gargoyles are lined up above the sanctuary. Further on, 14 cherubim guard the sacristy windows.

Other carvings adorn the exterior, but the most imposing sculpted art is on the Summit Avenue entrance, which features images of Adam and Eve, Christ, Mary, Moses, Elijah, St. Luke, animals representing the four evangelists, and the archangels Michael and Raphael. The front facade is modeled after Saint-Giles-du-Gard, a 12th-century church in southern France. The building itself is a fusion of French and Italian Romanesque architecture.

Though the construction of the church was finished in 1926, the parish itself was founded quite a bit earlier. During the late 1800s, downtown St. Paul was becoming more crowded and people started moving westward. "The Selby streetcar went only to Dale and Selby, and people on the Hill often found it difficult to walk to either of (the two downtown Catholic) churches in the cold winters and hot, humid summers," according to the church's memoir.

In 1888, Archbishop John Ireland appointed the Reverend John Lawler pastor of the new St. Luke's parish and that fall a church was built at Summit and Victoria Street on property Ireland had purchased with an eye to locating the Cathedral of St. Paul there. The Gothic-style frame chapel faced east and featured windows of purple and yellow glass. Except for a rectory that was added later, it was the only building on the block where William



Close to Home

By Lisa Heinrich

Mitchell College of Law now stands.

The chapel was enlarged in 1892 and 1905 as the parish grew. Some notable early members included Pierce Butler, who later became a U.S. Supreme Court Justice; St. Paul City Clerk John Faricy; and Anna McQuillan, F. Scott Fitzgerald's aunt, who served as organist.

The Reverend James Byrne, the parish's fourth pastor, was the man primarily responsible for getting the present church built at Lexington and Summit. Archbishop Ireland selected John Comes, who originally was from St. Paul, as the architect. The church was his masterpiece and reportedly one of the finest in the country at the time.

The lower church was built first at a cost of \$120,000, which included most of the utilities that would later serve the entire building. Comes designed the stained-glass windows and all the furnishings. Archbishop Austin Dowling blessed the lower church in August 1919. It held 1,046 people and featured reversible pews so parishioners could face a stage in one direction and the altar in the other. The contract for the upper



The Reverend Joe Weiss stands on the front steps of the former St. Luke's Church that has merged with the Immaculate Heart of Mary to become the St. Thomas More Catholic Community. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

church was awarded five years later and it was dedicated in October 1926.

St. Luke's was central to its parishioners' social lives and created numerous organizations to fulfill that function. The St. Luke's Altar and Rosary Society began in 1888 and not only cared for the altar linens and vestments, but organized social events as well. The Joan of Arc Club, a young women's organization, began in 1926 and included a junior choir and sewing group. A parent-teacher organization was created in 1928 and the St. Luke's Ushers Club became the Men's Club in 1931. There was also a study club, symphonic band, confraternity and Holy Name Society.

St. Luke's School was founded in 1904 and the current school building at Oxford and Summit was erected in 1951. IHM was founded the following year and the two parishes joined their respective schools into IHM-St. Luke's in 1991. The school, which operates on the east campus, was renamed St. Thomas

More Catholic School last year as part of the merger.

The impetus for the merged parish dates back at least as far as when its two schools were consolidated said parish administrator Peggy Junkin. "In 2002, Archbishop Harry Flynn asked the two parishes to share a pastor and explore other ways to partner in ministries," she said.

The two parishes officially merged on January 1, 2008, with Flynn approving the new name. "We're delighted because (More) was a lay saint and a family man, and we're a lay ministry," Junkin said.

Services are still held on both the east and west campuses. The Reverend Joe Weiss has been the current pastor since September 2004. Doubtless many parishioners are still getting used to the new name, though the majestic east building, the former St. Luke's, preserves a sense of that parish's long history.



Principal Patrick Lofton is greeted by energetic students during recess at St. Thomas More Catholic School.

Commission to decide status of old city plans

By JANE MCCLURE

Some old city plans may not gather dust on the shelves much longer as a result of action pending before the St. Paul Planning Commission on May 22. The commission is considering 21 different district plans, small area plans and design guidelines to determine whether they should be decertified, renewed or incorporated into other plans.

District councils, business associations and other neighborhood groups have been reviewing the old plans for the past few months.

More recently created local documents on the table include district plans for the Summit-University and West End neighborhoods. Both of those plans would update ones that date from 1980. The new Summit-University district plan was adopted last month by the Planning Commission and sent to the City Council for approval. The new draft of the West 7th/Fort Road Federation's plan will be the subject of a public hearing before the Planning Commission on May 22.

The city uses the district plans to guide zoning and capital improvement decisions. Every few years the plans are reviewed to see if they are out of date and need replacement.

Here is the proposed action for other plans:

- Highland Village plan. This plan dates from 1984 and has been recommended by city staff and the Highland

District Council for recertification, with a sunset date of December 31, 2011. It will be decertified when a new plan is adopted.

- Selby Avenue small area plan for the Summit-University and Lexington-Hamline neighborhoods. Many of the recommendations from this 1997 plan are contained in the District 8 and 13 plans. It will be decertified after the Summit-University district plan is adopted.

- Summit Avenue plan. This plan from 1986 covers the length of Summit and is recommended for decertification since its recommendations have either been implemented or incorporated into other plans.

- Selby-Snelling small area plan. The plan, which dates from 1993, is recommended for recertification, with a sunset date of December 31, 2011. It will be decertified when a new plan is adopted.

- Grand Avenue West parking/zoning report. The report dates from 1983 and is recommended for decertification since many of its recommendations have been adopted or are contained in the Macalester-Groveland plan.

- Grand Avenue design guidelines. The 1983 guidelines cover the length of Grand. The recommendations are now included in the Summit Hill and Macalester-Groveland district plans, and in changes to the city's zoning code. City staff have recommended that the guidelines be decertified.

Religious Notes

"The Sound of the One: A New-Ancient Harmony," a Celtic contemplative communion service, will be presented at 6:51 p.m. Wednesday, May 20, at Pilgrim Lutheran Church, 1935 St. Clair Ave. J. Philip Newell, Scottish spiritual leader and author of *Christ of the Celts*, will take part, and a reception will follow. Visit www.pilgrimstpaul.org.

The Reverend Marvin O'Connell, professor emeritus of history at the University of Notre Dame, will discuss his new book, *Pilgrims to the Northland: The Archdiocese of St. Paul, 1840-1962*, at 7:15 p.m. Wednesday, May 20, in O'Shaughnessy Educational Center at the University of St. Thomas. O'Connell will also be available to sign copies of the book. For information, contact Anne Klejment at amklejment@stthomas.edu.

The Temple of Aaron Synagogue, 616 S. Mississippi River Blvd., will offer the following: the annual Blintz Bletter luncheon following 9:00 a.m. services on Friday, May 29 (free); a community memorial service at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, May 30, followed by kiddush; and the temple's 99th annual meeting at 10:00 a.m. Sunday, May 31. Call 651-698-8874.

The Holistic Healing Ministry will hold its monthly healing circle from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Sunday, May 31, at the Carondelet Center, 1890 Randolph Ave. The service will include energy healing, anointing and prayer. Call 651-644-9433.

The Jay Phillips Center for Jewish-Christian Learning, sponsored by the universities of St. Thomas and St. John's has expanded its mission and adopted a new name. The new Jay Phillips Center for Interfaith Learning is now dedicated to promoting understanding among adherents of the Jewish, Christian, Muslim and other religions. John Merkle, a theology professor at St. John's, is the center's interim director.

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Duty bound

Schwarz fled Nazi regime only to return as a GI interrogator of German POWs

BY DAVE PAGE

A few years back, Macalester-Groveland resident Walter Schwarz got a call from his son, a film reviewer in California, who had just seen a documentary called *The Ritchie Boys*. "Weren't you one of those?" he asked his father.

Schwarz, 87, was indeed one of the Ritchie Boys, the soldiers who were trained at Camp Ritchie, Maryland, during World War II to use their language skills to fight the Nazis. Schwarz will take part in a local screening of *The Ritchie Boys* on Thursday, May 21. The program, which is cosponsored by the Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest and Jewish War Veterans Post 354, will begin at 1:00 p.m. at the West 7th Community Center, 265 Oneida St. Following the film, Schwarz will answer questions about his wartime experiences.

Schwarz was born in Romania to German-speaking parents from Czechoslovakia. His father worked in the textile industry, and as a young man Schwarz traveled to Brno, Czechoslovakia, to study textile engineering. In March 1939, just two months before he was to graduate, Hitler's army invaded Moravia, the region of Czechoslovakia where Brno is located.

"That day we were met by thugs wearing swastikas telling us that we (Jewish students) were no longer welcome at the university," Schwarz recalled.

He gathered with several other expelled students in a nearby park, and one of them said, "We need to get out of here—as far as possible." Vowing to contact one another later, the students exchanged addresses and dispersed.

Schwarz managed to get a travel permit and escaped on the last train to Romania. From there, he fled to Italy, where he caught the last refugee ship out of that country to New York City.

"I was 19," he said. "I really wanted to get

back at the Nazis." However the U.S. was still not officially involved in the war, and the Army would not take Schwarz. "After Pearl Harbor they weren't so fussy," he said.

In basic training at Camp Pickett, Virginia, Schwarz was singled out because of his fluency in German and was sent to Camp Ritchie where he was trained in interrogation and psychological warfare.

Following training, the Ritchie Boys were shipped overseas to spread disinformation among the enemy through leaflets, radio broadcasts and a German-language newspaper. Some Ritchie Boys were sent to the front lines where, in trucks equipped with

loudspeakers, they risked heavy fire in an attempt to persuade German soldiers to surrender.

Schwarz landed in Europe after D-Day and was assigned to an Interrogator of Prisoners of War team with the 8th Armored Division. "We treated (the German POWs) with honey," Schwarz recalled. "We'd give them cigarettes or a warm meal if they cooperated."

About the severest interrogation techniques Schwarz employed were psychological tactics. "My outfit had a Russian in it," he said. "We'd paint a red star on an American helmet and have him wear it. Then we'd tell the prisoners if they didn't talk to us we'd hand them over to the Russians. The Germans were afraid of the Russians."

Schwarz insists he had a relatively mundane military career. However, the Ritchie Boys featured in the documentary were engaged in numerous harrowing exploits. One of them, Philip Glaessner, was captured in the Battle of the Bulge and spent the rest of the war in a German POW camp. Another, Werner Angress, parachuted behind enemy lines on D-Day to help gather information about the deployment of German troops. He was wounded and captured.

Upon his return to the U.S., Schwarz enrolled in a textile school in Lowell, Massachu-

setts, to continue the education he had been denied in Brno. He landed his first job in Vancouver, British Columbia, where he met his wife, Anita.



Former Ritchie Boy Walter Schwarz holds a photo of himself in 1942. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

setts, to continue the education he had been denied in Brno. He landed his first job in Vancouver, British Columbia, where he met his wife, Anita.

Anita had grown up in Most, Czechoslovakia. After the Anschluss of 1938 when Hitler seized the border regions of Czechoslovakia, her father Fritz Stransky moved the family to Prague and sent Anita to Strasbourg, France, to study nursing. Stransky then made plans for his wife and son to flee Czechoslovakia, but the Nazis detained them, sent them to Terezin and then to the death camp at Auschwitz. Only Anita's mother survived. After liberation, she found her way back to Prague, and she and Anita eventually emigrated to Vancouver where they had relatives.

Walter and Anita were married in 1949 and eventually moved to Wisconsin, where Wal-

ter worked as an insurance agent. Eventually, they retired to the Twin Cities to be closer to their daughter and grandchildren.

Remembering his vow in Brno, Schwarz tried to locate as many of his fellow Jewish textile students as he could after the war ended. He found some names in *Auf Ban*, a New York publication that listed survivors of the Jewish Holocaust looking for friends. In all, he managed to get in touch with seven of those who were in the park that day in 1939. Schwarz is the only one of them still living.

Admission to the May 21 screening of *The Ritchie Boys* is free and open to all, but reservations are requested by calling 651-298-5493. Along with the movie, the Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest will display photos, journals, letters, uniforms and other memorabilia from World War II.

Memorial Day tribute paid to our forebears

Following are a few of the local events being held to commemorate Memorial Day weekend, a time when the nation gets together to remember, reflect and honor those who have given their lives in service to their country:

A Memorial Day tribute to Minnesota's soldiers past and present will be observed from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday, May 25, at Fort Snelling. Costumed staff will re-

create American military life over the last 225 years. There will be military drills, crafts, games and firing demonstrations. Admission is \$5.00-\$10. Call 612-726-1171.

Jewish War Veterans Posts 162 and 354 and their auxiliaries will sponsor four Memorial Day services on Monday, May 25: at 9:30 a.m. at the Chesed Shel Emes Cemetery on Christie Place and Kennard Street (additional names of veterans will be read from the Adath Yeshurun, Russian Brotherhood, West Side and Sons of Abraham cemeteries); at 10:15 a.m. at the Sons of Jacob Cemetery on Iowa Avenue south of Larpenteur Avenue; at 11:00

a.m. at Mount Zion Cemetery on Payne and Larpenteur avenues; and at 11:00 a.m. at the Temple of Aaron Cemetery on Dale Street and Larpenteur Avenue (names of veterans buried at Fort Snelling also will be read). Call Irv Rosenblum at 651-698-2919.

Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery, 2945 Cedar Ave. S. in Minneapolis, will hold its 140th annual Memorial Day observance from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Monday, May 25. Guest speakers include retired U.S. Marine Corps Lieutenant Colonel Alex Plechash. The cemetery is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, primarily because of the role

that the people buried there played in Minnesota history. A tour of the cemetery will follow the program. Call 612-624-1853.

The death of empire builder James J. Hill will be remembered in programs from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturday, May 23, and 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Sunday, May 24, at the James J. Hill House, 240 Summit Ave. Hill's death on May 29, 1916, made front-page news across the United States. Visitors will hear about his storied career, patriotism and funeral as well as the history of Memorial Day. An organist will play selections from Hill's funeral service. Admission is \$5.00-\$8.00. Call 651-297-2555.

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Few area projects still in running for capital improvement funding

CIB Committee cuts spending on park, library maintenance

By JANE MCCLURE

The St. Paul Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) Committee will present its rankings of more than 150 projects that are seeking grants and loans for 2010-2011 during a public hearing on Tuesday, May 26, at City Hall. The committee will vote June 8 on its final recommendations, which will then be sent to Mayor Chris Coleman and the City Council for review as part of the city's 2010 budget process.

As of mid-May, it appeared that few local projects were still in the running for funding. Some of those ranking high enough to still be considered include the replacement of the Hamline Avenue bridge over Ayd Mill Road (\$1.37 million), streetscape and off-street parking improvements along the Central Corridor (\$2 million and \$350,000), the completion of sidewalks linking to the Central Corridor (\$350,000), and the renovation and expansion of the Palace Recreation Center (\$365,000).

Other local projects appear to be too far down in the rankings to make the cut, including the rehabilitation of the Highland Park pavilion, the continued renovation of the Highland Pool and its bathhouse, planning for future improvements to Merriam Park, and the renovation of the Highland Library

and Hillcrest Recreation Center.

"It's always possible that projects can get pulled up in the rankings if there is money left over," said CIB Committee member Gary Unger.

The committee has about \$6.63 million per year to allocate in capital improvement bonds, which are the most flexible source of funding but also the most vulnerable to city budget cuts. The committee has about \$3 million per year to allocated in federal Community Development Block Grants, which are typically used for residential and economic development projects. There is also about \$445,000 per year available in Municipal State Aid for city streets and bridges.

Federal economic stimulus funding could cover the costs of some city projects, which in turn would free up other dollars in the capital budget.

One question debated by the CIB Committee at length on May 11 was how much should be spent maintaining the city's parks and libraries. Two years ago, that funding was increased to \$1 million per year to catch up on a backlog of deferred maintenance. The committee decided on May 11 to trim the amount to \$500,000 per year.

