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Seven-year-old Ryan Anderson showed off his skateboarding skills during Mendota Heights' annual parks celebration on June 6-7. PHOTO BY ANNE BRANDRUD

Cramped KidsPark will move to Desnoyer Park

Larger space would allow for expansion of drop-in program

BY JANE MCCLURE

The board of directors of the Macalester-Groveland Community Council voted unanimously on June 12 to move its 20-year-old KidsPark drop-in childcare program to the shuttered Desnoyer Park Recreation Center in Merriam Park later this year.

KidsPark currently occupies the warming house at the Groveland Recreation Center, 2045 St. Clair Ave. Parents of children who use the center and the KidsPark Advisory Council (KPAC) also support the move, which has been the topic of several parent meetings and an on-line survey. However, questions remain about the long-term future management of KidsPark and whether the district council should continue to oversee a program that would no longer be located within its boundaries.

Mark Smith, a longtime KPAC member, said it is unclear when the move to Desnoyer will take place. After the lease with the city of St. Paul is signed, the city would spend

about \$80,000 to upgrade mechanical systems and install an additional restroom at Desnoyer before KidsPark moves in.

The improvements are just one of the contingencies in making the move. Another is reaching an agreement with the city on capping utility costs. A third is the transfer of state and city childcare licenses.

KidsPark also has not ruled out moving its main program to Desnoyer while retaining its licenses and still using the Groveland space on a limited basis. KPAC board member Barry Madore said that would give KidsPark the option of moving back to Groveland if the Desnoyer space ever became unavailable.

Some district council members wanted to lay the matter over for more discussion before taking the vote, but that would have affected lease negotiations, which the city is eager to conclude.

Much of the discussion on June 12 centered on what a move would mean for KidsPark participation. Madore said a huge argument in favor of the move is that Desnoyer's facilities are much better suited for a drop-in childcare program. Sharing the Groveland warming house means that during skating season all of KidsPark's toys and

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Devil in the details: Critics take aim at Central Corridor design

Loss of parking, sidewalk space among the concerns

BY JANE MCCLURE

The Metropolitan Council is hoping to approve the design for the Central Corridor light-rail transit line by late August to meet the Federal Transit Administration's deadline for applying for federal funds. However, if recent hearings on the design of the 11-mile route are any indication, that could be a challenge. Local residents, business people and government officials are all raising a host of concerns about the design of the transit line and the effect it could have

on adjacent land uses and motor-vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

St. Paul City Council member Russ Stark has proposed reducing the number of motor-vehicle traffic lanes on University Avenue from four to two to preserve more on-street parking and improve the environment for pedestrians. University stands to lose a minimum of 625 of its 1,150 on-street parking spaces in St. Paul alone due to mandatory light-rail design elements. Another 360 parking spaces could be lost if other optional design elements are included in the project. That is a "huge issue" for local businesses and their customers, Stark said.

According to Stark, a second big issue is the space that is left for pedestrians with two sets of light-rail tracks in the median and two

lanes of motor-vehicle traffic on either side of them. University's sidewalks could be less than 10 feet wide, and become narrower yet with streetlights, trees and benches and piles of snow in the wintertime. That is counter to the goal of creating a more pedestrian-friendly environment along the light-rail line, Stark said.

"I think we'd be remiss if we didn't look at the possibility of reducing the number of traffic lanes in each direction from two lanes to one," Stark said. "I can see us eight to 10 years down the road looking at these 8-foot to 10-foot sidewalks and saying, 'What were we thinking?'"

The cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis, the Minnesota Department of Transportation, and Ramsey and Hennepin counties all held

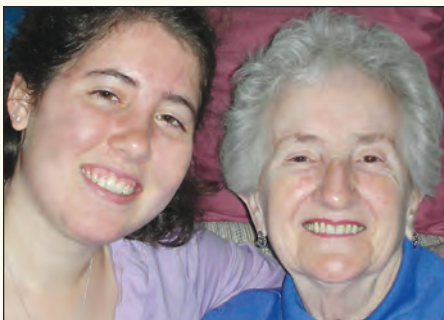
hearings on the Central Corridor's preliminary design in recent weeks. In the weeks to come, local officials will be passing resolutions that support, oppose or suggest changes to the design.

The Minneapolis City Council is scheduled to vote on the preliminary design on June 20. Its resolution is likely to address close to a dozen issues, ranging from the relocation of a segment of the Hiawatha bike trail to having a final say on any elements of the design that affect traffic on city streets.

University United executive director Brian McMahon told St. Paul officials that though his organization supports the project, "we do have concerns that the process leading up

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Waiting for a train

Local officials less than thrilled by light-rail station design

By Jane McClure

Members of the Central Corridor Management Committee may or may not know art, but they know what they do and don't like. And they don't like the design of the transit stations along the proposed 11-mile light-rail line. Lack of space for public art and the use of standardized design elements were criticized by committee members during a June 11 review of station designs. However, their desire for greater variety in station designs is running up against cost and space constraints and the need to accommodate people with disabilities.

The Management Committee is made up of local city and county officials and representatives of the University of Minnesota, Minnesota Department of Transportation and Metropolitan Council. The stations, many of which will be built in the middle of University Avenue, include shelters to protect passengers from precipitation, wind, noise and road spray from passing vehicles.

Metropolitan Council staff described the standard station design as "simple and transparent" with railings, glass panels, columns and other features that could incorporate public art. However, Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak described the standard stations design as "remarkably underwhelming," saying it doesn't do justice to the months that local municipalities have invested in Central Corridor land-use planning. "We can't go forward with



The proposed standard design for a Central Corridor light-rail station.

something that is this bland," Rybak said.

The stations should reflect the neighborhoods in which they are located, according to Rybak. He criticized the \$3.7 million budget for Central Corridor station art. That comes out to about \$200,000 per station, he said, "which will get used up pretty quickly."

Metropolitan Council chair Peter Bell said he would take the committee's concerns under advisement. However, Bell cautioned that at this point he is not prepared to change his staff's recommendations. Bell noted that there is a push nationwide for more standardization in transit station design.

Each of the 17 transit stations along the Hi-

awatha light-rail line in South Minneapolis and Bloomington was designed by a committee that included architects, artists, local residents and business people. Although some of the stations have been praised for their attractiveness, in the long run their furnishings could be expensive to repair or replace, according to Central Corridor project director Mark Fuhrmann. Maintenance is more challenging with stations that are not all the same, he said.

Meanwhile, a Metropolitan Council advisory committee is pushing hard for a standardized station design on the basis of accessibility. Transit stations must comply with the federal

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and stations with uniform designs are generally easier for people with disabilities to use, especially those who are visually impaired.

"We want people with disabilities to feel safe and comfortable in the stations," said Darrell Paulson, an advocate for disabled people.

Specific proposals for public art in the transit stations are not expected to be reviewed by the Metropolitan Council until next year. However, according to Kyle Williams, an architect who has worked on station designs, the art can reflect the character of the surrounding neighborhoods even as it is incorporated in standard panels, railings and posts.

"We don't want plop art," said Hennepin County Commissioner Peter McLaughlin, referring to art that is added to a structure without taking into account its design features, "but we don't want plop stations either."

St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman argued for finding a happy medium between aesthetics and cost.

Ramsey County Commissioner Toni Carter said she appreciated the desire for a standardized look, but she asked for additional ways for artists and local residents to be involved in the station designs.

According to Carter, the decision on public art should be given the same "care and attention" as Central Corridor planners gave the decision on the route through the University of Minnesota's East Bank campus.

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to this public hearing has provided too little information to municipalities and the general public and has lacked sufficient details on many aspects of the project." According to McMahan, the drawings of the project have been too technical and difficult for average citizens to read.

The proposed transit station platforms and the walkways to them are narrow and may not offer enough protection for riders, McMahan added. He said his organization would like to hear more discussion on how transit riders on the walkways would be protected and how protective curbs, walls or fences would be designed.