"We're closing recreation centers, we're cutting library hours," said committee member Monica Bryaund. "So why are we spending all of this money?"

Other committee members and city staff said there is still a long list of parks and library maintenance needs. "It's still an issue of catching up," said Dede Demko of the city's Office of Financial Services.

BZA denies request to allow Dayton Avenue home's renovation as duplex

By JANE MCCLURE

The conversion of a single-family house at 1185 Dayton Ave. to a duplex was unanimously rejected by the St. Paul Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) on May 4. About half a dozen neighbors showed up at the public hearing to fight the lot-width variance needed for the duplex. They argued that the duplex would bring unwanted density and parking congestion to the neighborhood.

The property is owned by Jean Schroepfer, a Ramsey Hill resident who has fixed up and sold other properties in St. Paul. Schroepfer wanted to expand the house from 1½ to 2½ stories, but what tripped up her request was not the building's height but the lot's width. The property is 40 by 158 feet. A minimum width of 50 feet is required for a duplex.

City staff recommended denying the variance, stating that Schroepfer should have been aware of the lot-width restriction before buying the property. According to BZA staffer John Hardwick, there is a "delicate balance"

between single-family homes and duplexes in that neighborhood and allowing the duplex could have had adverse effects.

Neighbor Addams Randall agreed. "This is already a very dense block of Dayton," he said, adding that the neighborhood already has problems with other rental properties.

Margaret Coleman, who lives on Marshall Avenue across the alley from Schroepfer's property, described parking in the neighborhood as "atrocious" because of nearby Central High School, Concordia University and Dunning Field.

The Lexington-Hamline house was built in 1911 and city records indicate that it has always been a single-family home. Schroepfer said the house had been vacant and was in foreclosure when she purchased it. According to her, the house has suffered from neglect, has structural defects and is in need of rehabilitation. However, she said, it wouldn't pay to do the work if it remains a single-family home.

Senior News

An OWLS (Older, Wiser, Livelier Seniors) program on spring birding will be offered from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 2, at the Dodge Nature Center in West St. Paul. Participants will hike the trails with binoculars and field guides in search of bluebirds, rose-breasted grosbeaks, indigo buntings, warblers, egrets and other spring birds on the center's Lilly property. Call 651-455-4531.

Miracle on Wheels is offering power wheelchairs at little or no cost to senior citizens and disabled people. Those who suffer from arthritis, stroke, heart or breathing problems,

diabetes or other conditions that limit their mobility may call 1-866-200-6924 toll-free for more information.

The Minnesota Drug Card, a free statewide prescription assistance program, was recently launched to help uninsured and underinsured Minnesotans afford their prescription medications. The program, which is free to all Minnesotans, provides savings of up to 75 percent on prescription drugs, with average savings around 30 percent. Visit www.mn-drugcard.com.

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School Notes

Maryah Tift, a freshman at Cretin-Derham Hall, recently celebrated her 15th birthday with a little extra fanfare. Mayor Chris Coleman proclaimed May 7 as "Maryah Tift Day" in St. Paul and presented her with the proclamation in the school commons while surrounded by family, friends and students wearing Team Maryah T-shirts. Tift has been battling Ewing's sarcoma, a rare bone cancer, for the past five years. She has endured numerous surgeries, endless rounds of chemotherapy and radiation, and is currently facing her fifth recurrence of the disease. Despite her struggles, she lends her time to help other cancer patients, survivors and family members through volunteer fundraising work with Rein in Sarcoma and the Relay for Life. Her medical journey is documented on her website at www.caringbridge.org/mn/maryah.

The University of St. Thomas has renamed Selby Hall, a 418-bed student residence on Selby Avenue, as Flynn Hall in honor of former Archbishop Harry Flynn. Friends and admirers of Flynn donated \$14 million to St. Thomas to secure the building's naming rights. The donations will be added to the university's \$500 million Opening Doors capital campaign, whose main priority is providing student financial aid.

Macalester College has received a \$586,500 grant from the National Science Foundation to support students studying computer science and the activities of the Macalester Information Technology Scholars Program.

The University of St. Thomas presented awards to 10 people during its annual faculty and staff recognition celebration in March. The Distinguished Citizen Award was presented to Macalester-Groveland resident Bill Kirchgessner, executive director for marketing and communications in the University Relations Department. The Lifelong Learner Award went to Macalester-Groveland resident Scott Swanson, director of academic achievement in the School of Law. And John Ireland Presidential Awards for outstanding achievements as a teacher went to Merriam Park resident and law school professor Neil Hamilton and West End resident and social work professor Kendra Garrett.

The Hubbs Center for Lifelong Learning, 1030 University Ave., is offering an on-line option for adults who want to complete the requirements for a GED (high school equivalency) exam. The free program prepares can-



The students in Central High School's Touring Theatre address prejudice, discrimination and the pressures faced by adolescents in *We Are the Change That We Seek*. The original musical drama will have its final public performances at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, May 22-23, in E.M. Pearson Theatre at Concordia University, 312 S. Hamline Ave. Tickets are \$5.00, with discounts for students, seniors and groups. PHOTO BY JAN MANDELL

didates for all five GED tests: social studies, reading, writing, science and math. Students can move at their own pace and work with an on-line teacher. Visit www.ged.spps.org and complete the brief survey, "Is GED Online for Me?" Walk-in informational sessions are offered at 1:00 p.m. Mondays at Hubbs.

St. Paul Public Schools officials are seeking the public's help in determining how to address a projected budget deficit of \$25 million for the coming school year. To take part in the on-line survey, visit www.spps.org/2009-2010Budget.html before the end of May.

Will Sullivan, a senior at St. Thomas Academy, finished first in the nation in the U.S. Army Junior Open Air Rifle Competition out of more than 700 competitors.

Douglas Mapondera, a sophomore at Macalester College, has received \$10,000 from the Davis Projects for Peace Initiative. He plans to use the money to improve the irrigation system in his home in the Vuka Resettlement Community, an 8-year-old village of 700 people in northern Zimbabwe. The project will begin May 24 and will take approximately two months to complete. It was one of 100 projects

submitted by college students from around the world for funding by the peace initiative.

Benjamin Mayhem, a senior at Highland Park Senior High School, has been named a semifinalist in the 2009 Presidential Scholars Program. Finalists will include one male and female student from each state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and U.S. students living abroad, along with 20 students representing the arts and 15 students at large.

Don Lewis, a 1971 graduate of St. Paul Academy and Summit School and dean of Hamline University School of Law, will speak at SPA's commencement at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, June 7, on the front lawn of the Randolph Avenue campus. SPA seniors Eoin Small and Arshia Sandozi have also been selected to speak to their classmates.

Mark Reynolds, a 6th-grader at Nova Classical Academy, has been presented with an award by state education commissioner Alice Seagren for earning a perfect score on the National Latin Exam. Fifty-eight percent of Nova students who took the test earned high commendations, including 11 Silver Maxima Cum Laude, eight Gold Summa Cum Laude

and Reynolds' perfect score.

Nova Classical Academy, 1668 Montreal Ave., will receive \$84,407 from the state for the 2008-09 school year for implementation of Minnesota's Q Comp program. Q Comp is designed to provide structured professional development and evaluation, as well as an alternative pay schedule that compensates teachers based on performance, not just seniority.

Suzanne Kelly will take over as interim superintendent of the St. Paul Public Schools upon the completion of Superintendent Meria Carstarphen's contract in June. Kelly has been the district's chief of staff since 2007, and acting superintendent during Carstarphen's absences. Prior to joining the district, Kelly served as chief of staff for Memphis City Schools and as executive director of public affairs for the Minneapolis Public Schools. The St. Paul School Board hopes to have a permanent superintendent in place during the 2009-2010 school year.

Jeremy Bender, a 2007 graduate of Highland Park High School and a sophomore at the University of Maine majoring in marine science, has been awarded an Ernest F. Hollings undergraduate scholarship from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The scholarship will enable Bender to take advantage of summer internships at NOAA facilities. It also will give him up to \$8,000 in tuition assistance per year in his junior and senior years.

Emily Partington of Visitation and **Stephanie Schumacher** of Cretin-Derham Hall were among 39 high school seniors across Minnesota who were honored at Degree of Honor's 2009 Salute to Youth event. The St. Paul-based fraternal insurance company recognized the students for their academic achievements, extracurricular activities and community service.

A team of 10 juniors from Highland Park Senior High School captured Best Team Overall and Best Formal Presentation awards for their project on human trafficking at the recent World Affairs Challenge sponsored by World Savvy and Macalester College's Institute for Global Citizenship. The winning students were Rare Adam, Nallely Castro, Jessica Dockery, Kia "Lisa" Lee, Mee "Kanee" Lee, Marisol Lopez, Kira Natrop, Brianna

SCHOOL NOTES ► 17

OPTIMISM AND REAL ESTATE

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The Twin Cities housing market:

Two increases—pending sales and housing affordability—are indicating improvement in the local housing market.

There were 1,120 pending sales for the week ending May 2, a healthy 26.3% above last year at this time. The Housing Affordability Index, now at 219, is 45.5% above where it was a year ago.

Active listings continue to underwhelm at 26,450, a decrease of 19.5% from last year. The lower figure, coupled with increased sales, has in turn helped to create more demand.

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16◀ SCHOOL NOTES

Schmidt, Lor Vang and Mainhia Xiong.

Rob Muellerleile, a senior at St. Thomas Academy, took first place in the Advanced Placement division of the Federal Reserve Essay Contest in Minneapolis. The contest is sponsored by the 9th Federal Reserve District. Muellerleile won a \$400 prize for his work.

Central High School finished among the top 16 of the 67 regional high school teams competing in the 2009 National Science Bowl on April 30-May 5 in Washington, D.C. Teams in the Sweet 16 receive a \$1,000 cash award for their school science departments. Team members included students Jennifer Wei, Jonathan Schellenberg, Martin Camacho, Yowon Yoon and Simon Gebrehiwet. They were coached by Randy Knoche.

Sixth-graders from L' Etoile du Nord, the St. Paul school district's French immersion program, took first place in the middle school New Angle category at the state Destination Imagination competition last month and will advance to the global competition in Knoxville on May 20-23. Team members include Christian Johnson, Anna Kazlauskas, Julia Lagos, Jane Leach, Claire Newhouse, Peter Varanasi and Autumn Quesnell.

J.J. Hill Montessori School, 998 Selby Ave., is also sending a team to the Destination Imagination global competition on May 20-23 in Knoxville. The team includes Matt Cousin, Lia Hennessy, Zack Johnson, Leo Moulsoff, Scarlett Thompson and Joey Waite, with coaches Mike Johnson and Carol Dallman.

University of St. Thomas graduate students in art history will present their research in a forum at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, May 21, in the O'Shaughnessy Educational Center auditorium. Topics range from the role of absinthe in Victorian art to the photography of James VanDerZee. A reception will follow. Admission is free. Call Barbara Kocik at 651-962-5640.

University of St. Thomas graduate business students tied for first place in their division at the 11th annual Intercollegiate Business Ethics Case



Highland Park Senior High School class of 1974 alumni Peter Kenefick and Melissa (née Fischer) Struve have been inducted into their school's Hall of Fame for their efforts in giving back to the community. Kenefick, vice president of investments at UBS and co-owner of the Dixies and Saji-Ya restaurants on Grand Avenue, has volunteered as a coach in the Highland Little League. Struve, a longtime psychiatric nurse, was honored for her voluntary service to local Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts and Expo Elementary and Highland Park High schools.

Competition last month in Los Angeles. The competition drew student teams from universities in Hungary and Turkey as well as two U.S. military academies and 24 other U.S. colleges and universities. The UST team of Rob Bennett, Kate Grudkovska, Erin Liddy, Brian Slattery and Matt Wach gave their winning presentation about the challenges organizations face when marketing credit cards to college students.

St. Joseph's School in West St. Paul will celebrate its 60th anniversary with an all-school reunion from 5:00 to 11:00 p.m. Saturday, June 6. The evening

will include Mass, dinner, tours and a street dance with music by the George Hottinger Blues Band. Call 651-457-8550.

Cretin-Derham Hall's production of *Crazy for You* and **Visitation/St. Thomas Academy's** coproduction of *Aida* were among the spring honorees chosen by Hennepin Theatre Trust as part of its 2008-09 SpotLight Musical Theatre Program. The schools will be honored at an awards ceremony at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, June 14, at the Orpheum Theatre. Tickets are \$12 at HennepinTheatreTrust.org.



St. Paul Open School, 90 S. Western Ave., conducted its third Kids Against Hunger event on April 24. The school's K-12 students and parent volunteers packaged 50,500 meals to feed the children of Haiti. Peg Keenan from Haiti Outreach presented the students with information about hunger in that country and members of Impact Lives, an organization that teaches about personal and community change, provided support.

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District Council News

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Golden shoe found—The first golden shoe was found in a tree on Summit Avenue and Saratoga Street by a young girl who has won a free pair of running or walking shoes from St. Paul's Fun N Run. Two more shoes will be hidden this month. Anyone who finds a golden shoe should bring it to the council office at 320 S. Griggs St. The Golden Shoe Hunt is being held to promote walking and biking as part of the community council's fourth annual MacGrove Moves campaign. Participants are asked to leave their car at home and to walk, jog or bike to their destination at least 15 times before August 12. Those who complete a log sheet of their trips will be entered in a drawing to win prizes donated by area businesses. For more information, call the council office or visit its website.

Paint the Pavement—The Macalester-Groveland neighborhood will organize its first Paint the Pavement project outside the Edgumbe Recreation Center beginning at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, June 13. The rain date is June 20. For information, contact Karmann Peters at the community council office.

National Night Out kickoff picnic—All St. Paul residents are invited to the fourth annual National Night Out kickoff picnic from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 3, at the Como Park Midway Pavilion across from the Como Park Pool. Information will be provided that evening on planning for this summer's National Night Out on Tuesday, August 4. Call the community council office or Pam McCreary at 651-266-5455.

Neighborhood market—A task force is being formed to discuss bringing a neighborhood-based farmers' market to Macalester-Groveland. The task force will get started sometime in May. To be added to the roster, contact Melissa Martinez-Sones at the council office.

Walk your way to health—A walking club is being formed in the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood. For information, contact Afton Martens at the council office.

Highland Park

www.highlanddistrictcouncil.org • 651-695-4005

HDC board update—The Highland District Council elected the following officers for its board of directors on May 6: president Loren Sorenson, vice president Tim Puffer, secretary Chris Priebe and treasurer Paul Krech. Layne Carver and Gary Thompson were appointed as board alternates. The board also agreed to work with At Home Solutions to set up a neighborhood meeting to explore creating a "virtual village" project in Highland Park. The project would help people maintain and remain in their own homes as they age.

Community Services—The HDC's Community Services Committee elected the following new leaders on May 13: chair Jennifer Taylor-James, vice chair Paul Krech, secretary Robert Brandtjen and additional members Sherry Goodman and Larry Hampl. The committee also sent a recommendation to the full board in support of conducting another bow hunt this fall to further reduce the deer population in Crosby Park.

Plant Share—The seventh annual Highland Plant Share will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Sunday, May 31, at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. Potted plants may be dropped off between noon and 2:00 p.m. the day before. Those who do not have plants to share will be charged

\$1.00 to \$3.00 per plant, with proceeds used to maintain Highland's public gardens. For information on donating plants or volunteering, call Sue Knapton at 651-699-7672.

Here's the rub—Massage Envy wants to locate in the space formerly occupied by the former Act One Too photography studio at 2073 Ford Pkwy. A parking variance is needed and the business would like to come before the HDC's Community Development Committee prior to its June 16 meeting.

Neighborhood cleanup kudos—Thanks to all the volunteers and sponsors who helped make it another huge success, the May 9 spring cleanup helped more than 420 families get rid of unwanted household items, a majority of which were recycled or given to charity. Special thanks go to Davanni's Pizza, J&S Coffee, Tiffany's, Mary Hampl and Mary Davis for donating food and beverages for the volunteers.

GarageFest—The second annual Highland Park garage sale will be held on Friday and Saturday, May 29-30, throughout the neighborhood. Residents who would like to include their sale in GarageFest may call 651-259-1204 and leave a message with their address and the types of items they will be selling.

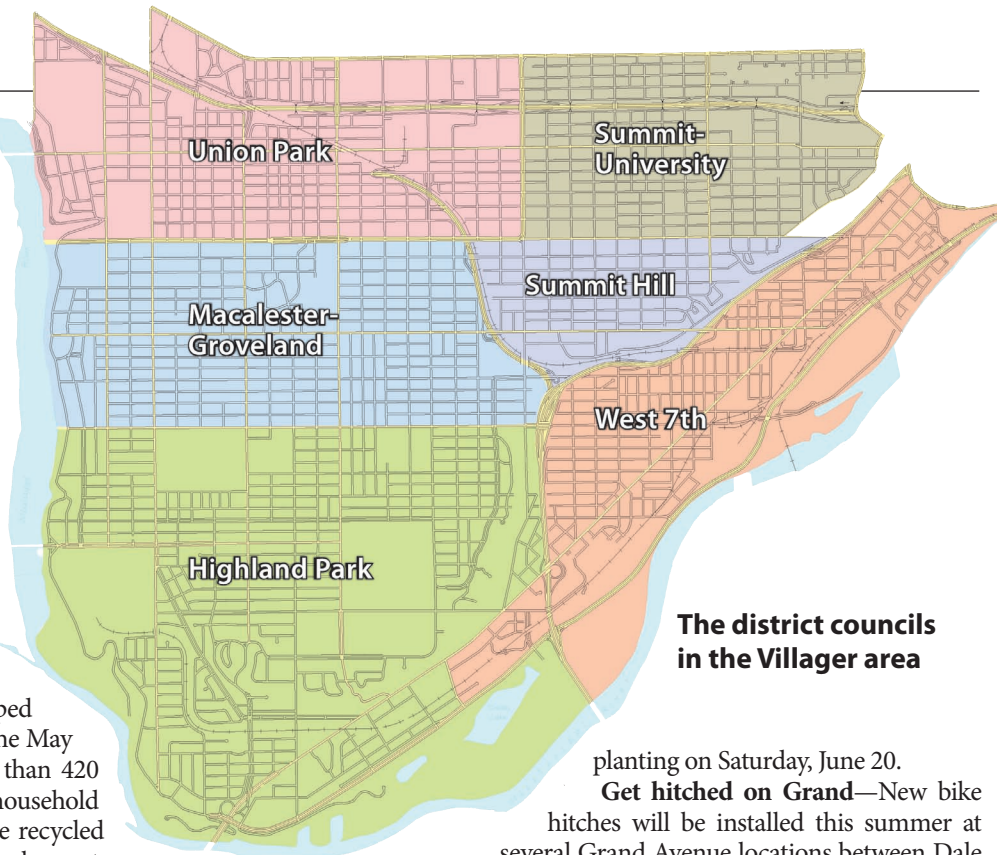
Railroad corridor cleanup—Volunteers are needed to help clean up the Canadian Pacific Railroad corridor at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, June 13. Neighbors and railroad employees will clean up the land along the tracks from Edgumbe Road to Prior Avenue and up Return Court. Those who are interested in helping out are asked to contact the HDC office.

Mark your calendar—Transportation Committee meeting to discuss a stop sign at Mount Curve and Highland Parkway and to elect committee members, 6:30 p.m. Friday, May 29, Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy.; GarageFest on Friday and Saturday, May 29-30, throughout Highland; Highland Plant Share, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Sunday, May 31, Hillcrest; National Night Out kickoff picnic, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 3, Como Park Midway Picnic Pavilion; HDC board meeting with Mayor Chris Coleman, 7:00 p.m. Thursday, June 4, Hillcrest.

Summit Hill

www.summithillassociation.org • 651-222-1222

Plant & Prairie Party—The Summit Hill Association's Environment Committee will host a Plant & Prairie Party from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Saturday, June 13, at the Linwood Recreation Center, 860 St. Clair Ave. The front lawn at Linwood will come colorfully alive that day with a neighborhood plant exchange. Ramsey County master gardeners will be on hand and information will be available on native plants, rain gardens, urban farming and more. There also will be an update on the Sam Morgan Prairie that was recently the subject of a controlled burn and on preparations being made for its re-



The district councils in the Villager area

planting on Saturday, June 20.

Get hitched on Grand—New bike hitches will be installed this summer at several Grand Avenue locations between Dale Street and Cleveland Avenue. Bike hitches and racks shaped like bikes will be installed to encourage bicycling to the avenue. The project is a collaboration of Grand Avenue property and business owners, and the Summit Hill and Macalester-Groveland district councils.

It's Grand Being Green—Scout groups, block clubs and other neighborhood groups are being sought to march with the Summit Hill Association during the Grand Old Day parade on Sunday, June 7. This year's theme is "It's Grand Being Green." For information, call the SHA office.

SHA history book—A *Grand History: The Summit Hill Neighborhood's First 200 Years* is expected to be available for sale at Grand Old Day on June 7. Visit the SHA website for publication updates and purchase information.

Dates to remember—SHA Development Committee meeting on June 4, Grand Old Day on June 7, SHA board of directors meeting on June 11, and Plant & Prairie Party on June 13. Most SHA meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Linwood Recreation Center, 860 St. Clair Ave. For details, call the SHA office.

Union Park

www.unionparkdc.org • 651-645-6887

Community building—The Union Park District Council will hold a community building workshop from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 2, at the Wilder Foundation, 451 N. Lexington Pkwy. Open to anyone interested in new ideas for engaging neighbors, the event will include presentations on having a waste-free National Night Out party, employing paint-the-pavement traffic calming techniques and organizing a block to use a single trash hauler. Refreshments will be served. Contact Julie at 651-645-6887 or julie@unionparkdc.org.

UPDC board and committees—The next meeting of the Union Park District Council's board of directors will be held at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 3, in Concordia University's Library Technology Center, 1282 Concordia Ave. Residents

DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS ► 19

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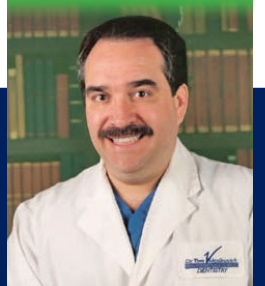
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Crime Report

The following calls were gathered from recent Community Watch reports by the Ramsey County Sheriff's Department. For a list of weekly crime reports by neighborhood from the St. Paul Police Department, visit <http://stpaul.gov/index.asp?NID=2399>.

Highland Park

Burglary—A home on the 1600 block of Hartford Avenue was broken into at about 1:00 a.m. Thursday, May 14.

—A flat screen computer monitor was taken from the commons area of Crosby Pointe Apartments, 1115 Elway St., at about 1:00 a.m. Wednesday, May 13.

Miscellaneous—Narcotics and cash were recovered after police executed a search warrant of an apartment on the 1000 block of South Cleveland Avenue about 7:00 p.m. Friday, April 24.

—Drugs and drug paraphernalia were recovered after police executed a search warrant of an apartment on the 1400 block of St. Paul Avenue at about 5:00 p.m. Friday, April 24.

—Police responded to a fight involving eight males on the 2000 block of Ford Parkway at about 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 13. When officers arrived, three men fled south. Police captured one suspect and arrested him for disorderly conduct and fleeing police.

Lexington-Hamline

Miscellaneous—The St. Paul Police Department's FORCE Unit found several people who were wanted on warrants hiding in a house on the 1100 block of Hague Avenue at about 9:30 p.m. Thursday, April 16. A Lexington-Hamline man and a Highland Park man were arrested for drug possession.

Macalester-Groveland

Assault—Police cited seven female juveniles for assault after the girls attacked another female juvenile at Ramsey Junior High School, 1700 Summit Ave., at about 10:30 a.m. Monday, April 27.

Fire Calls

The following calls were gathered from recent reports by the St. Paul Fire Department.

Lexington-Hamline—Firefighters responded to a fire at a home on the 1100 block of Selby Avenue at 2:50 a.m. Wednesday, April 22. The fire was confined to an exterior wall of the house, and caused an estimated \$2,500 in damage. The owner had been experiencing problems with the home's wiring.

Macalester-Groveland—A fire was reported at a home on the 200 block of Mount Curve Boulevard at 5:11 p.m.

Merriam Park

Burglary—A home on the 1800 block of Roblyn Avenue was burglarized at about 9:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 13. The caller saw a male suspect flee west-bound on Roblyn.

—An apartment on the 400 block of North Wheeler Street was broken into between 11:00 and 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, May 13.

—An attempted burglary of an apartment occurred on the 400 block of Pierce Street between noon and 9:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 13.

—A home on the 1800 block of Carroll Avenue was burglarized between Tuesday night and Wednesday morning, May 12-13. The resident was home at the time.

Miscellaneous—Police tried to stop a car at University and Prior avenues at about 1:00 p.m. Friday, April 10. The driver did not stop at first and almost struck an officer. The driver was cited for inattentive driving, speeding and other violations.

—A 22-year-old Merriam Park man was arrested on the 400 block of Roy Street on a warrant for criminal sexual conduct at about 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 14.

—Ramsey County Sheriff's deputies arrested a 47-year-old Merriam Park man on a warrant for drug possession on the 400 block of North Fairview Avenue at about 10:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 14.

—Police arrested a 26-year-old man for cocaine possession with intent to sell and possession of a firearm by a felon at about 1:30 p.m. Friday, April 17, on the 1800 block of University Avenue.

—A brick was used to break a window at Bremer Bank, 427 N. Snelling Ave., between 6:30 p.m. Thursday and 7:00 a.m. Friday, April 23-24.

—Ian Talty, 30, of Woodbury drowned when storm water swept him from a tunnel leading to the Mississippi River just south of the Lake Street Bridge at about 10:30 a.m. Sunday, April 26. Members of the University of St. Thomas rowing

team helped St. Paul police pull Talty's body from the river. His companion, Nick Breid, 29, of Richfield was able to make it to safety on his own. The two men had been exploring and photographing the storm water tunnel when they were swept into the river.

Wednesday, April 22. All of the residents escaped unharmed. The fire was confined to the basement and was likely caused by an electrical malfunction. Damage was estimated at \$125,000.

Merriam Park—An 11-year-old girl and a 33-year-old man were injured in a traffic accident at I-94 and Cretin Avenue at 5:13 p.m. Sunday, May 3. They were transported to Children's and Regions hospitals.

Snelling-Hamline—A fire was reported in a vacant building on the 1400 block of University Avenue at 2:23 a.m. Friday, April 17. It was determined to

Snelling-Hamline

Miscellaneous—Police arrested a man at Concordia and Snelling avenues on a Scott County probation violation at about 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 13. Police stopped because the man was aggressively panhandling at the I-94 freeway entrance.

Summit Hill

Burglary—An apartment on the 600 block of Summit Avenue was broken into between 1:00 and 11:00 a.m. Monday, April 27.

Summit-University

Theft—An iPod and cell phone were stolen from a locker at the Oxford Community Center, 270 N. Lexington Pkwy., between 7:00 and 9:00 p.m. Saturday, April 25.

Weapons—Shots were fired at Carroll Avenue and Milton Street at about 12:30 a.m. Sunday, April 19.

Miscellaneous—A man was arrested for fleeing police and possession of marijuana at Dale Street and University Avenue at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, April 16.

—A Bloomington man was cited at Unidale Mall, 608 University Ave., for loitering and possession of drug paraphernalia at about 5:00 p.m. Friday, April 17. The suspect was attempting to sell stolen DVDs.

—Someone smeared yogurt inside and outside of a vehicle on the 600 block of Dayton Avenue at about 11:00 a.m. Sunday, April 19.

—A juvenile smashed a window and broke two lamps and a lawn chair after being kicked out of a residential treatment program on the 1000 block of Portland Avenue between 7:00 and 8:30 p.m. Friday, April 24.

be the second incident of arson in the building in the past year.

Summit-University—A discarded cigarette likely caused a fire to the exterior of an apartment building on the 800 block of Hague Avenue at 7:41 p.m. Saturday, April 25. Damage was \$2,000.

—A fire was reported in the second-floor bedroom of a dwelling on the 300 block of Avon Street at about 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 12. An unattended candle likely caused the fire. The resident was taken to Regions Hospital for evaluation. There was no smoke detector. Damage was estimated at \$70,000.

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18◀ DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS

are still being sought to join the Neighborhood Issues, Parks and Recreation, Land Use, and Internal Affairs committees. Visit the district council's website for more information.

Recycling bins available—Recycling bins are distributed free of charge from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at the Merriam Park Recreation Center, 2000 St. Anthony Ave.

National Night Out kickoff—A free picnic for anyone interested in coordinating a National Night Out party will be held from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 3, at the Como Park Midway Picnic Pavilion just off Lexington Parkway. Na-

tional Night Out, a nationwide effort to promote neighborhood cohesion and prevent crime, is scheduled for Tuesday, August 4.

Parade of Gardens—The Eleanor Graham Community Garden at Hamline Avenue and Ayd Mill Road will be included in the fourth annual Parade of Gardens from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Saturday, August 22. This year the garden features 36 plots. For more information, visit gardeningmatters.org.

Stay connected—To subscribe to the UPDC's monthly electronic newsletter or weekly crime notifications, e-mail info@unionparkdc.org and put "subscribe to e-news" or "subscribe to crime notification" in the subject line.

Names in the News

Steven Kufus of Macalester-Groveland has been elected chairman of the board of directors of Keystone Community Services, 2000 St. Anthony Ave. Kufus, an attorney in private practice, graduated from Hamline University in 1968 and William Mitchell College of Law in 1976. Keystone provides social services for families, seniors and youths in the greater St. Paul area. Last year, it assisted more than 12,500 individuals through food shelves located in the Midway, North End and Rosville neighborhoods. Its Meals on Wheels program also delivered 21,500 hot meals to homebound seniors and disabled residents in the area. Visit keystonecommunityservices.org or call 651-645-0349.



Steven Kufus

Shamus O'Meara, a Highland Park resident and partner in the Minneapolis law firm of Johnson & Condon, has been appointed to the state advisory committee of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. O'Meara, who will chair the committee, also chairs the Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Leslie Wilcox has been re-elected chair of the House District 64B Republican Committee. Other officers include deputy chair Brianna Chambers, secretary Brent Van Tassel, treasurer Roger Maulik, and vice chairs Christine Van Tassel, Ed Matthews, Scott Walker, Don Mack, John Krenik and Teviah Gyorgak. Georgia Dietz was elected as a delegate to the State Central Committee.

Greta Cunningham, a Summit Hill resident who is known for her work on Minnesota Public Radio, has an essay in the new book *Knit It Together* (Voyageur Press, June 2009)

edited by Suzyn Jackson. Along with patterns, the book includes a history of knitting groups and a list of charities that accept knitted items.

Sustainable St. Paul Awards were presented by Mayor Chris Coleman and the City Council on Earth Day. Local winners included the Commercial Green Building Design Award to Wilder Center on University Avenue and Lexington Parkway, the Transportation Options Award to the Smart Trips Summit-University program, and the Environmental Education and Awareness Award to the Rock-Tenn Community Advisory Panel. For details, visit www.stpaul.gov and click on "City Projects."

Heid E. Erdrich of Macalester-Groveland received the 2009 Minnesota Book Award for poetry on April 25 for her book *National Monuments* (Michigan State University Press).



Shamus O'Meara

Erdrich, a member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Ojibway, won a Minnesota Voices award for her first poetry collection, *Fishing for Myth*. She also authored *The Mother's Tongue* and co-edited *Sister Nations: Native American Women on Community*. The Minnesota Book Awards program is a project of the Friends of the St. Paul Public Library and the St. Paul Mayor's Office.

Army National Guard Pvt. Dylan O'Brien has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. He is the son of Charles O'Brien of Summit Hill.