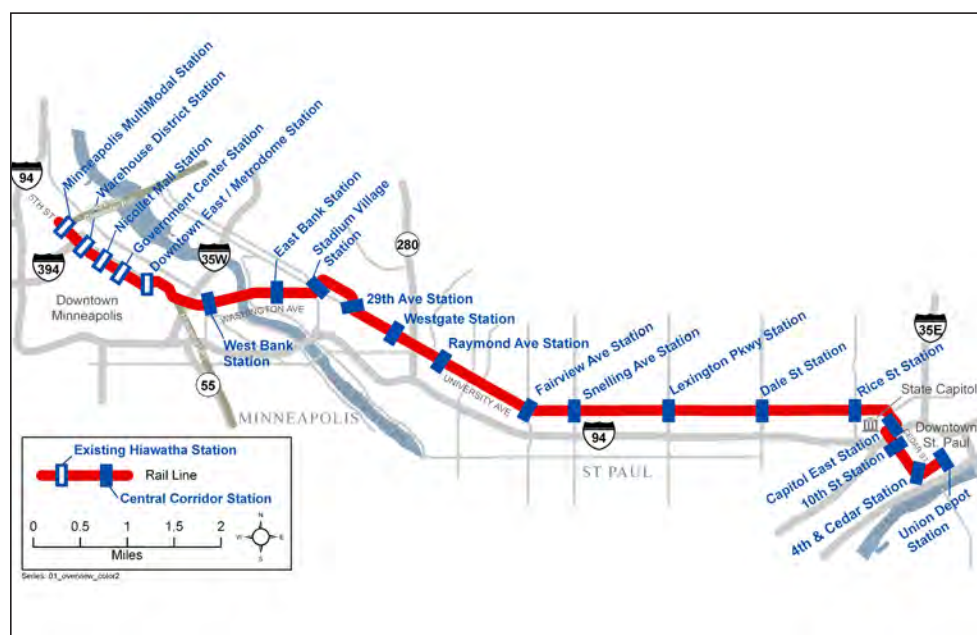
A host of other concerns were raised about the segment of the light-rail line in downtown St. Paul. Parishioners of the historic Church of St. Louis on Cedar Street are worried about train vibrations and the loss of on-street parking in front of the church. Central Presbyte-

rian Church and Minnesota Public Radio's offices also front on Cedar Street, and they too are concerned about the potential effect of train vibrations on their buildings and operations.

The Central Corridor project staff has been meeting with representatives of the downtown churches and MPR, according to city traffic engineer John Maczko, "and we believe many of these issues can be resolved."

Concerns were also raised by downtown residents and the St. Paul Convention and Visitors Bureau about the potential loss of a skyway connection near the old Bremer Bank building at 5th and Cedar if the Central Corridor tracks are laid diagonally across that block as planned.

Downtown resident and art gallery owner Bill Hosko argued for a simulation of the Central Corridor noise and traffic impact. "This is going to affect a lot of people's lives," he said, "and they deserve to know how it will sound and appear in their neighborhood."



Twenty stations are planned along the Central Corridor light-rail route with the possibility of three others at University Avenue and Hamline, Victoria and Western avenues.

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supplies must be packed up at the end of the day and unpacked each morning.

"The (Groveland) space is cramped," Madore said. "There isn't room for parents to participate in anything that goes on there."

The facility's license and the number of children it serves are also limited by the building's size, and a larger space would offer the possibility of adding staff and expanding its hours of operation to serve more children.

Desnoyer, which was erected in the 1950s, has two activity rooms, restrooms and a small office. It also has newer play equipment and is surrounded by open space. However, the St. Paul Division of Parks and Recreation and the public would continue to have access to the ballfields and play equipment.

One drawback to the move is that KidsPark would have to pay more rent and its own utility bills at Desnoyer. The contract being negotiated with the city currently includes a three-year cap on utility costs. A majority of

KidsPark parents said they would support a fee increase to help cover the additional costs, Madore said. A capital campaign is also being planned.

KidsPark has struggled with space issues for more than a decade. When the most recent addition to the Groveland Recreation Center was built, KidsPark and the district council lobbied hard to get extra room for the childcare program. However, the city's S'More Fun after-school program got the space instead.

Debate over sharing the warming house led to a Capital Improvement Budget request in 2003 to expand the building. KidsPark and rec center users banded together to campaign for the expanded facilities, arguing that Groveland is one of the most heavily used recreation centers in St. Paul. Despite strong neighborhood support, the request was shelved because of city budget issues.

The decision to move KidsPark and the likelihood that the youth arts organization ArtsUs will move into the Dunning Recreation Center would settle the fate of the last of

"The (Groveland) space is cramped," Madore said. "There isn't room for parents to participate in anything that goes on there."

eight recreation centers in St. Paul that were targeted for closure last year. Parks and Recreation director Bob Bierscheid hopes to have leases for all of the buildings signed this summer.

The city closed the centers to balance the 2008 city budget. Three of the centers, including Homecroft in Highland Park, were turned over to the St. Paul Public Schools. The West 7th Community Center took over space at

the St. Clair Recreation Center, the St. Paul Blackhawks soccer club is now housed at the Orchard Recreation Center, and Merrick Community Services now occupies the Eastview Recreation Center.

The Lexington-Hamline Community Council met with ArtsUs representatives in May to discuss that group's lease of Dunning. The Lex-Ham council, which lobbied to construct the Dunning building a decade ago, moved its offices this spring from Dunning to leased space on Selby Avenue. Other Dunning tenants have also moved, including Farm in the City to Concordia University and Youth Express to the new Oxford Community Center.

ArtsUs has agreed to allow Lex-Ham and other neighborhood groups to use the space at Dunning. Lex-Ham and ArtsUs have also discussed having members on each other's boards. "It's all been pretty positive," said Lex-Ham council president Chris Wood. "There's no signed agreement yet, but we're pleased with how it's working out."

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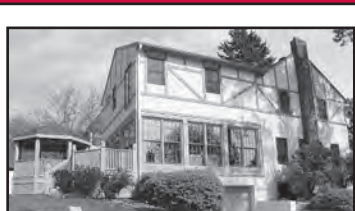
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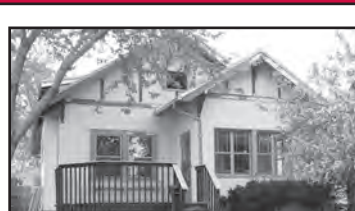
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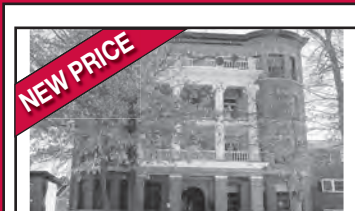
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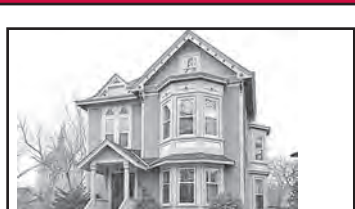
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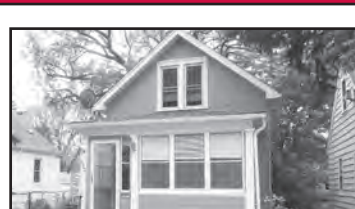
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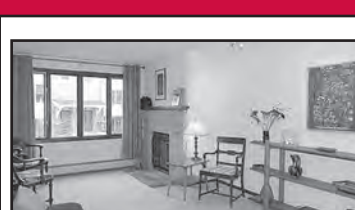
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Bridging the gap

YWCA program engages at-risk youths in summer of achievement

By Kevin Driscoll

Summer may have brought a temporary reprieve from teachers and books for children across the area, but for 65 kids at the YWCA of St. Paul, it is a season of continuing educational engagement. On June 16, the YWCA at 375 Selby Ave. opened its 16th summer session of Youth Achievers, a program for at-risk youngsters ages 8-14. From 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays through August 22, they will be immersed in a variety of activities in the areas of academic and technical enrichment, social skills and leadership development, and physical and mental fitness.