Memorial and funeral services for University of St. Thomas freshman Daniel Zamlen were held on May 7 at St. Thomas and May 9 in his hometown of Eveleth. Authorities recovered Zamlen's body on May 1 in the Mississippi River near the Ford dam. The 19-year-old

had not been heard from since leaving a party in the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood at around 3:00 a.m. on April 5. His disappearance led to a massive search by students, friends, family members and police.

Marina Tschida, a Mendota Heights resident and 4th-grader at Holy Spirit School, placed third in the American Traffic Services Foundation "Life Behind the Cones and Barrels-How Roadway Workers Keep America Moving" poster contest. The entry was chosen by roadway industry experts as among the top submissions from hundreds of entries. Both she and the school received checks for \$50.

Air Force Airman Jesse Gorton graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas. He is the son of Joy and Frank Gorton of South Minneapolis and a 2007 graduate of the Community Learning Project School in Minneapolis.

A memorial service for longtime theater professor George Poletes was held on May 7 at the College of St. Catherine. Poletes, 76, died on January 3 in Seattle from complications of hydrocephalus. He had taught and directed hundreds of productions at St. Catherine and St. Thomas from 1958-2004. He also directed theater and taught at Hamline University from 1957-58. Poletes won the first McKnight Award for playwriting in 1959 and beginning in the 1970s led a summer theater program for two decades that drew many local neighborhood kids. He retired from teaching in 2004 and moved to Washington state, where he continued to write plays. He is survived by his wife, Roberta, and five children.

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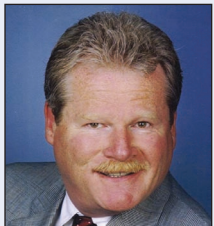
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Volunteers

HandsOn Twin Cities Day will be held from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Friday, June 12. The fourth annual serve-a-thon is partnering with Friends of the Mississippi River this year on two projects. Volunteers will be stenciling "Don't Pollute! Drains to the Mississippi River!" on storm drains in neighborhoods along the river in St. Paul. They also will be participating in a large-scale river cleanup near Hidden Falls Park. Individual volunteers and groups of all sizes are welcome to participate. Task leaders also are being sought. Visit www.handsontwincities.org or call Zeeda Magnuson at 612-349-4900, ext. 13.

The Wildlife Rehabilitation Center needs volunteers to feed and care for orphaned baby squirrels in its mammals nursery and to work with baby ducks, geese and other aquatic birds in its waterfowl nursery. Both nurseries require a four- to five-month commitment. No rabies vaccine is required. In addition to feeding, cleaning and laundry are involved. Visit www.wrcmn.org or call Liz Cross at 651-486-9410, ext. 102.

The Minnesota Streetcar Museum needs volunteers to operate historic streetcars at its Como-Harriet Streetcar Line demonstration railway in Southwest Minneapolis. Operator training is provided. Trainees must be at least 18 years old and physically able to operate a streetcar for at least three hours once a month. Trainees will learn how to safely operate a streetcar along the 1-mile long line between Lake Harriet and Lake Calhoun. For details, call Clyde Hawkins at 763-544-5963 or visit www.trolleyride.org.

A Brush with Kindness, a program of Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity, is looking for low-income homeowners in the metro area whose homes need painting, minor repairs or general cleanup and they are unable to do the work themselves. Priority will be given to homeowners who are senior citizens, disabled or single with children. Able-bodied homeowners are required to work alongside volunteers and make a financial contribution depending on the amount of work done on their home. Applications are now being taken. Call 612-788-8169.

Guild Incorporated in West St. Paul is looking for volunteers willing to interact with a variety of interesting people who at-

tend a drop-in center for socialization. This may include casual conversation, playing board games, cards or pool, arts and crafts, watching a movie or preparing healthful snacks. The center is open four weekday afternoons and one evening each week. Choose what time fits your schedule. For details, call 651-925-8465 or visit www.guildincorporated.org.

The Nature Valley Grand Prix will be held on June 10-14 and volunteer families are being sought to host professional cyclists competing in the event. Hosts need only provide a place to sleep, a shower, laundry facilities and space for cyclists' meals and snacks. Cyclists are responsible for their own food and transportation. The 11th annual Grand Prix will take place in St. Paul, Cannon Falls, Minneapolis, Mankato and Stillwater. Spectators may also enjoy a Wheaties Fan Zone, stunt riders, musical entertainment, bike and fitness expos and a Tour de Kids Fun Race. Visit www.minnbikefestival.com.

Friends of the St. Paul Public Library is launching a citywide Stock the Stacks campaign to raise money for books and other resources in response to dramatic cuts to the library's materials budget. Call 651-222-3242.

The Metro Paint-A-Thon will take place on Saturday and Sunday, August 1-2. Volunteers are needed to scrape, prime and paint the homes of low-income seniors and people with disabilities. The Paint-A-Thon provides the paint and supplies. The registration deadline is June 3. For information, call 612-721-8687, ext. 321, e-mail dpope@gmcc.org or visit www.gmcc.org/paint-a-thon.

The Twin Cities Lung Walk will be held on Sunday, June 7, at Como Park. Registration is at 8:00 a.m., followed by the 5K walk at 9:00. Pledges will raise money for the American Lung Association. Call 1-800-LUNG-USA.

Golden Bloom Award nominees are being sought by the St. Paul Division of Parks and Recreation, St. Paul Garden Club and Ramsey County Master Gardeners. Last year, more than 190 awards were given to residents, businesses and organizations whose yard or public space gardens were nominated by

fellow St. Paul residents. The nomination deadline is July 8. Forms may be found at www.stpaul.gov/parks. For information, e-mail blooming@ci.stpaul.mn.us.

Highland Park Senior High School, 1015 S. Snelling Ave., is seeking donations of its upcoming yard sale. Collection will take place from 2:30 to 7:00 p.m. Friday, May 22, at the school's northwest doors. Call 651-293-8940.

The Breast Cancer 3-Day, a 60-mile walk that will take place on August 21-23, is now accepting registration. The event encourages residents to team up with friends through training and fundraising that starts now and ends with the walk. Participants raise a minimum of \$2,300 and walk an average of 20 miles a day. Visit www.The3Day.org or call 1-800-996-3DAY for information.

The Minnesota Literacy Council is seeking volunteers to spend two or three hours a week tutoring an adult learner, assisting in an adult classroom or teaching a basic English or GED class. Locations are available throughout the Twin Cities area and training is provided. Contact Allison at volunteer@themlc.org or 651-645-2277, ext. 219.

St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman announced during his State of the City address on April 20 the launching of St. Paul VIP (Volunteer, Inspire, Prosper) as a new initiative to connect residents who want to volunteer in the city. For information, visit www.stpaul.gov and click on "St. Paul VIP."

Jewish Community Action's Seeds of Justice/Gar'inay Tzedek program is seeking teens in grades 9-12. Participants will learn leadership and community organizing skills, participate in a special group project, shadow Jewish Community Action staff, be part of a community of fellows and get real-life experience for college applications. The program runs from mid-October through mid-April. The year will begin with a Social Justice Shabbaton and end with a graduation ceremony and fellowship trip. Contact Lauren Bastien at lauren@jewishcommunityaction.org or 651-632-2184 or visit www.jewishcommunityaction.org.

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Gardening



Bluebells ring in spring at 744 James Ave.

In full bloom

West End set to show how its gardens grow

BY FRANK JOSSI

Most of Scott Milburn's workday is spent trudging through forests under contract for pipeline, mining and development companies that need to conduct environmental assessments of plant life before starting projects.

But lately Milburn, who operates Midwest Natural Resources, has been busy tending to the plants in his own yard in preparation for the second annual West End Neighbors Garden Tour, which will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturday, June 6. Sponsored by

the West 7th/Fort Road Federation, the free, self-guided tour will feature 16 West End gardens that will be open for public viewing.

Kent Petterson, owner of Terrace Horticultural Books and coordinator of the tour, said more than 200 people viewed the West End gardens during last year's event. An added attraction on this year's tour is the inclusion of the West End's growing artistic community. Those who stroll through the gardens will hear live music and see artists painting in the open air throughout the day.

"We'll have *plein air* painters in five or six of the gardens and troubadours in others,"

Petterson said. "Every garden will have an artist or entertainer in it at some point during the day."

The tour has been loosely grouped into three clusters so people may walk to several of the gardens.

Irvine Park is a key stop, Petterson said, since it has two "show gardens" in homes around the park, an additional two gardens on Wilkin Street, another one on Goodrich Avenue, and two more at Irvine Park's best-known historic buildings, the Ramsey House and Forepaugh's.

A second cluster features the gardens of ho-

meowners near Palace Playground, including ones on James and Vance avenues and Milton Street. A third cluster in the Kips Glen neighborhood near Montreal Avenue will feature the Highland Nursery and the gardens of two nearby homes.

Milburn's own home at 744 James Ave., which he shares with his wife and daughter, has an entire yard devoted to native plants. Milburn has planted more than 100 varieties of plants in three themed gardens that vary according to the amount of sun required by



Melissa Arikian holds daughter Ellie, 14 months, in the woodland garden created by husband Scott Milburn. Their James Avenue yard will be featured on the West End Neighbors Garden Tour on June 6. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

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Food



Hot Dish By Morgan Smith

Smiles crease cheeks of Monkey patrons

With the street torn up in front of the Cheeky Monkey Deli at 525 Selby Ave., it seemed an opportune time to visit the new Cathedral Hill sandwich and salad shop. My friend and I practically had the spacious dining room to ourselves on a recent Sunday afternoon.

"Yeah, business is definitely down," conceded the man behind the counter.

But be warned. Once the street reconstruction project is finished, possibly as early as June, diners who like good food and comfortable surroundings will no doubt make getting a table at the Cheeky Monkey more of a challenge.

The restaurant was opened last winter by owner and chef Matt McArthur, 35, formerly of Goodfellow's in Minneapolis and Zander Cafe, which preceded the Cheeky Monkey in that same space on Selby. McArthur, who also owns McArthur's Wood Grill in Cannon Falls, liked Zander's location so much that when the building went up for sale, he purchased it for his deli, which he has patterned after those he ran across in London.

"I wanted more of a neighborhood feel," McArthur said, "and something that didn't just have piles of pastrami."

When silent partner Steve Snell suggested the very English-sounding Cheeky Monkey as a moniker, McArthur initially balked, but the name grew on him. (In the Queen's English, if you call someone a cheeky monkey, it usually means he or she is being a bit too forward.) A friend of McArthur's from Goodfellow's helped with the restaurant's décor of white tile in the service area, white and ox-blood-red walls in the dining area, overstuffed easy chairs and funky art.

McArthur didn't go overboard with the monkey business, which made it all the more fun for my friend and I to play the Find a Reference to the Name Game. We spotted the obvious—a painting of monkeys above the fireplace mantel and the winking (i.e., cheeky) monkey on the menu. Then there was the framed album cover from the 1960s band the Monkees hanging in the dining room and the portrait of a chimp in the restroom.

McArthur's approach to food is relatively simple. "I wanted to keep the prices low by serving smaller portions of organic and local foods whenever possible," he said. He cures and smokes his own meats, uses raw milk cheeses from grass-fed animals, and makes his own mayonnaise, mustard, bread, soups and desserts. The results are by and large wonderful. Few of the menu items are over \$7.00, and though the portions aren't large, they're filling.

Patrons at the Cheeky Monkey order at the counter, take a number, grab a seat and wait a few minutes for their food to be served. There's wine, beer, a huge jug of free ice water with lemons, and unlimited fountain drinks to wet your whistle. A new item, ginger lemonade (\$2.00), appeared to be the big seller on the warm afternoon that we were there.

The counter person told me his favorite sandwich at the Cheeky Monkey was the meatloaf (\$6.00), so I ordered that along with a cup of the soup of the day, which happened to be tomato (\$3.50). The meatloaf came with cheddar cheese, bacon, spicy mustard and pickled chilies on toast. It had just



At Selby Avenue's Cheeky Monkey (above), diners order off a colorful menu (below right) and are served such fare as a meatloaf sandwich (below left) with cheddar, bacon, spicy mustard and pickled chiles, a grilled seasonal vegetable salad with hummus and field greens, and potato kale soup with truffle oil. PHOTOS BY JANET HOSTETTER



the right amount of tang—flavorful without being too hot to taste the meatloaf. A real winner.

The server warned me that there would be a potato chip in the tomato soup. Perhaps she was concerned that I'd think it was accidentally dropped there. I was more worried about the appearance of the soup. It looked a bit watery, but nonetheless proved to be quite tasty.

"Smoky," said my dining partner after tasting a spoonful.

"Yes, it's smoky," agreed the server when I told her how much I enjoyed the soup.

I'm not sure if smoky is the word I'd use, but the soup's full flavor certainly made up for the thinness of the stock.

My friend ordered the seasonal salad (\$8.50) and the roasted mushroom with brie on ciabatta pressed sandwich (\$5.00). The salad came with arugula, beets, Asian pears, walnuts and pickled fennel, but without the promised bleu cheese, so we sent it back. It returned with only a few crumbs of bleu cheese, a bit of a disappointment considering how fresh and tasty everything else was. The red wine vinaigrette was fairly light, making the whole concoction the perfect salad for a hot and humid day.

My friend said her roasted mushroom sandwich was good, but that the leftover half-sandwich she took home was even better cold the next day.

For dessert we ordered the pineapple cake (\$3.00) and blondie bar (\$2.00). The pineapple cake was the size and shape of a cupcake and very moist, but it didn't do much for me. On



the other hand, I loved the blondie. It was chewy and chock-full of M&Ms.

Due to miscommunication, the friends who were supposed to accompany us to the Cheeky Monkey that afternoon didn't make it. In their honor, I ordered a Cuban pressed sandwich (\$7.00) and a muffuletta sandwich (\$7.00) to go. And am I glad I did. The Cuban came with cumin pork, smoked ham, Swiss cheese, pickles, mustard and mayo on ciabatta. It was my new favorite until I tried the muffuletta—spelled "muffaletta" here—a stack of smoked ham, Serrano ham, salami, provolone and olive gardeniera on ciabatta.

On my next visit, I'll probably order a couple of items off the "After 3:00 p.m." menu. The griddle potatoes (\$3.00) sound tempting, as does the turkey scone pot pie (\$8.00). I'm also tempted to try the grits (\$3.00), although at a place called the Cheeky Monkey, they sound a bit out of place.

Tidbits

A History Pub Crawl on "Working the West End" will be held from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 3, beginning at the Minnesota History Center. Participants will hear tales of how the people of the West End helped build St. Paul as they travel by trolley to ethnic bars along West 7th Street. The tour is restricted to those age 21 and older. The cost

is \$20-\$25. Drinks are not included, but drink specials will be available at participating bars. The West End crawl will be repeated on July 8 and August 5. Other pub crawls featuring bars in downtown St. Paul and the Summit Hill neighborhood will also be held throughout the summer. Call 651-259-3015 or visit www.minnesotahistorycenter.org.

Mississippi Market, 622 Selby Ave., will offer the following classes in the next few weeks: "Be Your Own Sushi Chef" from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 20 (\$20-\$25); "Grocery Store Herbalist: Headaches" at noon Saturday, May 23 (\$13-\$15); "Shopping Co-ops on a Budget" at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 27 (free); "Fearless Pressure Cooking" from

1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Saturday, May 30 (\$23-\$25); and "Introduction to Raw Foods" from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Thursday, June 4 (\$22-\$25). Call 651-310-9499.

Hampden Park Co-op, 928 Raymond Ave., recently celebrated the grand reopening of its expanded store. The 36-year-old food co-op has more than 2,000 members.

22◀ WEST END GARDENS

the different species.

A prairie garden takes up the boulevard and part of the backyard, both of which get lots of sunlight. A small savanna section takes up a portion of the front yard. The side of the house is filled with shade-tolerant woodland plants such as jack-in-the-pulpit, sedges, pagoda dogwood trees, mayapple, columbine, bellwort, hepatica and wild ginger. Since the flowers bloom at different times, the gardens are always colorful in the summer months, Milburn said.