"We use elements of all three subject areas to design an individualized plan for each child," said Christina McCoy, the YWCA's director of youth development.

Some of the youths have been referred to the Y by the court system, McCoy said. Others might have behavioral or family problems. "Others come just because they love the program," she said. "And almost always, the kids who are referred end up loving it, too." In fact, the Y's Impact program for youths age 15-22 was started "because Youth Achievers who had aged-out of the program kept hanging around, wanting to volunteer and participate," McCoy said.

Youth Achievers is available as an alternative for St. Paul public school students who are required to take summer school. Whether or not they use it as such, all 65 children benefit from the academic instruction, including tutoring, group projects, self-directed computer learning and field trips to art, science and history museums.

One of the most popular activities for Youth Achievers is the Junior Police Academy, a one-week course that "gives kids a different experience with cops than they might've had before," said St. Paul Police Commander Todd

Axtell, who founded the program two years ago. "We have the Bomb Squad and SWAT Team show the kids how they do what they do, and we set up a mini-crime lab to show them how we process evidence."

"Each year, kids in the Junior Police Academy get an unsolved case to work on," McCoy said. "They learn how to lift fingerprints and examine them under a microscope, gather other forensic evidence and do data analysis to try to figure out who the culprit is."

"It's an effective way to break barriers between the police and the community," Axtell said. "I've seen the looks on the kids' and police officers' faces when they realize their stereotypes about the other aren't real. It's an excellent way to bridge that gap."

Last summer, about 60 St. Paul police officers showed up on graduation day for the Junior Police Academy, according to McCoy. "The police gave out certificates that looked exactly like the ones real Police Academy rookies get," she said, "and they even paid for the frames."

A child's individualized program at Youth Achievers may include any of numerous activities designed to develop social skills and leadership. The gender-specific Girls Lead and Boys Climb programs give youths a chance to explore careers and acquire the skills and attitudes they may need to succeed as adults. The Y's indoor gym and area parks are available for recreation. Youth Achievers also offers workshops in conflict resolution, healthy relationships, nutrition, stress and anger management, drug and alcohol abuse and the prevention of pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.

The YWCA devotes an entire floor of its building to Youth Achievers. Each age group has its own space and there is a shared cafe, library and computer lab. Among McCoy's staff of 11 are a program manager, two licensed teachers and a case manager/behavior

"The Youth Achievers staff does such a great job supporting these kids academically. I like stopping in because the atmosphere there is wonderful. The program really gives kids a sense of belonging and makes them feel secure."



Director of youth development Christina McCoy assists Nana Montgomery, 8, in a construction project, while Jenna Claiborne, 8, works to solve a Square Up puzzle, as part of the Youth Achievers program at the St. Paul YWCA.

PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

intervention specialist.

Children in the program may be dropped off as early as 6:00 a.m. and picked up as late as 6:00 p.m. Some are served breakfast and all are served lunch and an afternoon snack. "We also have monthly family nights with dinner to show parents what their kids have been doing," McCoy said. "Some parents volunteer, too, which is great. We want families involved as much as possible."

The cost is \$50 for Youth Achievers' 10-week summer program and \$50 for the Youth Achievers program that is offered from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday during the rest of the year. "Parents pay a total of \$100 per year no matter how many kids they have in the program," McCoy said. Financial assistance is available for those who need it.

Billy Collins, the YWCA's executive director, was just a volunteer at the Y when Youth Achievers started in 1992. Initially, "it was just a way for older youths to work with younger kids during the summer," Collins said. However, when Collins was appointed executive director in 1995, he vowed to make the program year-round. "I was getting a lot of positive feedback about the effects of the program from schools, the courts and the cops,"



he said. "So I took that to the YWCA board, and with their help Youth Achievers became a year-round program in September 1996."

Twenty St. Paul schools had students participating in Youth Achievers' after-school program this year, according to Collins. Webster Elementary at 707 Holly Ave. was one of them, and Webster assistant principal Larry Wren said he occasionally visited to see how his students were doing. "The Youth Achievers staff does such a great job supporting these kids academically, helping with tutoring and homework," Wren said. "I like stopping in because the atmosphere there is wonderful. The program really gives kids a sense of belonging and makes them feel secure."

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City eases application process for extending liquor service outdoors

At the same time, the city stiffens the penalties for bars who violate license

By JANE McCLURE

Bars and restaurants seeking patio licenses will have an easier time of it as a result of St. Paul City Council action, but they will also face tougher sanctions if they violate the conditions of those licenses.

The council approved a new ordinance on patio or sidewalk service on June 4 by a vote of 6-0. Absent was Ward 2 City Council member Dave Thune, who had earlier voiced concerns about easing the application process for establishments that want to extend liquor service outdoors.

The ordinance was proposed by Ward 3 City Council member Pat Harris, who said he had heard from bar and restaurant owners who were unable to obtain a patio license under the city's former ordinance, which required the signatures of at least 90 percent of property owners within 300 feet of the establishments.

Now if a business obtains the signatures of at least 60 percent of property owners within 300 feet, the City Council may grant the patio license depending on the circumstances, such as noise, traffic and proximity of homes. If a business obtains the signatures of fewer than 60 percent of the property owners within 300 feet, the City Council can still grant the license, but only after a public hearing.

Some City Council members had reservations about the ordinance change. Melvin Carter III said he had heard from constituents in Ward 1 who were concerned that the changes would diminish the public's role in approving the liquor service extensions. However, Harris assured his colleagues that the recommendations of constituents and the local district council would still be factors in any license approval by the City Council.

The council split 4-2 on the penalty chang-

es, with Harris and Carter against and Lee Helgen, Dan Bostrom, Kathy Lantry and Russ Stark in favor. The penalty changes were proposed by Helgen, who said his intent was to make it easier for the city to crack down on problem bars and to incorporate the license for 2:00 a.m. closing into the penalties.

The law allowing bars to serve alcohol until 2:00 a.m. was passed a few years ago by the state Legislature, and licenses for those extended hours are issued by the state. Among other things, Helgen's ordinance requires that a \$200 fee be paid annually to the city for a 2:00 a.m. closing license.

The new penalties for license violations vary widely, depending on the type of offense and past license violations. The penalties range from a few hundred dollars to license revocation.

The Minnesota License Beverage Association (MLBA) suggested a 30-day layover on the penalty changes. The MLBA is concerned about the additional costs the new ordinance would impose on bars and restaurants, including penalties that would require the installation of security cameras or the hiring of additional staff. However, Helgen did not want to wait. "I believe we have to take action," he said.

Bostrom said he sees the new ordinance as "a good start. This has brought the issue to the table."

Harris and Carter said they agreed the city needs to deal with problem bars, but thought the new penalties went too far.

Mayor Chris Coleman opposed the new penalties as excessive and questioned whether they would actually protect neighborhoods from problem bars. However, as of last week he was not sure whether or not he would veto the measure. The council would need a fifth vote to override a mayoral veto, and that could be cast by Thune, who had earlier indicated support for the ordinance.

Helgen invited the mayor to propose changes to the penalties. "Our goal is to have safer, well-managed bars that are good neighbors," he said.

City promises new department to give minorities equal access to city contracts

By JANE McCLURE

The St. Paul City Council is expected to follow through this fall on a recommendation to create a new city Department of Human Rights and Equal Economic Opportunity. The new department was one of several reforms announced on June 5 by Mayor Chris Coleman in a crowded conference room at the Selby Area Community Development Corporation.

The new Department of Human Rights and Equal Economic Opportunity would provide services currently performed by four other city departments, including civil rights enforcement, workforce development and contract monitoring and compliance. It is hoped that putting those related functions under one department will end years of inconsistency in following the city's policy that businesses owned by minorities, women and disabled people have equal access to city contracts.

The director of the new department will serve a three-year term and will be chosen through a public hearing process similar to how the city selects its chief of police and fire chief. Coleman asked Ward 1 City Council member Melvin Carter III to lead the search for a director. According to Carter, the new department represents the city's "most significant commitment to human rights in over 40 years."

The new department was recommended by a city team led by City Attorney John Choi in response to a 120-page report released last November. The report was prepared at the city's behest by a Milwaukee consulting firm. It suggested that St. Paul must do more to ensure that women, minorities and disabled people have equal access to city contracts. Though the report did not accuse the city of discrimination, it noted that it lacks an effective means to meet its goals for equal access.

The report found that in 2006, the city awarded \$220 million in contracts, but less than 7 percent went to firms owned by women, minorities and disabled people. The city's goal for such contracting is 10 percent.

Poor communication, a lack of coordination and a need for better monitoring were among the issues raised in the report. Its 44 recommendations included working more closely with the private sector and other local units of government on vendor contracting and workforce development.

"It may not be a perfect plan, but it's a plan," said St. Paul NAACP president Nathaniel Khaliq, who spoke of the need for greater diversity in city contracts and hiring.

It is not known yet what effect the new department would have on the city budget. However, according to Coleman, the city is committed to implementing the recommendations.



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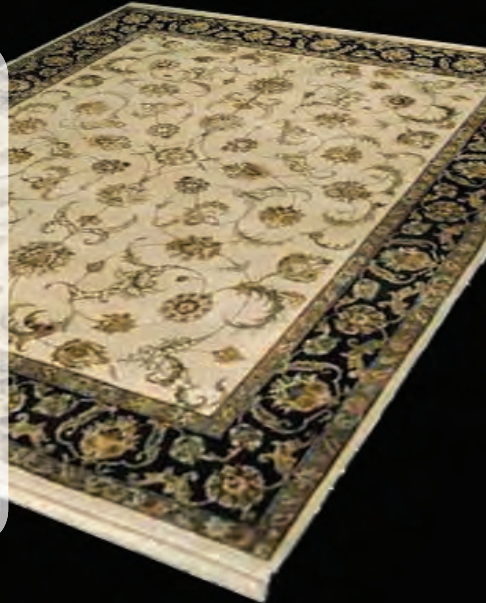
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News Briefs

HDC, IRS near settlement on payment of back taxes

The Highland District Council's board of directors voted unanimously on June 5 to increase its offer as part of a compromise with the IRS on money it owes in back taxes, penalties and interest. The HDC owes more than \$56,000 to the IRS, and offered to pay just over \$10,050 to settle the liability from unspent operating funds. The IRS wants close to \$11,800 to settle the matter.

According to HDC president Bill Klein, the IRS considers the district council to be an operating business. Though it would forgive the penalties and interest, the IRS would not settle for less than the full amount of taxes owed.

The tax liability arose from repeated failure by the HDC to pay its share of Medicare and Social Security taxes for former community organizer Gayle Summers, according to HDC treasurer Tim Puffer. The liability was discovered by the HDC's board following Summers' resignation in May 2007. An accounting firm, hired by the HDC's board to review its financial records, attributed the tax liability to sloppy bookkeeping and minimal oversight by previous HDC boards.

The HDC's board, after making a 20 percent down payment on the proposed settlement in March, still owed \$9,791.78 in back taxes, or \$1,749.53 more than what it had set aside from unspent city grant money. On June 5, the HDC board directed its executive committee to devise a plan to raise the additional money.

According to Puffer, the HDC has five months from the date the IRS accepts the offer to pay it off.

St. Paul fires latest salvos in battle over vacant buildings

The city of St. Paul's ongoing efforts to address vacant and foreclosed housing took another step forward on May 28 with the adoption of ordinances meant to encourage property owners to get their buildings rehabilitated and reoccupied.

The council unanimously adopted an ordinance that creates a detailed process for remodeling vacant buildings. The ordinance calls for a city inspection following the completion of the demolition phase of a total remodeling project. The inspections will ensure that the demolition permit is followed and



Katie Mancini, Katie Metzdorf and more than 200 other neighbors, friends, family and classmates of missing Cretin-Derham Hall junior Joey Kaiser turned out for a prayer vigil on June 3 along Mississippi River Boulevard. The 17-year-old Macalester-Groveland resident (pictured at left) is 6-foot-2 and 200 pounds. He was last seen on May 20 wearing a gray sweatshirt, dark T-shirt and blue jeans and carrying a black backpack. Thorough searches of the Mississippi River and riverbank have turned up nothing but his abandoned bicycle. A reward of up to \$5,000 has been offered for information leading to his location or safe return. Call the St. Paul Police Department at 651-291-1111. PHOTOS BY JANET HOSTETTER

gives city officials a chance to list other code compliance requirements before remodeling begins.

The ordinance includes a fee schedule to cover the costs of inspections. Fees would increase from \$138 to \$475 for inspecting a single-family dwelling and from \$172 to \$595 for a duplex.

The council also adopted an ordinance that increases the vacant building registration fee to \$1,000. Current fees range from \$250 to \$500. The city will phase in the new registration fees over two years.

St. Paul currently has more than 1,700 registered vacant buildings and is facing skyrocket-

ing costs for building inspections, as well as exterior maintenance needs ranging from boarding up buildings to cutting grass and shoveling snow.

No one appeared at public hearings on May 21 to speak for or against the changes.

Mall owner appeals plan for Sherwin-Williams on Snelling

A city staff decision to approve the site plan for the construction of a new Sherwin-Williams paint store at the northeast corner of Snelling and Lincoln avenues has been appealed to the St. Paul Planning Commission.

The appeal was filed by Ross Fefercorn, owner of the Lincoln Commons strip center just north of the site.

Fefercorn has objected to the painted concrete modular blocks proposed for the new building, which he said do not match the character of the Lincoln Commons buildings and surrounding neighborhood. The two Lincoln Commons buildings are made of brick, stucco and colored block.

Fefercorn is also appealing the placement of the building on the site. The building would butt up to the sidewalk, which would block the view of the stores in the Lincoln Commons buildings that is set back from the street. Fefercorn also believes the placement of the building would cause a safety hazard by blocking visibility for pedestrians, motorists and bicyclists.

The property at 80 S. Snelling Ave. has been occupied by a vacant building ever since an oil change operation closed there several years ago. A previous plan for the new Sherwin Williams store would have placed the building farther back on the lot and created shared access with Lincoln Commons. Some city officials saw it as a way to address concerns that Fefercorn has raised in the past about a proposed median on Snelling Avenue blocking vehicle access to his strip buildings.

The Macalester-Groveland Community Council's Housing and Land Use Committee will hold a neighborhood hearing on the site plan at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 25, at the Edgcombe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St. The recommendation of the district council's full board will go to the St. Paul Planning Commission, which is expected to consider the matter in July.

Walnut Street warehouse to be razed for parking lot

A Walnut Street building will be removed and its site used as a surface parking lot as a result of the St. Paul Planning Commission's approval of a nonconforming use permit on May 30. The permit for Moe Sharifkhani, who owns 312 Walnut St., will allow him to tear down a deteriorated warehouse that has been used as a parking garage to provide surface parking. The change is being allowed on the condition that any drainage issues be resolved through a site plan review by city staff.

NEWS BRIEFS ► 7

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City flirts with 4:00 a.m. bar closing during Republican Nat'l Convention

St. Paul Council would limit late-night service to large bar-restaurants or those in certain areas

By JANE McCLURE

The St. Paul City Council will hold a public hearing at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 18, on whether to allow bars and restaurants to serve alcohol until 4:00 a.m. during the week of the Republican National Convention.

The convention will be held from September 1-4 at the Xcel Energy Center. If approved, the extended hours would be allowed from August 31 through September 5 at establishments that are already licensed to remain open until 2:00 a.m., are willing to pay the city an additional \$2,500, and either have at least 291 seats or are located in a city-designated commercial development district.

The state law allowing for the 4:00 a.m. closing during the convention gave cities in the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area the authority to limit the establishments that may have extended hours. Minneapolis, for one, is considering limiting late-night service to establishments in the downtown area and in hotels.