Back toward the garage, Milburn has planted several smaller gardens, including one with a prickly cactus. He pointed out blazing star, spiderwort, prairie grasses and three flourishing bouquets of chives. A raised garden running along his garage has wood chips, but no plants as of yet. “We’re not sure what we’re going to put there,” he said.

Native plants may be found at garden shops, co-ops and the St. Paul Farmers’ Market. They don’t cost much and don’t require as much attention as non-native plants, Milburn said. They also have the advantage of being much more tolerant to Minnesota’s climate and are much more interesting than the “monotype lawns” that dominate city and suburban

neighborhoods, he said.

“Native gardens are nice to have because the plants peak at different times, people enjoy looking at them and you’re supporting a local industry,” Milburn said. Plus, he added, “Growing natives is a lot of fun.”

The nearby home at 944 James Ave. had been condemned for around a year, but was purchased by a family that is making the home habitable with the help of an improvement loan from Community Neighborhood Housing Services, according to Denise Gathman, who directs the organization’s NeighborWorks Home Ownership Center.

Gathman and the homeowner are working on a vegetable garden that should be done by the weekend of the tour. “The plants are in my backyard and we’re trying to figure out a time to do it,” she said. “We have tomatoes, peppers and other vegetables ready to plant.”

By the time the garden is done, Gathman hopes the homeowner and her son will have moved into the house. “We don’t have as many foreclosed homes as Frogtown or Dayton’s Bluff, but it’s a concern,” she noted.

A plant sale will be held in conjunction with the garden tour at the Fort Road Federation’s office, 975 W. 7th St. The sale will feature day lilies, hostas and other plant divisions from gardens on the tour, and master gardeners

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8. 320 Toronto Street

9. 439 Vance Avenue

10. 744 James Avenue

11. 974 James Avenue

12. 363 S. Milton Street

13. 911 Eleanor Avenue

14. Highland Nursery
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15. 1838 Ivan Way

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Fort Road Federation
975 W. 7th Street

Support the Garden Tour by purchasing seedlings, perennials, daylilies, and houseplants donated by the gardeners. Master gardeners will be answering questions during the plantsale.

will be on hand to answer questions.

Maps will be available on the day of the tour at the Fort Road Federation office, at the Ramsey House, 265 Exchange St., and at the

Highland Nursery, 1742 W. 7th St.

For more information, call Kent Petterson 651-222-5536 or visit the federation’s website at www.fortroadfederation.org.

Tour St. Paul’s rain gardens

The Friends of the Mississippi River and Capitol Region Watershed District will host a walking tour of St. Paul rain gardens from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, June 13. The tour will feature several gardens in St. Paul’s “Garden District,” the Como Park neighborhood. The gardens were created by the watershed district and St.

Paul Department of Public Works as part of the Arlington-Pascal storm water project. In addition to improving water quality, the rain gardens contribute provide beauty, attract wildlife and offer an educational opportunity in that sub-watershed of Como Lake.

The tour will involve walking on paved park trails and sidewalks for approximately two miles over a two-hour period. The tour is free, and early registration is encouraged. Contact Meghan Duddle at mduddle@fmr.org or 651-222-2193, ext. 23. Include your name, the name of the event, the number in your party, your home address including ZIP

Code, and your e-mail address. (The meeting place will be e-mailed to registrants only.)

Most of St. Paul is part of the Capitol Region Watershed District, which has cost-share funds available to assist residents with water quality projects such as rain gardens and rain barrels. The cost-share funds are available in amounts of up to \$2,000. For more information, visit www.capitolregionwd.org.

Minneapolis is part of a watershed district overseen by the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization, which also offers grants of up to \$2,000 through its Stewardship Fund Programs. Nonprofit organiza-

tions, neighborhood groups, schools, local units of government, business and professional associations are all eligible to apply for the money. Individuals and homeowner associations may partner with eligible applicants to apply.

Summer applications are due by June 22. For more information, contact Nancy Dilts at ndilts@mwmo.org or call 651-287-0948, ext. 208.

For more information on the rain garden walking tour or additional Friends of the Mississippi River hikes, tours and volunteer opportunities, visit www.fmr.org.

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The Kiosk

Wednesday/May 20

A FREE TOUR OF RICE PARK will be offered at 10:00 this morning starting from Landmark Center. Tour-goers will hear secrets of the unique buildings that surround one of the cities most beloved parks. To register, call 651-292-3063.

VICTORIAN SECRETS will be revealed during adults-only tours at 6:00, 6:45 and 7:30 this evening at the Alexander Ramsey House, 265 S. Exchange St. Topics will include how Victorians approached the birds and the bees, mental illness, restrictive undergarments, medical ailments and the sins of the flesh. Admission is \$9.00-\$10. Call 651-296-8760.

MAYFEST WILL BE celebrated from 5:00 to 9:00 this evening in the parking lot at St Frances de Sales Church on James and Osceola avenues. The Minnesota State Band will play at 7:00 p.m. There also will be food, drinks and games. Call 651-228-1169.

Thursday/May 21

THE ST. PAUL METRO LA LECHE League will meet at 7:00 this evening. All expectant and nursing mothers and their babies are welcome. Call 651-645-8516.

THE DAVID L. SONS Community Service Award Dinner will be presented by the West 7th Community Center from 6:00 to 9:00 this evening at Mancini's Char House, 531 W. 7th St. The dinner will honor Meghan and Joseph Bennett. Dave Bredemus will speak on the West 7th hospitality industry. Tickets are \$25. Call 651-298-5493.

SHANA SIPPY, a doctoral candidate in the religion department at Columbia University, will speak on "Mourning Mumbai: Analyzing Jewish Reactions to the November 2008 Terrorist Attacks" at 7:00 this evening at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. Admission is \$5.00-\$8.00. Call 651-698-0751.

AN ANXIETY SUPPORT GROUP is being sponsored by the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Minnesota at 6:30 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays of each month at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 S. Snelling Ave. Call 651-645-2948 or visit www.namimn.org.

Saturday/May 23

FREEDOM DAY TOURS focusing on the lives of Dred and Harriet Scott, and their daughters Eliza and Lizzie, will be offered at 11:00 a.m., 12:30 and 2:00 p.m. today at historic Fort Snelling. More than 20 slaves lived and worked at the fort during the mid-1800s. Visitors will see the Officer's Quarters, Commandant's House and the new Dred Scott Quarters, where the Scotts likely lived from 1836-1840. Admission is \$5.00-\$10. Call 612-726-1171.

Tuesday/May 26

A CONVERSATIONAL SALON will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 this evening at the Mad Hatter's Tea House, 943 W. 7th St. The salon is free, but donations are requested for the program and treats. Call 651-227-3228.

THE ST. PAUL HIKING CLUB will meet at 7:30 this evening in the parking lot of Lunds, 2128 Ford Pkwy., for a hike in the Highland Park neighborhood. A stop will



KidsPark held a spring carnival and fundraiser on May 16 to celebrate its new home at Desnoyer Park. Pictured (clockwise from above) are Eleanor Eason, 7, who got her face painted before rolling on gymnastic mats; Solenisa Warren, 6, who took to the air on one of the many inflatable attractions; and banjo player Billy Faire, who caught a little shut-eye during the festivities. PHOTOS BY ANNE BRANDRUD

be made at the Dairy Queen in Highland Village. Visit www.stpaulhike.org.

Thursday/May 28

A "GONE FISHING EXPEDITION" for adults 50 and older will be held at 9:00 this morning at the Lake Phalen Picnic Pavilion. The event will include general fishing tips from the state DNR, fishing from the pier, shoreline and a canoe. Afterward, a picnic lunch of hot dogs, chips, potato salad, coffee and lemonade will be provided. Fishing equipment and a license waiver for the day are included with the \$5.00 registration fee. Limited transportation is available for an additional \$5.00. Visit www.stpaul.gov/parks or call 651-266-6363.

Friday/May 29

SECOND CHANCE ANIMAL RESCUE will hold its annual garage sale from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. today and tomorrow at 1215 Bayard Ave. A variety of items, including furniture, will be sold. Call 651-334-6935.

A SAVE OUR SONS FUNDRAISER will be held at 5:30 this evening in the home of Ian Keith and Gale Daneker, 1791 Dayton Ave. Save Our Sons was founded in 1994 to serve African-American youths who are likely or already involved in the criminal justice system. Services include offering classroom presentations, field trips, and motivational and inspirational workshops. Call 651-334-0734.



Saturday/May 30

"LINCOLN AND ALEXANDER Ramsey: A Political Connection" will be presented at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. today at the Ramsey House, 265 S. Exchange St. Both men were members of the early Republican Party and lived in Washington during the Civil War: Lincoln as president and Ramsey as state senator. Visitors will learn more about the connection between these two men, including stories about the Lincoln family taken directly from the letters and diaries of the Ramsey family, Alexander Ramsey's experience on Lincoln's funeral train, and the political and social circles that operated in the 1860s. Admission is \$6.00-\$9.00. Call 651-296-8760.

THE TWIN CITIES CLASSIC CAR Auction will be held at 10:00 this morning at St. Paul RiverCentre. The 23rd annual auction will offer more than 150 hardtops, convertibles, customs, street rods, Mustangs and Corvettes for auction. A preview of the vehicles will be available from 5:00 to 9:00

p.m. on Friday, May 29. Admission is \$10. Visit www.midamericaauctions.com.

BREAD BAKING in a wood-heated brick oven and iron-bake kettle will be demonstrated from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. today at Fort Snelling. Guests will use period recipes and ingredients to make a loaf to bring home, and take a special tour of the site as the bread bakes. The cost is \$30-\$33. Call 612-726-1171.

Sunday/May 31

A BENEFIT FOR GREG HANSON, a former West End resident who was diagnosed with liver cancer last August, will be held from 3:00 to 9:00 this evening at St. Stanislaus Church, 398 Superior St. The evening will include a spaghetti dinner, silent auction, music, door prizes, general store and bake sale. Tickets are \$10. Cash donations may be sent to the Greg Hanson Benefit Fund at TCF Bank, 3380 Denmark



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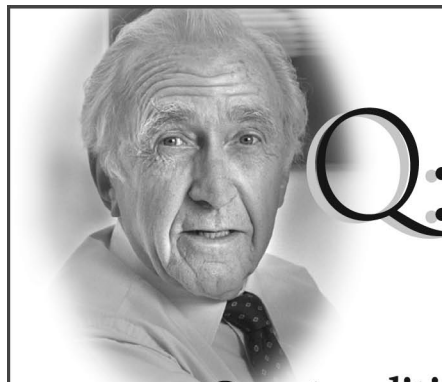
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Activities for All Ages at 9:15 a.m.



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TRY BEING A BLACKSMITH from 1:00 to 4:00 this afternoon at historic Fort Snelling. Guests will select a project, work the forge, pound out the hot metal, shape the iron and bring the project home. Children ages 12-17 must be accompanied by an adult. The cost is \$30-\$33. Call 612-726-1171.

THE ST. PAUL HIKING CLUB will meet at 2:30 this afternoon in the parking lot at the Longfellow gardens, 3933 E. Minnehaha Pkwy., Minneapolis, for a hike around Lake Nokomis. Visit www.stpaulhike.org.

THE HIGHLAND PLANT SHARE will be conducted from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. today in the warming house at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. Gardeners may exchange their potted plants with their neighbors or purchase plants if they have nothing to exchange. Plants may be dropped off the afternoon before the sale. Call Sue Knapton at 651-699-7672.

A WORM COMPOSTING talk with Ellen Sandbeck, a noted worm wrangler from Duluth, will be offered at 11:15 this morning at Unity Church-Unitarian, 732 Holly Ave. Sandbeck will discuss how to get started with worm composting, what can be composted, how to build or buy a bin and more. Contact Terri Burnor at 651-324-2343 or tburnor@comcast.net.

Tuesday/June 2

"POWERFUL TOOLS for Caregivers" will be offered from 9:30 a.m. to noon on Tuesdays, today through July 7, at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. The six-week program is being offered in partnership with FamilyMeans and Jewish Family Service of St. Paul to give family and friends the skills they need to better care for themselves while caring for adults with long-term conditions. The cost

is \$75 and includes *The Caregiver Helpbook*, which was developed specifically for the class. Call Beth Gendler at 651-255-4736.

NOOKS AND CRANNIES TOURS of the James J. Hill House, 240 Summit Ave., will be offered at 6:00 and 7:00 this evening. Visitors will be able to see the top-floor attic (with original theater), back staircases, dust chutes, silver vault and more on these "behind-the-scenes" tours. Admission is \$6.00-\$10. The tours will continue each Tuesday in June. Call 651-297-2555.

Wednesday/June 3

THE OLD WAGON ROAD TRAIL off of North Mississippi River Boulevard in Merriam Park will be spruced up with native plants from 6:00 to 8:30 this evening by Friends of the Mississippi River. Volunteers are needed to help place native plants along the path to increase diversity, improve habitat and control erosion. Tools and gloves will be provided. Supervised children are welcome. Contact Sue Rich at srich@fmr.org or 651-222-2193, ext. 14.

THE CAPITOL REGION WATERSHED District will hold a public meeting on the 2008 stormwater management activities conducted as part of the district's Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program (SWPPP). The meeting will be held at 6:00 this evening at the district office, 1410 Energy Park Drive, Suite 4. The public comment period runs through June 5. For a copy of the draft 2008 SWPPP annual report, visit www.capitolregionwd.org. Contact Anna Eleria at 651-644-8888 or anna@capitolregionwd.org.

A NATIONAL NIGHT OUT kickoff picnic will be held from 6:00 to 7:30 this evening at the Como Park Midway Pavilion across from the Como Park Pool. All St. Paul residents are invited to the fourth annual event, which will feature food, door prizes and information on planning for National Night Out on Tuesday, August 4. Call Pam McCreary at 651-266-5455.

Business Briefs

Two small-business seminars will be offered in the coming weeks by the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE). "Going Into Business," covering the basics of business planning, market research, finance, marketing, management, organization, federal and state taxes, business law and commercial insurance, will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 27, at University Bank, 200 University Ave. The fee is \$60, which includes materials. "Developing Your Business Plan" will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 3, at University Bank. A panel discussion with SCORE counselors will follow. The fee is \$40, which includes materials. For information or to register, call 651-632-8937 or visit www.score-stpaul.org.

Kathie Phillips has retired as vice president of Coldwell Banker Burnet's Highland Park office after a 35-year career in real estate. Phillips joined Coldwell Banker Burnet in 1981 and has led the Highland Park office since 1994. She is succeeded by Kevin Knudsen, who has been selling residential real estate since 1979 and was previously vice president of the company's Minneapolis South office.

Dana Badgerow has been appointed as president and CEO of the Highland Park-based Better Business Bureau of Minnesota and North Dakota. Badgerow previously worked as commissioner of administration in Governor Tim Pawlenty's office. Prior to that, she was vice president and general manager of MTS Systems Corporation. Badgerow is the 12th president of the BBB, which began in

1912 and was the first of its kind in the nation. Visit www.thefirstbbb.org.

Heddy Freddy interchangeable handbag creator Aimee Baxter of Macalester-Groveland will launch her new product during a party from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Saturday, June 13, at the Macalester Alumni House, 1644 Summit Ave. Baxter will have more than 100 handbags available for sale. Her system features a basic module that can be slipped into colorful shells that range from shoulder bags to executive totes. She developed the handbag system over the past three years while working as an information technology business consultant. The bags are especially designed for mothers and working women and are manufactured in Minnesota. Visit heddyfreddy.com.

The West 7th Business Association will hold its next general meeting at 3:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 26, at the Summit Brewing Company. A representative from the St. Paul Saints will discuss the ballclub's interest in building a baseball stadium near West 7th Street and Otto Avenue. Area business members are encouraged to attend and share their views. Visit www.west7thbusinessassociation.com.