In St. Paul, limiting the extended hours to large bars and restaurants or those located in commercial development districts was the key to gaining the support of a majority of the City Council. The council voted 4-3 against the 4:00 a.m. closing time last spring when the Minnesota Legislature was still debating the bill. However, the two-hour extension now appears to have the necessary votes. In fact, one of its most vocal opponents initially, Ward 2 City Council member Dave Thune, has authored the measure.

How many bar and restaurant owners will want a license to remain open for two hours longer on six nights is still a question. One deterrent, according to O'Gara's Bar and Grill owner Dan O'Gara, is the fee, which may be higher than the potential revenue warrants.

As of last week, it was unclear how many

bars meet the minimum seating requirement. A preliminary list prepared by city staff included such local establishments as Mancini's, McGovern's, O'Gara's, Axel's, Dixie's, the University Club and the Town and Country Club. However, businesses that were not on that list, including Billy's on Grand, have asked for a recount. That recount is being made, according to city staff. "Inspectors are out as we speak counting seats," said Assistant City Attorney Rachel Tierney.

Bars and restaurants with fewer than 291 seats may qualify for the extended hours only if they are in one of the city's 12 commercial development districts. The first of those districts were established by the city more than a decade ago to promote entertainment sectors conducive to restaurants, bars and other forms of nightlife. However, they have also been used to get around the city-imposed maximum number of on-sale liquor licenses in a particular ward. A business within a commercial development district may obtain an on-sale liquor license regardless of the number of licenses already in that ward.

Of the city's commercial development districts, downtown has 38 on-sale liquor licenses and Selby Avenue between Western Avenue and Dale Street has eight. The district centered at University Avenue and Dale Street currently has no licenses, the district near Energy Park has one, and the district around the Midway Amtrak station has no licenses.

An additional six commercial development districts are single addresses: 249 W. 7th St. (site of the Downtowner Woodfire Grill), 2728 Gannon Road (Buca di Beppo), 2081 Ford Pkwy. (Chipotle Mexican Grill), the former GTA grain terminal on the Upper Landing that is still awaiting redevelopment, 2431 W. 7th St. (the site of a restaurant that never opened) and 1003 Arcade St. (the Polish American Club).

The 4:00 a.m. closing time is being proposed for St. Paul businesses licensed to sell hard liquor as well as those licensed to sell wine and beer. One proposed amendment to the proposed ordinance would prohibit outdoor service after 2:00 a.m. Another would set the maximum penalty for a license violation at \$2,000 per incident.

6 NEWS BRIEFS

The West 7th/Fort Road Federation supports the request, and no neighboring property owners appeared at a public hearing on May 22 before the Planning Commission's Zoning Committee to oppose it.

The property is zoned multi-family residential and is being considered as a future location for a mixed-use development. However, for now it is needed to provide parking for the nearby Downtowner Wood Fire Grill, Starbucks and El Patio Mexican Grill. The three businesses require 107 parking spaces, which are now provided on the site. City staff agreed with the request to keep parking on the site, saying it is a good transitional use for the property.

St. Paul to decorate skyways for Republican convention

Skyways in downtown St. Paul will get a full beauty treatment prior to the Republican National Convention. The St. Paul City Council gave final approval on June 11 to shrink-wrapping the skyways in sponsored welcome signs for the convention, which will be held September 1-4 at the Xcel Energy Center.

The shrink-wrapping proposal has been controversial because all of skyway advertising space will be sold to the convention's host committee. That means groups protesting at the convention will not be able to sponsor a message.

The shrink-wrapped advertising, which is similar to what is used on Metro Transit buses, will display a welcoming message and the name of each sponsor. Ward 5 City Council member Lee Helgen, who questioned the fairness of not opening the banner sponsorships to the public, cast the lone vote against the proposal.

No one appeared at a public hearing to speak against the measure, which is supported by downtown business groups and the CapitolRiver Council. The advertising is seen as a way to generate revenue for downtown, according to Ward 2 City Council member Dave Thune.

City staff said most of the banner sponsorships are already spoken for. The fees collected by the city will be used to improve signage throughout the skyway system and add informational kiosks. Some of the kiosks have already been installed in the First National Bank Building.

On June 4, the City Council also approved plans to paint up to 35 skyways. The skyways closest to the Xcel will be painted first. Up to 15 of the skyways will also be pigeon-proofed. The total cost of the painting and pigeon-proofing is estimated at \$690,000. One-third of the cost is coming from the city's Capital Improvement Budget, and the remainder will be covered by assessments to benefiting property owners.

News Briefs were compiled by Jane McClure and Kevin Driscoll.

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Viewpoint

The Battle of the Biennium

BY MIKE WIGLEY

Just as the War of 1812 is referred to as the United States' Second War of Independence, one can refer to this year's state legislative budget battle as the second budget battle of the 2007 legislative session. The Battle of the 2007-2008 Biennium is now over, and with it went any hope that conservatives might salvage some semblance of victory following February's transportation veto override.

One of the first "accomplishments" of the 2008 legislative session was the passage of one of the largest tax increases in Minnesota history—\$6.6 billion in new taxes to fund transportation. Not only will Minnesotans see higher gas taxes, higher sales taxes, higher license renewal taxes and new car registration taxes, a good chunk of the money will continue to be wasted on light rail and other mass transit boondoggles, even though transit proponents themselves admit those "investments" won't reduce congestion in the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

One of the few reasons that conservatives had cause to be hopeful for a fiscally responsible outcome was the budget deal that would come from the end-of-session negotiations. However, that hope proved to be misplaced. The state's \$935 million budget deficit seemed to be no deterrent to the tax-and-spend philosophy of most of our elected state

officials. Combined with the budget passed during the 2007 legislative session, state spending grew by 9.8 percent, or a total of over \$3 billion in this biennium. And when state lawmakers were forced to make cuts in 2008, their budget-balancing act reduced spending by a whopping 1 percent from the \$34.5 billion budget.

As for the bonding bill, what better representation of waste and abuse can be found in Minnesota politics than the Capital Investment

Combined with the budget passed during the 2007 legislative session, state spending grew by 9.8 percent, or a total of over \$3 billion in this biennium.

bill? The initial proposals introduced in the House and Senate blew the lid off the state's historically recognized debt-capacity cap. But when Minnesota's fiscal managers said so, state lawmakers just shrugged.

A brief respite was granted when Governor Pawlenty line-item vetoed more than \$200 million worth of unnecessary projects. But as they say, no good deed goes unpunished, and in a nearly unprecedented move, legislators introduced another bonding bill to leave no special-interest group behind and made the first \$70 million down payment on the \$1 billion Central Corridor light-rail line.

Though small-business owners in Minnesota may have been temporarily spared yet another minimum wage increase, some of our state's largest employers will find our tax climate has taken one more chilling step toward realizing the fondest dreams of Messrs. Marx and Engels with a tax increase on the profits they earn overseas.

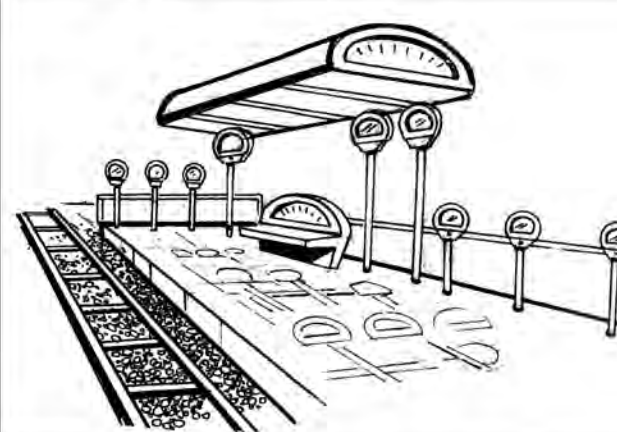
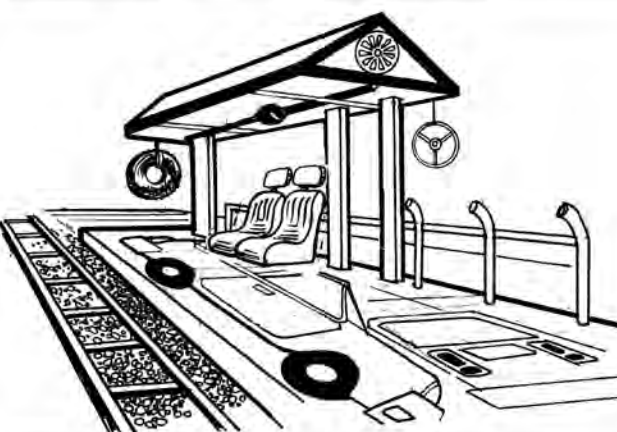
The one thing that was supposed to mollify Minnesota conservatives and make all the other compromises worth the previous three-plus months of pain was a 3.9 percent property tax cap—a cap that, upon further review, isn't all it was cracked up to be. With a long list of spending exemptions and a property tax assessment system that has home values rising when in fact they are falling, the cap offers little protection for homeowners against future property tax increases.

As an entrepreneur, a small-business owner and an active participant in Minnesota politics over the last decade, I don't think I've ever been happier that the Minnesota Legislature has finally gone home for the rest of the year. I just hope our state solons don't strain their arms too badly slapping themselves on the back for the wonderful job they've done.

Mike Wigley is the founder and chairman of the St. Paul-based Taxpayers League of Minnesota.



STEVE MICHAELS



LRT STATIONS: VARIATIONS ON A THEME

Inbox

Praise for repaving program

To the editor:

In the next few weeks, work will begin in the Snelling-Hamline neighborhood to replace street surfaces, below-ground utility lines, pipes, curbs and streetlights as part of the city of St. Paul's Residential Street Vitality Program (RSVP). The project will result in improvements to our neighborhood and individual properties, though it means a summer of inconvenience and significant assessments to property owners. Undoubtedly, there will be complaints. That's why we'd like to express our gratitude for the city of St. Paul's efforts to communicate with us.

City engineers Barb Mundahl and Dan Haak especially have been patient and forthcoming in answering our many questions by phone and e-mail, and have been present and receptive at community meetings they organized with the Union Park District Council. We would also like to recognize Forrest Kelley and others from the Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD). Through CRWD and city efforts, ours is the first neighborhood in St. Paul to be offered the option of having boulevard rain gardens installed as part of RSVP.

Lastly, we'd like to commend our neighbors for taking the initiative and working together to ensure that everyone had the opportunity and information needed to participate in decisions about their property, block and neighborhood. We should be proud of our accomplishments that have occurred as a result of working together toward a better community.

*Paul Busch, Sandra Fjerkenstad-Budel
Erik Holland, Alexandra Mayo-Cullen
Sonna Olson, Vin Parker, Shirley A. Reider
Tom Robison, Sheila Sahu, Lindsay Schwab
Ellen Tveit, Kate Vichich, Digby Willard
Snelling-Hamline*

The tyranny of IRV

Dear editor,

Kyle Dukart's attack on the opposition to instant runoff voting is severely flawed (*Villager* Inbox, May 21). First, he agrees that electing candidates via a plurality is perfectly acceptable, yet he equates that to election by minority, which he calls tyranny. Nonsense! With a plurality, there is no minority or majority. So, if a plurality is acceptable, why the compulsion to manufacture what is at best the illusion of a majority?

Secondly, the claim that instant runoff voting (IRV) will ensure your vote counts is simply wrong. This implies that in traditional elections your vote doesn't count. It is with IRV that all votes are not counted equally. The Minnesota Supreme Court has said voters have a right to cast a vote "unimpaired by the secondary and additional choice votes cast by others." IRV violates this right. That, my friend, is tyranny.

The founders of our country provided no mechanism that guarantees majority election winners. They would not have created the Electoral College, giving smaller states more weight in presidential elections, if they demanded majority rule. What is quite obvious is that they would have seen plurality winners as another check on governmental power.

Mr. Dukart's letter exemplifies the flawed thinking of those who support IRV. They seek to solve a problem that doesn't exist with a "solution" that actually makes things worse by violating voters' rights. They seek to eliminate the consequences of "voting their conscience" through a system that assures the outcome they want. And they call that democracy? No wonder the founders opted for a constitutional republic instead.

*Matt Marchetti, Co-Founder
Minnesota Voters Alliance*

Editor's note: The Minnesota Voters Alliance has filed a lawsuit to block the implementation of instant runoff voting in Minneapolis, where voters in 2006 passed a referendum in support of it. In St. Paul, the Better Ballot Campaign recently filed a petition that it says has the necessary number of signatures to hold a referendum this November on the implementation of IRV in city elections.

Clear the air, drive less

To the editor:

Neighbors Against the Burner (NAB) coordinator Nancy Hone asks, "Why, when this area is already identified as being seriously polluted, would intelligent people choose to build a garbage burner at Rock-Tenn?" (*Villager* Inbox, June 4).

First, no one has chosen to burn garbage at Rock-Tenn. It seems there is fundamental confusion among many area residents that a power supply prospectively fueled by burning biomass (scrap from the local timber or agricultural industry)

The horror of kayaks

BY BILL STIEGER

I was fly-fishing alone on the upper section of the Kinnickinnick River in western Wisconsin last week, before the heavy rains flooded it. It was in the narrower stretch of the river where on weekends I can enjoy the solitude and avoid the flotilla of canoeists who clog the wider stretch below the city of River Falls. But the trout weren't rising to any insect hatches on this day, and my mayfly imitation seemed to be about as attractive to the trout as Rodney Dangerfield to a convention of supermodels.

I clipped off the Adams and was about to tie on a Partridge and Orange when I heard a rhythmic clunking from upstream.

From around the bend appeared a vessel that resembled an elf shoe with a human torso sticking up out of it. The torso was furiously stirring the water with the ends of a double paddle in a futile effort to avoid colliding with me. I had to leap out of the stream to get out of the way.

"How's the fishing?" asked the kayaker as he paddled past me. He was gone around the next bend before I could summon up my best imitation of Marlon Brando as Colonel Walter E. Kurtz in *Apocalypse Now*.

I know that may seem uncharitable of me. I mean, why grouse? It's a free country, right? Freer for some than for others, admittedly, but still free. And kayakers ought to be allowed to go wherever they can float. Nevertheless, I am resolutely opposed to allowing them on small streams.

The new, miniature kayaks enable their owners to navigate

streams that are impassable for canoeists. Hell, these smaller boats could navigate a rain gutter. Further, they require relatively little skill to maneuver, cost less and are more easily transported, which has led to an explosion in kayak sales in recent years. So now there is no refuge, no waterway that is free of the mob.

Canoes, which are commonplace on larger streams and rivers, were merely an irritant for this fisherman—an irritant that I've worked hard to accept. Over the years I've disciplined myself to act courteously as a convoy of aluminum-borne teenagers boomed over rocky rapids, unleashing war whoops between swigs of Leinenkugel.

Sure, an unending string of canoeists could ruin the fishing on a summer afternoon, but canoes are a fact of life and have been for many years. Kayaks on narrow streams were not a fact of life—until recently. Kayaks seem to have flourished during the reign of George Bush II. Solace denied. Serenity ruined. Mission accomplished.

And the modern, polyethylene kayak is a vulgar artifact, so unlike its hide-bound Eskimo precursor. Why is it that kayak makers today choose to manufacture their products in the most eye-frying colors? Day-glo orange. Fuchsia. Aquamarine. The damn things come in the same colors as bath toys.

America's mantra during the opening decade of the 21st century seems to be that all things must be tolerated. I'd be more tolerant toward small-stream kayakers if there was some restorative justice in the offing. If kayakers have the right to intrude on my solitude and ruin my sport, why am I not allowed to intrude on and ruin theirs? Wouldn't it be fair if, having been forced from a stream, my fish frightened away, I was granted the right to capsize a kayaker or two?

Ah, modern living. I work to tolerate the daily insults, but the stresses sometimes reduce me to a gibbering orangutan.