A retail sidewalk sale and neighborhood garagesale will take place throughout Highland Park on Friday and Saturday, May 29-30. A map of homes and businesses participating in the second annual event is available at participating retailers. For information, call the Highland Business Association at 651-699-9042.

On the Town

Paved in poetry

Sidewalk contest gives everyday folks a chance to leave literary mark on city

By JUDY WOODWARD

Our life... finds tongues in trees, books in the running brooks, sermons in stones and good in everything.

As You Like It, II.i.12

Shakespeare knew that literature is all around us, but it took the city of St. Paul to recognize that public sidewalks can be read as poetry.

Following up on last year's success, the St. Paul Department of Public Works is once again teaming up with Public Arts St. Paul and artist-in-residence Marcus Young in sponsoring the second annual Everyday Poems for City Sidewalks contest. Winners will receive a \$150 prize and have their entries stamped into newly poured concrete sidewalk panels during the city's regularly scheduled sidewalk maintenance program.

Young got the idea of inscribing poetry underfoot when he noticed that many St. Paul sidewalks bear the stamped logos of the contractors who poured the concrete. He thought, "Why not give pedestrians something more substantial to reflect on?"

Inviting city residents to compose sidewalk poetry was something of a gamble, according to Young. "We didn't know if people would care about the project," he said. "We wanted 20 winners, but we also wanted quality work that we'd be proud of for years to come."

Young was amazed by last year's response. More than 2,000 entries poured in and the idea attracted interest from other cities as far away as New Zealand. Ultimately, 99 installations were made of the 20 winning poems. But for Young, that's just the beginning. "Our ambition," he said, "is to turn the city into a book of poetry."

With the city replacing its 1,000 miles of sidewalk at the rate of about 10 miles a year, it may be a while before Young's vision is realized. He doesn't mind the pace, though. "Because we work alongside the sidewalk crews," he said, "every corner of the city gets treated equally. The program doesn't prioritize any neighborhood and it integrates

poetry into everyday life. So much art calls attention to itself, but this is much quieter."

Christine Podas-Larson, president of Public Art St. Paul, said the only criticism the project has received to date is from concerned taxpayers. But no public money is being spent. "We pay for it," she said, noting that her nonprofit organization depends on private sector support to fund both the sidewalk poetry program and Young's position of artist-in-residence.

Mostly, though, the response has been positive. "People have been writing love letters to Public Works," Podas-Larson said.

So what makes a good sidewalk poem?

According to St. Paul poet laureate Carol Connolly, who is a judge for the contest, "It has to be a complete, clear thought. I look for a little humor... and a poem that gives readers something to take with them."

Connolly said the judging is done without knowing the author, and that the winning poets are just as likely to be "a 10-year-old boy who wrote a perfect baseball poem" as an established writer.

Al Czaia of Public Works has a different take on

what makes a good poem. He is in charge of working out the technical details of setting a poem in concrete.

"When you're stamping them in," he said, "you have to ask, 'Is this going to shorten the life of the concrete? What effect will Minnesota winters have on them? After a while, will they be readable or not?'"

Czaia's criterion for good sidewalk verse is straightforward. "My real concern is the size," he said. "They have to be short and sweet."

One of the authors who met both Connolly's and Czaia's criteria last year was Caley Conney, 24, of Macalester-Groveland. Her winning poem grew out of a case of writer's block. She was sitting on the sofa thinking about peanut butter and complaining to her college roommate that she didn't know what to write.

"My roommate said I should write about not knowing what to write about," Conney said. She took her friend's advice and produced what she initially thought was a "silly little poem." Her poem now appears in

"It has to be a complete, clear thought. I look for a little humor... and a poem that gives readers something to take with them."



Caley Conney of Macalester-Groveland poses beside her poem, "Bad Day," on the south side of Dayton Avenue near St. Mark's Church. PHOTO BY ANNE BRANDRUD

six locations, including on the south side of Dayton Avenue near St. Mark's Church.

Bad day

*The red lid unscrewed
from the jar of extra crunchy
almost empty
and the full, mounded spoon
half shoved in my mouth
says it all -
I don't want to talk.*

After the poem won, she realized that other people saw a deeper meaning in it. The lesson, she said, is, "Don't underestimate your own work."

Fellow contest winner Esmé Evans, who works at the state Capitol, declines to call herself a poet, quoting the late Senator Eugene McCarthy to the effect that you're not a poet until three other poets say you are. "But," she said, "I've written for a long time."

Evans approves of the decision not to

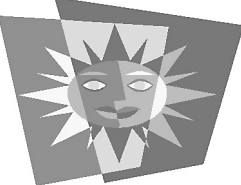
stamp the authors' names into the sidewalk below their poems. "A good poem, like a good design, needs to stand on its own," she said. "And, in this case, we can stand on it, too." Her untitled poem reads as follows:

*A tourist
in the cathedral
of your silence
I am reverent
for all the wrong
reasons.*

Evans was especially pleased that her poem was inscribed in the sidewalk near the intersection of Lincoln and Grand avenues. "You don't think of those two streets ever meeting," she said.

Aspiring poets have until May 29 to submit entries for this year's contest. Poems are limited to 300 characters, including spaces, and contestants must be St. Paul residents. For information, visit www.stpaul.gov/poetry.

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On the Town Briefly

Books

Minneapolis author Norah Labiner will read from her new book, *German for Travelers: A Novel in 95 Lessons*, on Thursday, May 21. Labiner's third novel follows a Hollywood starlet and a romance writer who travel to Berlin to uncover the mystery surrounding their great-grandfather, a Jewish pioneer of psychoanalysis. The free program will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Hamline-Midway Library, 1558 Minnehaha Ave. Call 651-222-3242.

The Central Library History Book Club will discuss Jon Meacham's book, *American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House*, on May 28. The club meets at noon on the fourth Thursday of each month in the 4th floor meeting room of the library, 90 W. 4th St. Everyone is welcome to attend. Call 651-266-7000, extension 5.

Local authors Jane Gilgun, Jacqueline Mosio and Tom Swift will discuss their new nonfictional books at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, June 4, at the Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave. Sponsored by the Twin Cities chapter of the National Writers Union, the free program will feature Mosio's *Getting a Jump on Life: 90 Years of Flying in the Face of Obstacles, Overcoming Hardships and Making My Own Way*, about her coauthor, Aileen Fritsch; Swift's *Chief Bender's Burden*, the true story of the country's greatest American Indian baseball player; and Gilgun's *On Being a Shit: Unkind Deeds and Cover-Ups in Everyday Life*.

Exhibits

The history of the corner of University and Prior avenues is being told in photos and text at the Ramsey County Historical Society gallery in Landmark Center. A discussion on "Merged Twin Cities: Past, Present and Future" at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, May 21, will be led by local historian Donald Empson, Macalester College geography professor David Lanegran, St. Paul City Council member Russ Stark and Minneapolis City Council member Cam Gordon. "Saddles and Sliders: The History of White Castle in the Twin Cities" will be presented by historian Jim Graf at noon on Tuesday, June 2.

"*Saib Kuv (See the Hmong in Me)*," featuring

Exhibit revisits formation of one great generation

"Minnesota's Greatest Generation," a 6,000-square-foot exhibit that revisits the Great Depression, World War II and the postwar boom, will open with three days of family activities May 23-25 at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd.

Featured between noon and 5:00 p.m. on all three days will be a World War II military encampment, short dramas about Minnesota's greatest generation and the construction of souvenir WWII gliders.

Saturday's line-up includes historical dance workshops, a Swing Cats performance, a sing-along with Prudence Johnson and Dan Chouinard, retro bingo and cooking demonstrations by *Bundt Cake Bliss* author Susanna Short.

Stop in Sunday and discuss the origins of the term "greatest generation" with curator Brian Horrigan and historians Dave Kenney and Tom Saylor, and view eight short documentaries and excerpts from the filmed reunions of the USS Minneapolis and USS Ward crews.

Monday will feature a Memorial Day ceremony, a WWII aircraft flyover, WWII-era songs with Five By Design, a WWII veterans panel, cooking demonstrations with Susanna Short, jazz classics by Jazzfly and the assembly of care packages for service men and women overseas.

Admission is \$10, \$8.00 for seniors and students, \$5.00 for children ages 6-17. Call 651-259-3000.

ing digitally altered photos, poetry and prose by emerging Hmong-American artists, is on view through July 24 in the Third Floor Gallery at Metropolitan State University, 645 E. 7th St. Free open discussions about what it means to be Hmong in Minnesota will be held from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Saturdays, June 6 and 20. Call 651-999-5942.

"**Minnesota Prints and Printmakers**," an exhibit that showcases the period between 1900 and 1945 when fine-art printmaking became a truly American scene, is on view



Snapshots of a generation: Girls say goodbye to Marine recruits headed off to war at St. Paul's Union Depot in 1942. A new father sees his child for the first time at Abbot Hospital in Minneapolis in 1950. NAACP members demonstrate for integrated lunch counters at Woolworth's store in downtown St. Paul.



through September 7 at the James J. Hill House, 240 Summit Ave. Admission is \$2.00. Cole Rogers of Minneapolis' Highpoint Center for Printmaking will lead a discussion of "Minnesota Printmaking: Past, Present and Future" at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, June 4. Refreshments and a tour of the Hill House will follow. Admission to the lecture is \$8.00, \$6.00 for seniors and students, \$5.00 for children ages 6-17. Call 651-297-2555.

The annual Honors Art Exhibit, featuring the top talent in the St. Paul Public Schools,

will be held May 22-30 in the gallery of the College of Visual Arts, 173 N. Western Ave. A reception will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Thursday, May 21. Call 651-757-4080.

"**Interpretations of Faith**," the art of eight women working in the Judaic or Christian traditions, is on view through June 28 on the lower level of the Basilica of St. Mary in Minneapolis. Included are paintings, sculpture, drawings, prints, paper and mixed-media works by Robyn Stoller Awend, Kirsten Malcolm Berry, Joan Bohlig, Carolyn

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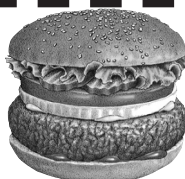
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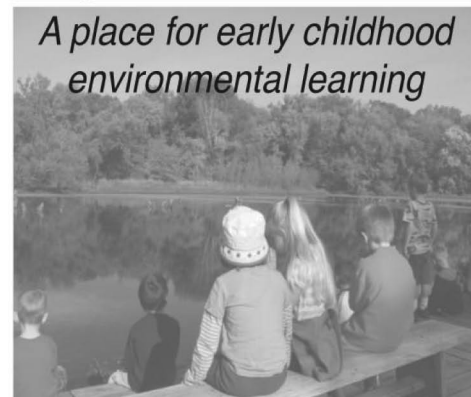
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Brunelle, Leah Golberstein, Renanah Halpern, Lynda Monick-Isenberg and Lucinda Naylor. The gallery is open from 10:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Saturday and from 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Sunday. An artists' reception and panel discussion will be held at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, June 11. Admission is free. Call 612-333-1381.

“Go Live III,” an exploration of the interaction between art, music and fashion, will be held from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. Friday, May 22, at FiveTwoSix Gallery, 526 Selby Ave. Live models in FiveTwoSix hairstyles will showcase clothing by local fashion designers Brittany Hughes and Renalie Bailey. Artists MJ Heubach and Booka B will collaborate on a painting while spinning original tunes. Meanwhile, Aron Taylor will render sculptures and paintings. Hors d'oeuvres and wine will be served. Admission is free. Call 651-222-3839.

“Wolves and Wild Lands in the 21st Century,” an exhibit by the International Wolf Center on the increasingly fragmented habitat for wolves in North America, will be displayed from May 23 through August 23 at the Bell Museum of Natural History, 17th and University avenues in Southeast Minneapolis. Admission is \$5.00, \$3.00 for students and seniors, free for all from noon to 5:00 p.m. Sundays. Call 612-624-7083.

Music

The Twin Cities' Mu Daiko, Canada's Fubuki Daiko, local singer Momoko Tanno and Los Angeles theater artist D'Lo will be featured in a concert of traditional Japanese drumming on May 21-23. Sponsored by Mu Performing Arts, the taiko concert and party begins at 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday at Mixed Blood Theatre, 1501 S. 4th St. in Minneapolis. Food and saké will be served. Tickets are \$27, \$25 for seniors and students. Call 612-338-6131.

The St. Paul Chamber Orchestra closes its season with three weekends of concerts featuring the music of Mendelssohn, Schumann and Brahms. Mendelssohn's Italian Symphony, Schumann's Cello Concerto and Brahms' Sextet No. 2 in G will be performed at 10:30 a.m. Friday, May 22, and 8:00 p.m. Saturday, May 23, at the Ordway and at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, May 24, in Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 4th St. S. in Minneapolis. Schumann's Piano Concerto, Mendelssohn's Trio No. 1 in D Minor, Schumann's Fantasy for Violin and Orchestra and Brahms' Hungarian Dances Nos. 5, 6 and 7 will be performed at 8:00 p.m. Thursday, May 28, at Shepherd of the Valley Church in Apple Valley; 8:00 p.m. Friday, May 29, at Wooddale Church in Eden Prairie; and 8:00 p.m. Saturday, May 30, at St. Paul's United Church of Christ, 900 Summit Ave. The SPCO and its Anniversary Chorale under the direction of Dale Warland will perform Mendelssohn's complete A Midsummer Night's Dream and Schumann's Quartet in E-Flat at 8:00 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, June 4-6, at the Ordway. Tickets are \$10-\$59 or \$5.00 for children. Call 651-291-1144.

A Classical Guitarathon featuring nine outstanding practitioners of the genre, will be presented on Saturday, May 23, by the Minnesota Guitar Society. Kristian Anderson, Christopher Becknell, Evan Everist, Ian Hodges, Jeff Lambert, Wade Oden, Steven Newbrough, Joseph Speolstra and Anthony Titus will take part in the

extravaganza, playing standard, original and contemporary compositions. The music begins at 8:00 p.m. in Sundin Music Hall, 1531 Hewitt Ave. Tickets are \$22, \$17 for students and seniors. Call 612-677-1151.

The Seward Concert Band will perform during a free Memorial Day service at 10:00 a.m. Monday, May 25, at Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery, 2945 Cedar Ave S. in Minneapolis, and in a free concert at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 2, at the Lake Harriet Band Shell. The band will present its annual Summer Concert at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, June 6, in the auditorium of South High School, 3131 19th Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Admission to the summer concert is by donation. A reception will follow.

Macalester-Groveland instrumentalist and composer Richard Griffith and his band the Atomic Panic will play songs off his new CD, “Take the Stairs,” in a free concert at 8:00 p.m. Friday, May 29, at Coffee Grounds, 1579 N. Hamline Ave. in Falcon Heights.

“Converging Traditions,” a concert by the Zeitgeist ensemble featuring Chinese pipa player Gao Hong's “Seasons” and the premiere of banjo player Paul Elwood's “Forty-Four Smokeless,” will be presented at 8:00 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, May 29 through June 6, at Studio Z, 275 E. 4th St. Hong and Elwood will join in the shows. Elwood will also jam with Zeitgeist during a half-price Listening Session at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, May 31. Tickets are \$10, \$5.00 for the Listening Session. Call 651-755-1500.

The Musical Offering will honor its longtime oboist and artistic director Basil Reeve in concert at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, May 31, in Sundin Hall, 1531 Hewitt Ave. After nearly 40 years, Reeve is stepping down, but not before joining in the premiere of Songs in Dialog, a new work for oboe, violin, viola, cello, bass, and percussion by James Bolle. Ravel's Duo for Violin and Cello and Messiaen's Quartet for the End of Time will also be featured. A reception in Reeve's honor will follow. Tickets are \$17, \$14 for seniors, \$8.00 for students. Call 651-523-2459.

Theater

Playlist: America '09, a drama by Aditi Brennan Kapil about four Americans on a collision course with change, is being presented through May 23 by the Breaking Ice Company. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday at Pillsbury House Theatre, 3501 Chicago Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Call 612-825-0459.