8◀ INBOX

is equivalent to burning garbage.

Second, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has not identified the area around Rock-Tenn as "already seriously polluted." Rather, MPCA representatives have commented on the relative amounts of pollution contributed by other local sources, including cars, in comparison to the Rock-Tenn paper recycling mill. In old images from the 1960s and 70s, pollution comes from tall smokestacks belching toxins. Nowadays, MPCA studies show, such sources produce only about an eighth of the state's local pollution. The lesson? If we are serious about air quality, we should not blame others for our own deeds. We can promote cleaner cars in the future, but talk is cheap. We should just drive less. Ultimately, if one personally regards cities as undesirable places, one should simply choose to live elsewhere.

Third, does burning always contribute to global warming? Combustion does produce carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas. Yet there is a world of difference between fuels. Burning a fossil fuel adds new carbon into the atmosphere. Burning a biotic fuel returns the carbon to its original source, with no gain. Heeding sources and sinks in the carbon cycle is one of the key challenges in addressing global climate change. Burning natural gas, a fossil fuel (an alternative Ms. Hone and NAB advocate), is simply seeking more energy at the expense of our global neighbors.

Finally, is it "madness" to power the recycling of paper? Most of us, I think, regard recycling as preferable to making new paper. Most of us, I think, still regard paper as important (although I am approaching a nearly paperless classroom, relying on electronic

media). Perhaps, as the letter writer suggests, we want to enjoy the fruits of industrialism while expecting other neighbors to take responsibility for producing them? Exporting the problem does not solve it.

We can burn biomass, not garbage or fossil fuel, at Rock-Tenn. Of course there will be "pollution," but far less than was produced when power was supplied by burning coal at Excel's High Bridge plant. Using pollution controls that are more effective than what we find on our cars, we can keep pollution levels below statewide standards and not endanger our health. If we want cleaner air—and who doesn't?—we can stop expecting others to fix the problem and start changing our transportation habits by walking and by riding bicycles more frequently. We might find the exercise healthy as well.

Douglas Allchin
Merriam Park

Here's the rub on parking

To the editor:

In response to "Rubbing motorists the wrong way" (*Villager* Inbox, June 4), it is true that if you are caught parking illegally in Highland Village, you will face a fine or, worse, have to retrieve your car from a tow lot. We understand and sympathize with the fact that there is an ongoing parking issue in the Village. However, the Highland Business Association has no authority to police the rules and regulations of privately owned parking lots. The owners of those lots manage,

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VILLAGER

Volume 56, Number 8

Maurice F. Mischke, 1920-1991

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9◀ INBOX

maintain and monitor them.

One parking lot that has been under scrutiny of late is on the north side of Ford Parkway east of Cleveland Avenue. That parking lot is specifically designated for the tenants and employees of the Highland Shopping Center. The tenants of that building pay to have a parking spot available for their employees. This is a unique lot in that it requires a permit to park, as indicated by posted signage.

As an association, our main purpose is to support and promote area businesses. However, we still need to be cognizant of the parking issues and the ownership rights of the property owners in the Village.

*Chad R. Curran, President
Highland Business Association*

A new era for BOMA

To the editor:

Congratulations to Matt Anfang and to the St. Paul Building Owners and Management Association on a new era in leadership. It will be refreshing to again have a voice downtown that understands commercial, industrial and economic development. As a small-business owner in this city who is trying to grow jobs and as a homeowner who is trying to raise a family, I look forward to Matt's insights on the issues he will face.

A friend once said that people see St. Paul as a 19th-century city or a 21st-century city. Matt's view is looking forward toward a 21st-century St. Paul while respecting our historic past. Good luck to him and to Bill Buth, who retired after serving our city so well for 32 years.

*Dan Galles
Highland Park*

For a parking ramp at Mac

Dear editor:

Macalester College has had the opportunity to install new turf and seating for their football field and a new multimillion dollar facility for athletics. Over the years there have been concessions for sporting events, but nothing has been done to alleviate the parking situation for residents between St. Clair and Lincoln Avenues.

With all the money the college is spending and will continue to spend with the new building going up on Grand and Snelling, why have college officials never considered a parking ramp? This would help when families in the neighborhood are having family gatherings and guests don't have to worry about finding a place to park, especially those who are disabled.

*Ted Kay
Macalester-Groveland*

Dry-cleaning with compassion

To the editor:

I want to compliment and thank Stoltz Dry Cleaners for their professional service and compassion. My niece, Sara, a St. Paul policewoman, lost her house in the recent

Otherworldly inspiration

Dear editor,

I would love to see a small part of your great newspaper dedicated to the world of poetry. I love reading local poets' work. Just to start the ball rolling, I submit the following poem of my own:

The Ghost of Summit Hill

If you believe in ghostly things
That wander in the night,
Then let me tell you solemnly
About my awful fright!

When something spooky scares you
And causes blood to chill,
I'd rather be in Bloomington
Than on this ghostly hill.

The night was warm and clammy
As I struggled up that hill.
The moon lit up the streets around
And everything was still.

I stopped awhile to have a rest
And wipe my sweaty brow.
I tried to catch a breath of air

That wasn't there somehow.

'Twas then I saw it coming,
The spirit of the night.
It passed straight through my body,
Paralyzing me with fright.

I felt the hair stand on my head
And sweat roll down my back,
And like a rigid statue,
I stood welded in my track.

When I regained composure
With my body shaking still,
I realized that I'd witnessed
The Ghost of Summit Hill.

Now you know my story,
And each word I say is true.
Don't walk that hill alone tonight,
Or it could be there for YOU!

*Jackie O'Connor
West End*

Editor's note: The writer, who was born John O'Connor in Ireland 64 years ago, has been living in the United States since 1998 and has been a U.S. citizen since 2003.

tornado in Hugo. Her clothes, bedding and linen were strewn throughout her collapsed house, yard and backyard pond. With the help of family, friends and many St. Paul police officers, most of her clothes and linens were retrieved.

When I called Stoltz to ask if they could handle a pickup truck full of damaged goods, they encouraged me to come in, promising to do their very best. The cleaning results were amazing, but even more extraordinary was the consistently compassionate interaction that I had with each and every employee I encountered at this small family-run business. Katie was especially notable and helped take the sharp edge off of this natural disaster.

Thank you so very much.

*Wendy McCulley
Merriam Park*

prepared text, any man who seemed truly touched by world events.

In short, McCain is a pop off. So what? I'm not sure I'll jump on his bandwagon, but standing behind hundreds of lecterns all saying "change" strikes me as sheer theatrical grandstanding, riding the crest of millions of aroused followers without exhibiting that same caring and emotional character himself.

*Paul Peter Paulos
Macalester-Groveland*

Embracing McCain's emotions

To the editor:

With debates between McCain and Obama coming, there is already talk about McCain, whose temper has long been evident in the U.S. Senate, being prodded by the far calmer Obama on national television. That emotion is refreshing, even the heated responses to Obama's practiced and orchestrated goading.

A president should never act out of anger, but there is more danger in having a president who doesn't have the personal tools to deal with the enormous emotional torrent that must surely accompany world crises. I would trust any man or woman who is as much in touch with his feelings as with his well-practiced thoughts, any man who could speak without a

Coyotes in the 'hood

To the editor,

Some months ago, our shy, healthy, home-loving cat vanished while strolling in our yard. A week or two ago, my husband saw a coyote crossing Cleveland between St. Clair and Grand avenues. At 4:00 a.m. a few nights ago, a young raccoon was killed on our backyard deck, chewed around the neck and disemboweled.

If you let your cat or small dog outdoors, they are at risk of being eaten or killed for sport by coyotes. We learned the hard way that coyotes have adapted to live not just in the suburbs, but in the city.

*Karin Winegar
Merriam Park*

Letters to the editor of the *Villager* must be signed and include a telephone number for verification. Mail your letter to the *Villager* at 757 S. Snelling Ave., St. Paul, MN 55116, e-mail it to letters@myvillager.com or fax it to 651-699-6501.