Angels In America: Millennium Approaches, the first play in a two-play set by Tony Kushner, is being performed through May 24 by People Sittin' Around Doin' Theatre. The drama tells of two couples whose relationships are disintegrating against a backdrop of the greed, conservatism and sexual politics of the 1980s. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday at the Lowry Lab Theatre, 350 St. Peter St. Tickets are \$14, \$12 for students and seniors, or whatever you can afford on May 24. Call 1-800-838-3006.

20 Days to Find a Wife, a new musical comedy by Laurie Flanigan and Marya Hart about finding true love on a deadline, is being performed through May 31 by the History Theatre, 30 E. 10th St. Based on a true story, *20 Days to Find a Wife* tells of a Lake Michigan

lighthouse keeper who is compelled by his boss to leave his island post for the first time in nine years to search for a wife and is granted only 20 days leave to do so. Showtimes are 10:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Friday, 7:30 p.m. Saturday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$28-\$32, \$25-\$30 for seniors, \$20 for students. Call 651-292-4323.

The legacy of global violence is explored in *He Woke Up in a Strange Place Called Home and Although Looking for Bed He Kept Finding Death Instead*, a production of Skewed Visions that is playing through May 31 at 142 S. Cambridge St. Inspired by George Büchner's *Woyzeck* and *The Odyssey* of Homer, the interdisciplinary drama moves in and out of homes, garages, sidewalks and streets to comment on America's growing desire to escape history. Show times are 8:30 p.m. Friday through Sunday. Tickets are \$10-18. Call 1-800-838-3006.

We Are the Change That We Seek, an original play by the Central High School Touring Theatre, will have its final public performances at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, May 22 and 23, at Concordia University's E.M. Pearson Theatre, 312 S. Hamline Ave. The musical drama addresses such issues as prejudice, discrimination and the pressures faced by adolescents. Tickets are \$5.00 with discounts for students and seniors and groups.

In Another's Size, a fast-paced comedy about teenagers switching bodies with other teenagers, will be performed at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, May 23, at Stepping-Stone Theater, 55 N. Victoria St. The play was written and will be performed by the students of SteppingStone's Produce It class taught by Twin Cities playwright and actor Joseph Scrimshaw. Tickets are \$9.00 \$7.00 for students and seniors. Call 651-225-9265.

800 Words: The Transmigration of Philip K. Dick, based on the life of the groundbreaking science fiction author whose books have been turned into such movies as *Blade Runner* and *Total Recall*, will be performed on May 28 through June 7 by the Workhaus Collective. Written by Victoria Stewart, the drama creates a surreal landscape where Dick's recurrent obsessions with God, art, madness, time, fiction and reality play out. Show times are 8:00 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 7:00 p.m. Sunday at the Playwrights' Center, 2301 E. Franklin Ave. in Minneapolis. Tickets are \$8.00-\$15. Call 612-332-7481 extension 20.

The Unexpected Guest, one of Agatha Christie's finest murder mysteries involving a dead husband, a penitent wife and her unexpected guest who isn't so sure, will open on May 29 at Theatre in the Round, 245 Cedar Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Show times are 8:00 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2:00 p.m. Sundays through June 21. Tickets are \$20 with discounts for seniors and students. Call 612-333-3010.

Sia(b): A Journey for the Hmong Heart, playwright May Lee-Yang's story of a Hmong woman who feels stifled living in the U.S., will be performed May 30 through June 7 at the Gremlin Theatre, 2400 University Ave. Directed by Robert Farid Karimi, the play stars Lee-Yang and Katie Ka Vang. Show times are 8:00 p.m. Saturday, 4:00 p.m. Sunday, and 8:00 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. Tickets are \$15, \$12 for students and seniors, or whatever you can afford on Wednesday. For reservations, call 651-603-6971.

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Dance

Beginning square dance lessons are being offered at 6:15 p.m. Mondays through June 8 at the West 7th Community Center, 265 Oneida St. Couples, families and singles are welcome to attend. Admission is \$3.00. For information, call 651-298-5493.

Israeli dance classes for novices and experts alike will be conducted by master teacher Shira Schwartz from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. every Wednesday, June 3-24, at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. Open dancing will follow from 8:00 to 9:30 p.m. Admission is \$8.00. Call Penny Schumacher at 651-255-4732.

Family

Tiger Tales, a new play about a Hmong-American family struggling to adapt to life in St. Paul, is being presented through May 23 by SteppingStone Theatre in collaboration with Mu Performing Arts. The children in this immigrant family appear stuck until their grandmother tells them the Hmong folktales that give them a deeper connection to their ancestral culture and help them defeat the "tigers" of American life. Show times are 10:00 a.m. and noon Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 7:00 p.m. Friday, and 3:00 p.m. Saturday at SteppingStone, 55 N. Victoria St. Tickets are \$11, \$9.00 for seniors and children ages 2-17. Call 651-225-9265.

Red Balloon Bookshop, 891 Grand Ave., plays host to storytimes for babies at 10:15 a.m. Tuesdays, toddlers at 11:00 a.m. Tuesdays and preschoolers at 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays. Featured in other free programs will be Wendy Ulmer, author of *A Isn't for Fox*, 10:30 a.m. Saturday, May 23; "Fun with Musical Terms" with *Da Capo al Fine* author Katherine Goodale, illustrator Kit Prendergast, composer Tom Linker and the Kids Consort led by Julie Elhard, 10:30 a.m. Saturday, May 30. Call 651-224-8320.

Vintage games and tours of the historic John H. Stevens House in Minnehaha Falls Park will be offered from noon to 4:00 p.m. Monday, May 25. Admission is free. Refreshments will be served.

"Saturday Live!" free entertainment for children at 11:15 a.m. Saturdays at St. Paul's Central Library, 90 W. 4th St., will feature Dazzling Dave the yo-yo pro on May 30.

"The Dance Drum: Heartbeat of the Earth,

Heartbeat of the People," a program on American Indian legends and drumming, will be presented on Sunday, May 31, by storyteller Duke Addicks. The free program begins at 2:00 p.m. at the John H. Stevens House in Minnehaha Falls Park. Visit www.johnhstevenshouse.org.

"Under the Sea," an interactive program for 2- and 3-year-olds, will be offered from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. Thursday, June 4, at the Bell Museum of Natural History, 17th and University avenues in Southeast Minneapolis. Toddlers and their families can get a close-up look at a shark's jaw and narwhale's tusk, practice swimming like a fish, listen to a story about life under the sea and make a colorful underwater scene with thumbprints and paint. Admission is \$5.00, \$3.00 for students and seniors. Registration is required. Call 612-624-9050.

Et cetera

"RetroRama," a journey back in time to the heyday of the Greatest Generation, will be taken from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. Thursday, May 21, at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. Attend a runway show of fashions from the 1920s through '60s. Shop a vintage boutique. Test your knowledge of the mid-20th century with Chuck and Sean of the Trivia Mafia. Make a souvenir corsage or boutonniere, or pick up a few tips on old-school entertaining from Chow Girls catering and the classic mixologists at Bradstreet Craftshouse Restaurant. The gritty sound of A Night in the Box will round out the evening. Partygoers may also check out the history center's new "Minnesota's Greatest Generation" exhibit. Admission is \$15. For reservations, call 651-259-3000.

"Sample Night Live," the monthly variety show that offers a cross-section of Twin Cities talent, returns at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 3, at the History Theatre, 30 E. 10th St. G-rated Act 1 will feature Wonder Kids Music from the MacPhail Center, Stuart Pimsler Dance Theatre, jazz artists Nancy Harms and Robert Bell, a preview of the film *Resonance: Odyssey of the Bells* and the Skylark Opera. Taking the stage in unrated Act 2 will be the Walking Shadow Theatre Company, a preview of the film *Phasma Ex Machina*, poetry slammer Wonder Dave, the improvisational comedy of Five Man Job and the band Samosa. Admission is \$20, \$10 for students and seniors, \$5.00 for children ages 5-10. For more information, visit www.samplenightlive.com.



Sidi Goma, a music and dance ensemble from Gujarat, India, will perform free on both days of the Flint Hills International Children's Festival in downtown St. Paul.

Int'l kids' fest returns to Rice Park

Performing artists from as far away as India, Israel and Nova Scotia will converge on downtown St. Paul from May 26-31 for the Ordway Center's ninth annual Flint Hills International Children's Festival. The public portion of the art festival will take place all day Saturday and Sunday. Four shows will be featured inside the Ordway, and a world of entertainment will be presented in the parks outside of it.

Saturday's lineup includes:

- Nova Scotia's Mermaid Theatre and its larger-than-life puppetry in *The Very Hungry Caterpillar and Other Eric Carle Favorites*, at 10:00 a.m. and noon in the McKnight Theatre.

- Cirque Mechanics, a troupe of acrobats, dancers, clowns and contortionists, and the mayhem they create in *Birdhouse Factory* at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. in the Main Hall.

- Sidi Goma, four musicians and eight dancers, presenting the exuberant music and dance of the Sidi African-Indians of Gujarat, India, at 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on the World Stage outdoors.

- Esta, an Israeli quartet, and its blend of Mediterranean, Balkan, African, Asian and Celtic music at 2:30 and 4:00 p.m. in the McKnight Theatre.

- Lelavision Physical Music's *The Anther, My Friend*, a captivating marriage of natural science, sculpture, music and dance, at 3:30 p.m. in the Drake Room.

Back to perform on Sunday will be:

- Esta at 10:30 a.m. and noon in the McKnight Theatre.

- Sidi Goma at noon and 3:00 p.m. on the World Stage outdoors.

- Cirque Mechanics in *Birdhouse Factory* at 2:00 p.m. in the Main Hall.

- Mermaid Theatre in *The Very Hungry Caterpillar and Other Eric Carle Favorites* at 2:30 and 4:30 p.m. in the McKnight Theatre.

Tickets to the indoor shows are \$5.00 and available at 651-224-4222. All outdoor shows are free.

Also performing for free in the parks surrounding the Ordway will be an array of Minnesota artists, including Chicks on Sticks, the Chit-Chat Clowns, Katha Dance Theatre, Los Alegres Bailadores, Bunny Clogs, Cyril Paul and the Calypso Monarchs, CAAM Chinese Dance Theatre, Kalpulli Yaocenoxtili, the Collective and Dennis Warner.

Mimes, musicians, balloon artists and clowns will be strolling throughout the festival grounds. A 50-foot floral mosaic will be installed in Landmark Plaza. Children will be invited to make their own mosaics, paper-bag hats, milk-carton pull toys and other art in the Activity Tents. Children and adults, families and groups are invited to adorn their bikes, trikes, wheelchairs, strollers, scooters and wagons or create banners, flags, puppets, musical instruments or whatever they like and march or ride in the ARTmoves Parade that steps out at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday.

Art by students from across Minnesota will be displayed in the ARTwalk that wends its way across a dozen blocks in downtown St. Paul. A butterfly garden will be set up in Rice Park, and a smorgasbord of international dishes will be available for purchase.

Volunteers are needed to help with a variety of activities. For more information, visit www.ordway.org/festival/volunteer.

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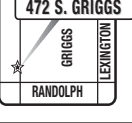
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Sports



The Wright Call

By Dave Wright

Not just your average Joe

It's no secret in these parts that Joe Mauer is a helluva baseball player. And it's not just because Mauer has been hitting the bejeebers out of the ball since his return to active duty with the Minnesota Twins. Indeed, his late migration north this spring has produced something we hadn't seen much from him in the past: power to the opposite field. His first four home runs—in only 10 games—were to left field.

Some teams have catchers who hit well but are only so-so defensively, while others are just the opposite. Mauer—the best catcher in baseball since Pudge Rodriguez, the last guy to step into that role at age 20 and is still playing today—is the complete package.

Good catchers—both at the plate and behind it—are worth their weight in gold because few teams have ever won a championship without them.

A fourth of the way through the season, the AL Central Division has the makings for a dogfight that could resemble the 1967 race, when four teams still had a shot at the pennant entering the last weekend of play. The Twins' chances in this year's pennant chase are largely dependent on Mauer staying healthy.

However, baseball teams must think of the present and the future simultaneously. The Twins need to decide now if this is the time to throw down the cards and ask what it'll take to lock Mauer in for the next six to 10 years. All other contracts, including that of first baseman Justin Morneau, can then fall in line accordingly.

Although it will take a lot of money to get the deal done, the Twins are likely to get it all back and then some after they move into their new ballpark next year.

As these words were being written, the Twins had a .500 record with Mauer in the lineup and were a game under .500 when he was not. An insignificant difference at first blush, but is there any question how much better they look when Mauer is in there?

Leaving his future status with the Twins in limbo too long simply invites teams with deeper pockets to make an offer Mauer can't refuse. In the past, the Twins have found a way to keep players like Kirby Puckett and Kent Hrbek—guys they absolutely had to have on their roster to retain any credibility with their fans.

Joe Mauer is such a player.

Au revoir, Monsieur Lemaire

Marketers to the end, the Minnesota Wild sent their fans out the door after their home finale a month ago with a parting gift of a team record for goals scored in an 8-4 win over Nashville. The scoring orgy sent the crowd of 18,000 home with still faint hopes that, if the hockey gods were willing to overlook a few notable shortcomings, their heroes might sneak into the Stanley Cup Playoffs.

Those hopes faded a few hours later when the other NHL teams that needed to lose did not.

One guy who knows a thing or two about hockey had not been fooled for a second. Coach Jacques Lemaire knew his team did not deserve to be in the playoffs and had already made plans for spending winters elsewhere. Although he had made up his mind, Lemaire waited to announce his resignation until the team finished its season the next night with a win in Columbus.

However, Lemaire had dropped several hints that he knew it was time for him to move on. Those who have been watching the Stanley Cup Playoffs over the last month know the reason why: The Wild are nowhere near the caliber of the teams that are still playing.

WRIGHT CALL ► 32

Blazing a trail

Vis softballers power way into section playoffs

BY BILL WAGNER

Something told Marco Machado there was a good reason to take the Visitation School softball coaching job when he rejoined the Minnesota prep ranks after last season. Machado, who coached for New Life Academy in Woodbury before business interests took him to Florida last year, started looking around to get back into coaching and found an opportunity with potential when he saw who the Blazers had coming back.

"I thought we could do well," he said.

And do well the Blazers have. Visitation finished its regular season in a three-way tie with Minnehaha Academy and St. Bernard's in the Tri-Metro Conference. The Blazers were 15-4 overall and 11-1 in league play. Their only conference blemish was a 3-1 loss to the Bulldogs to close out the regular season on May 11. Minnehaha, which had lost earlier to Visitation, then defeated St. Bernard's on May 12 to set up the tie.

Visitation posted several four-star victories on the year and Machado was optimistic heading into the Section 4AA playoffs, which got under way last week. Historically, the playoffs have not been especially fruitful for the Blazers, who have yet to advance to the state softball tournament. Still, Machado said his team is playing well and should make a good playoff run.

"I'm excited (about the postseason)," he said. "I think they're ready. We'll see."

The Blazers have hit pretty consistently all year, but were shut down by the stellar pitching of St. Bernard's Christina Monsour, who allowed only two hits and struck out nine. Machado described the game as a disappointment, but far from a catastrophe.

"She pitched a great game, she had a great changeup and we just didn't adjust," he said, "but we still have some opportunities in front of us."

Visitation simply has too many weapons to worry much about the one conference loss. Those weapons start with junior pitcher Claire Kranz, who has averaged 12 strikeouts and one walk per game this season. The hard-throwing Kranz accounted for 13 of the team's 15 wins and Machado thinks she may have a future as a Division I college player.

The team's offensive power has also impressed Machado. "The hitting has been somewhat of a surprise," he said. "We really don't play small-ball. We're more of a power-hitting team. We can hit the gaps and get extra-base hits."

One of the Blazers' assets is senior catcher Catherine Quinlan, who is tough behind the plate, calls a good game and provides both average and power hitting from the No. 3 spot in the lineup. Her .389 batting average leads the club.

The infield includes junior second baseman Clare Robinson, a speedy lead-off hitter in her third year on the varsity; junior shortstop Monica Johnson, who has been flirting with .300 all season; junior third baseman Maggie McIntee,



Visitation senior Hannah Reitan singles to right during the team's 12-0 win over Roosevelt to open the Section 4AA playoffs on May 14. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

a converted outfielder who has shown good instincts at the hot corner; and senior first baseman Hannah Reitan, who is hitting .375 out of the No. 9 spot.

Center field is manned by freshman Audrey Feltz, who was hitting in the high .300s and leading the team with 12 RBIs. She also plays stout defense.

At left is freshman Sarah Leach, who leads the team with three home runs out of the cleanup spot and shows promise as a pitcher. Leach boasted a 2-0 record and a 0.00 ERA despite her limited mound duty. She also struck out 13 hitters in just 11 innings.

In right is senior Kayla Galligo, a steady performer. Junior Bridget Dahl also fills in at outfield and contributes good pinch running and hitting off the bench.

Visitation defeated Minnehaha in a 5-3, 13-inning classic on May 1 that proved to be a great confidence-builder for the team. "That game was huge for us," Machado said. "We showed we have

what it takes to win."

Earlier in the season, the Blazers lost two games out of three in the Benilde-St. Margaret's tournament. However, the two defeats were 3-2 to Rosemount and a 1-0 nail-biter to Wayzata—two strong, Class AAA teams. The lone tourney victory was over host Benilde.

"I thought we competed very well," Machado said. "We need to play better competition if we want to get better."

The Section 4AA tournament began on May 14 with the Blazers defeating Minneapolis Roosevelt, St. Paul Academy and St. Anthony. They will host Minnehaha at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, May 21. The championship game is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 27, at Hamline University.

Machado said he likes the pressure of being chosen as the top team in the 16-school field. "We're No. 1 and Minnehaha is No. 2," he said. "We've been playing some good ball. We just need to keep playing it a while longer."

Redhawks back in hunt for state baseball trip that got away

BY BILL WAGNER

The Minnehaha Academy baseball team missed out on the chance last year to end longtime coach David Glenn's final season with the school's first appearance in the state tournament. Glenn is now retired, but he is still on the minds and in the hearts of the players, and co-coach Josh Thurow thinks that last year's disappointing section finale will only benefit the Redhawks in this spring's postseason play.

Thurow, who previously served as assistant coach, knows how painful last year was. The young Redhawks had a great regular season and marched through the playoffs before losing twice to St. Anthony Village in the Section 4AA finals.

This year the team is still young, but some of its starters, which include six juniors, two sophomores and just one senior, now have playoff experience.

Minnehaha finished the regular season 15-5 overall and won the Tri-Metro Conference title with a 9-2 record, having reeled off nine straight wins before the streak was broken by league rival Breck on May 6.

"This team has shown at times that it's better than last year," Thurow said. "A lot of our kids are back, and all of them are a year older."

The Redhawks have a good combination of speed on the base paths and power at the plate, to go along with able pitching and an air-tight defense. "We've played very balanced baseball," Thurow said.

Minnehaha's pitching is strong and deep. Senior left-hander Alex Bruneau is unbeaten as the No. 1 starter. He throws hard, but also mixes in his curve and changeup. Bruneau also possesses a mean pickoff move that makes would-be base thieves think twice about wandering too far from first.

Sophomore hurler Tim Krahn has shown poise beyond his years and keeps hitters off-stride with his control. Sophomore starter



Minnehaha Academy junior Dan Doran pounces on home plate to score on an inside-the-park homer on May 13 in a 4-3 loss to St. Bernard's. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Matt Pryor also has been more than adequate on the mound. He pitched a complete game victory over St. Louis Park on May 1 as part of the Redhawks' sweep of the Jordan Wood Bat Tournament. (Pryor also doubles as a standout second baseman and leadoff hitter.) Junior hurler Bennett Hull provides depth in relief.

Junior catcher Alec Johnson calls a great game and provides a solid backstop behind the plate. Thurow is supremely confident of Johnson's ability to make pitch selections no

matter who is on the mound.

Minnehaha's strong infield has juniors Bryce Walt and Harrison Hammond taking turns at first. Whichever one is not in the field serves as the designated hitter. "We want to keep both of those bats in the lineup," Thurow said.

Walt went 8-for-13 earlier this month and was leading the team in doubles. Hammond, who tagged two home runs in a win against Brooklyn Center, was leading the club in batting average.

Junior shortstop Dan Doran, who also started last year, makes all the plays in the field, hits for average and can steal bases. Not many balls get by him and junior third baseman Ben Wadsworth. Thurow called Wadsworth the best defensive third-sacker the school has ever had. "We just shake our heads at the plays he makes," he said.

In the outfield, sophomore left fielder Jack Johnson is in his second year as a starter and launched a homer in the recent loss to Breck. In center, junior Matt Wolpert has speed and makes things happen batting second in the order.

Either Bruneau or Krahn patrols right field when not on the mound. Either way, Thurow said, the team is assured of strong arms on defense and capable hitting.

Junior utility infielder Tyler DuBois provides strength off the bench and takes second when Pryor pitches. And junior Tommy Boyd gives the Hawks a good backup third baseman who can also pinch hit.

The Redhawks have more than shown that they are ready for a postseason run. In their Jordan tournament sweep, they trounced St. Louis Park and beat Class AAA Rocori 2-1 in the title game.

Minnehaha also blasted St. Anthony, last year's nemesis, 11-2 on April 25 after the Redhawks were trailing 2-0 heading into the fifth. "The lineup just exploded," Thurow said about the win over the Huskies.

The Section 4AA playoffs begin on May 21 and conclude on June 4 at Midway Stadium. The top-seeded Redhawks look to be in a lot better position to gain a berth at state this year and to give former coach Glenn a retirement present—even if it does come a year late.

31◀ WRIGHT CALL

It's often forgotten that Lemaire was a helluva hockey player back in the days when the Montreal Canadiens were a helluva hockey team. Long before Herb Brooks ever said it, Lemaire and his teammates plied the boards in the belief that the name in front of the uniform meant a lot more than the names on the back. During Lemaire's playing tenure—he started in 1967-68 and retired after the 1978-79 season—just making the playoffs was not enough to satisfy anybody in Montreal. The only year the Habs missed the playoffs in a 50-year stretch came in 1969-70 when they finished in a tie for fourth with 92 points, 16 games over the .500 mark. They lost out because the New York Rangers had scored more goals during the season.

Though making the playoffs was no big deal, winning the Stanley Cup was. Indeed, to beat Montreal in the playoffs during that era required a full 60-minute effort. Anything less and a team was liable to find itself making golf reservations.

As a player, Lemaire was always up to the challenge and seemed to play his best hockey when the chips were down. As a coach, however, he struggled to get his players on the same page. A rare NBC-TV appearance in the final week of the season showed the Wild's basic problem. For 2½ periods that Sunday, the Wild seemed the equal of the defending Stanley Cup champs from Detroit. Goalie Niklas Backstrom made a series of acrobatic saves to keep the Wild alive in a

All the marketing moxie in the world can't hide this fact: The Wild are light years behind the NHL's elite teams. But don't take my word for it. Flip on the TV and watch it yourself.

tie game. With about five minutes to go, Minnesota began to exert pressure in the hopes it could steal a point or two from the Red Wings. But Detroit's goalie held firm. Finally, the inevitable mistake occurred and Detroit's Marian Hossa took advantage to score the game-winner with less than a minute to play. It was a game that defined the Wild's season. Teams that can only muster solid attacks for five minutes against good opponents are fated to come up short.

The apologizers will have a litany of reasons to fall back on for missing the playoffs. Marian Gaborik, the team's best scorer, missed most of the season. Kurtis Foster, a solid defenseman, also was out most of the time. There were other injuries as well, but injuries are part of the game. A team that cannot manufacture a three-game winning streak for four

months cannot claim it deserves to be in the playoffs. More important, a team that views an overtime loss as an end to a bad streak because it got a point for it is doomed to failure.

As a player, Lemaire always did what his coaches asked him to because he was confident they would utilize his skills to their limits. He told his players he would be doing the same thing as a coach. However, the modern pro player does not always see things that way. Eventually something has to give. Because he could afford to do so, Lemaire decided he had seen enough and checked out. Maybe he knew all along that the guy who hired him, Doug Risebrough, would be shuffling along shortly as well. In fact, Risebrough was fired days later.

Whoever takes over the Wild now faces a slew of problems. Several free agents need to be signed. Even if the moody Gaborik re-ups, there's a need for another sharpshooter.

The Wild players need to sit down and watch how hard the teams in the playoffs have been playing, including the ones who got beat, such as Vancouver. The Stanley Cup games have had the kind of intensity that was rarely seen around these parts over the last couple of seasons. And it figures to get even more intense from here on.

All the marketing moxie in the world can't hide this fact: The Wild are light years behind the NHL's elite teams. But don't take my word for it. Flip on the TV and watch it yourself.

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

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Emily Engdahl



Brittany Aparicio

Minneapolis Athena winners named

The 37th annual Minneapolis Athena Awards were presented to 50 of the best and brightest female athletes in the Mill City during a luncheon ceremony on May 8 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Athena Award winners from the Villager area are:

Minnehaha Academy Emily Engdahl

Sports: soccer (three-time letter winner, captain), Alpine skiing (six-time letter winner, captain, two-time all-conference), softball (six-time letter winner, two-time captain, MVP, four-time all-conference, two-time all-section).

Other activities: anti-human trafficking movement co-chair, church youth group, Young Life group, mission trips, girls' Bible study, captains' group, Spanish tutor.

Scholastic achievements: Academic Team

Champions-Silver Award (skiing), Laurie Drummond Scholarship in recognition of outstanding leadership.

Post-high school plans: Westmont College in Santa Barbara, California.

Roosevelt Brittany Aparicio

Sports: cheerleading (three-time letter winner, three-time captain, three-time MVP, all-conference), softball (two-time letter winner, rookie of year in 2007), soccer (two-time letter winner, captain, rookie of year in 2008).

Other activities: Student Council, Minneapolis Public Schools citywide student council, Yearbook Club, Career Achievement Club.

Scholastic achievements: "B" honor roll.

Post-high school plans: Minnesota State University-St. Cloud or Oakwood College in Huntsville, Alabama.

Sports Shorts

A **S'more Fun program** for children ages 6-12 will be offered from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on weekdays, June 15 through August 21, at both the Groveland and Hillcrest recreation centers, 2045 St. Clair Ave. and 1978 Ford Pkwy., respectively. Daily activities include outdoor recreation, group games and free time in the gym. At Hillcrest, there will be art projects on Mondays, swimming at the Highland Pool on Tuesdays and Thursdays, field trips on Wednesdays and walks to area parks on Fridays. The cost is \$145 a week or \$32 per day. For more information, call Groveland at 651-695-3715 or Hillcrest at 651-695-3706.

Paula Maccabee of Merriam Park and her son, Aaron, recently qualified for the National Taekwondo Championships that will be held on June 30-July 3 in Austin, Texas. During the qualifying tournament that also was held in Texas, Aaron earned a gold medal for forms in the second degree black belt division for ages 14-17 and a bronze in sparring in the black belt bantam weight competition for ages 14-17. Paula received a gold medal in the black belt second masters form division for ages 51-99. Both mother and son are black belt students at the World Taekwondo Academy in St. Paul.

The **Midway Chamber of Commerce** will host its 72nd annual Midway on the Fairway golf tournament on Monday, June 1, at the Town & Country Club, 300 N. Mississippi River Blvd. Registration and lunch begin at 10:30 a.m., followed by a shotgun start at noon. A social hour and awards dinner will take place from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. The cost is \$180, which includes greens fees, cart, driving range, lunch and dinner. An optional \$20 passport includes raffle tickets, contests and more. Register by May 22. Call 651-646-2636 or visit www.midwaychamber.com.

Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy., will offer classes in tap dance, creative movement, ballet, yoga and tumbling at a Multi-Sport Camp, a theater class in improvisation and character development, and a "Tales & Creation" class featuring stories and related activities all beginning the week of June 22. Starting in July are classes in jewelry making, "Nature & Sculpture" and preschool science for parent and child. August offerings include Skyhawk Basketball Camps, an Abakadoodle: Giggle, Wiggle & Paint Camp, dance camps, art camp and musical theater camp. Call Hillcrest at 651-695-3706 or visit www.stpaul.gov/parks.

The **Smoke-Free Dakota World No Tobacco Day 5K run or walk** for nonsmokers, ex-smokers and smokers who like a challenge will be held on Sunday, May 31, on the Big Rivers Regional Trail in Lilydale. Registration begins at 7:00 a.m. and the run at 8:00 a.m. The fee is \$20. Proceeds will help defray the cost of low-income children with persistent asthma to attend Camp SuperKids. Call Diane Tran at 651-789-0036.

A **free five-day football fundamentals camp** for boys and girls ages 8-14 will be held from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, June 15-19, at Griffin Stadium on Marshall Avenue and Lexington Parkway. An NFL Punt, Pass & Kick competition will be held in conjunction with the camp, which is sponsored by the St. Paul Division of Parks and Recreation. Instruction will be provided by local youth coaches, St. Paul high school coaches, and college and semi-pro coaches. No pads are required; dress in T-shirt, shorts and football or tennis shoes. Register at any St. Paul recreation center. For more information, call Pete Globa at 612-366-0052 or St. Paul Municipal Athletics at 651-558-2255.

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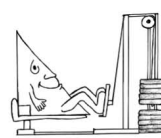
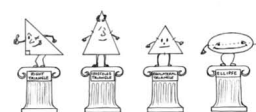
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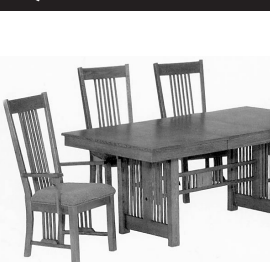
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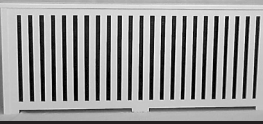
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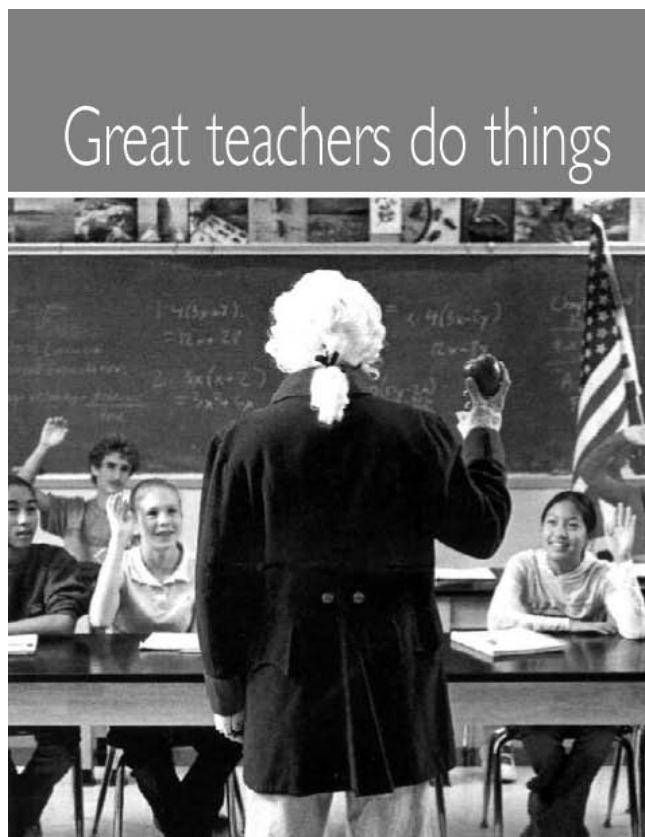
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