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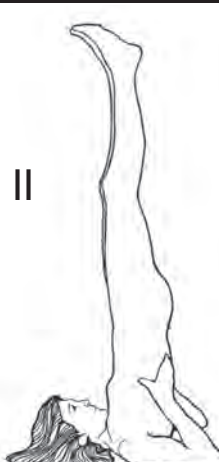
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Crime Report

The following police calls were gathered from recent Community Watch reports provided by the Ramsey County Sheriff's Department. For more information, visit www.co.ramsey.mn.us/sheriff/communitywatch.htm.

Highland Park

Robbery—A man was struck on the head from behind and was robbed of his money at about 10:00 a.m. Friday, May 9, while walking on Davern Street near Field Avenue.

—An elderly woman was robbed in her home on the 1700 block of Wordsworth Avenue at about 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, June 3. A man came to her door and asked to use her phone. Once inside, he shoved her and demanded money. He fled with \$28 in cash. Police arrested a 36-year-old male in downtown St. Paul about an hour later.

—A woman was robbed at knifepoint in her home on the 1200 block of St. Paul Avenue at about 1:00 p.m. Thursday, June 5. The suspect used a steak knife and stole cash from the woman.

—A woman was robbed at knifepoint at Finn Street and Ford Parkway at about 12:30 a.m. Sunday, June 8.

Burglary—A home on the 600 block of South Fairview Avenue was burglarized between 3:30 p.m. Thursday and 10:30 p.m. Friday, May 15-16.

Theft—A catalytic converter was stolen from a vehicle on the 1500 block of St. Paul Avenue between 6:00 p.m. Sunday and 5:30 p.m. Monday, May 18-19.

—A man's laptop computer was stolen while he was at the Highland Grill, 771 S. Cleveland Ave., between 11:00 a.m. and noon Wednesday, May 21.

—A car window was broken and several items were taken from a vehicle at Crosby Park at about 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 21.

—A purse was stolen from a vehicle at Cretin-Derham Hall, 550 S. Albert St., between 4:00 and 5:00 p.m. Friday, May 23.

—A car was broken into and a purse was stolen at Mississippi River Boulevard and Randolph Avenue between 6:00 and 7:00 p.m. Saturday, June 7.

Sex crimes—An attempted rape was reported on West Maynard Drive on the evening of Saturday, May 10. The suspect had fled before police arrived. The victim was taken to Regions Hospital for treatment.

Assault—Police arrested a 48-year-old Highland Park man for false imprisonment on the 1300 block of Madison Street at about 5:30 p.m. Saturday, May 17. The man reportedly struggled with a girl in the street, handcuffed her and forced her into the house.

—Two males assaulted a boy as he was walking home from church at about 11:30 a.m. Sunday, May 18, on Munster Avenue and Sue Street. The suspects began punching the boy, but fled when a neighbor yelled at them.

—A resident out walking his dogs was Maced by a neighbor on the 2000 block of Niles Avenue at about 8:00 p.m. Saturday, May 31. Police confiscated the Mace, but made no arrest.

Weapons—Shots were fired at the Dukem Restaurant, 2516 W. 7th St., at about 2:00 a.m. Saturday, May 17. Police were notified en route that a group of people were fighting with sticks in the parking lot. Squad cars arrived and police dispersed a large crowd.

Miscellaneous—A man damaged a protester's cardboard sign at Planned Parenthood, 1965 Ford Pkwy., at about 10:00 a.m. Thursday, June 5. He then crossed the street and went into the Highland Library. Police located the suspect, but the victim said she wanted to consult with an attorney before pursuing charges.

Lexington-Hamline

Miscellaneous—A Richfield woman was arrested at Target, 1300 University Ave., for child endangerment after she left her 6-month-old baby alone in her car on the evening of Sunday, May 25. The car was running and unlocked while she shopped at the store. The baby was placed in foster care.

Macalester-Groveland

Robbery—A couple was robbed at gunpoint as they sat on a park bench at St. Clair Avenue and Mississippi River Boulevard at about 10:30 p.m. Monday, May 26. The suspects stole \$10 in cash and a cell phone. They fled east on St. Clair and then north down an alley. The suspects were both 20-25-year-old men, wore dark clothes and displayed small black handguns.

—Two men and a woman were robbed at gunpoint at Jefferson Avenue and Prior Street at about 9:30 p.m. Monday, May 26.

—A man and a boy said they were robbed by three males at Cretin and Summit avenues at about 2:30 a.m. Saturday, May 17. During the investigation, police discovered that the victims were carrying spray paint and markers and were likely graffiti vandals. The juvenile was cited for a curfew violation and was taken home. The man was released at the scene.

—A man was robbed on the 1300 block of St. Clair Avenue at about 3:30 a.m. Monday, June 9.

Burglary—A home on the 400 block of Montrose Lane was burglarized on Monday, May 19.

—A house on the 2000 block of Fairmount Avenue was burglarized between noon and 4:00 p.m. May 21.

—A home on the 1700 block of Goodrich Avenue was broken into between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Thursday, May 29.

—A home on the 1800 block of Wellesley Avenue was burglarized at about 3:00 a.m. Monday, June 2. The resident was home at the

time.

—An apartment on the 1900 block of Grand Avenue was broken into between 6:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 3.

—Caribou Coffee, 1817 Randolph Ave., was broken into between 9:30 p.m. Wednesday and 5:00 a.m. Thursday, May 28-29.

—Money was taken from the cash register at Zimmerman Dry Goods, 1656 Grand Ave., between 7:00 p.m. Tuesday and 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, June 3-4. Forced entry had been gained through the back door.

Theft—Baseball equipment was stolen from a vehicle in the parking lot of Ramsey Junior High School, 1700 Summit Ave., between 7:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 14.

—Twenty to 30 checks and about \$50 in cash were stolen from St. Paul City Ballet, 1680 Grand Ave., around 2:15 p.m. Thursday, May 15. A possible male suspect was seen driving a black limousine north on Cambridge Street.

Arson—A garage was set on fire on the 1400 block of Lincoln Avenue at about 3:30 a.m. Monday, May 26. Damage was estimated at \$15,000. A storage building in the area also was set on fire around the same time.

Sex crimes—A 42-year-old Cottage Grove man was arrested for window peeping on the 1800 block of Grand Avenue at about 10:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 14.

Miscellaneous—Police arrested two 19-year-old men for marking gang graffiti at Summit Avenue and Mississippi River Boulevard at about 11:00 p.m. Friday, May 9.

Merriam Park

Robbery—Two suspects robbed a woman at gunpoint on Carroll and Snelling avenues at about 10:30 p.m. Thursday, May 8.

Burglary—Several items were taken from a house on the 1900 block of Iglehart Avenue between May 18-21.

—A house on the 2100 block of Dayton Avenue was burglarized between noon Friday and 4:00 p.m. Monday, May 30-June 2.

—Oasis Market, 2057 Marshall Ave., was burglarized at about 3:30 a.m. Monday, June 2. A manager spotted three suspects, who fled before police arrived. Numerous items were missing.

Theft—A projector was stolen from a classroom at the University of St. Thomas between May 30 and June 2.

—The driver of a stolen Jeep lost control of the vehicle and crashed into a tree at Cretin and Summit avenues at about 11:30 p.m. Sunday, June 8. Three males and a female fled from the Jeep on foot. The driver, a 23-year-old Minneapolis man, was arrested for auto theft and fleeing police in a motor vehicle.

Arson—Firefighters responded to a vehicle engulfed in flames at 11:27 p.m. Monday, June 9, on Concordia Avenue and Pierce Street. The fire was determined to be arson.

Assault—Three male juveniles were arrested for assault and making terroristic threats on Dewey Street and St. Anthony Avenue at about 8:00 p.m. Monday, May 19th

Miscellaneous—Police cited a 46-year-old man on the 1900 block of Laurel Avenue for violating the city's noise ordinance at about 9:00 a.m. Thursday, May 15. He reportedly had intentionally placed a radio in his window facing his neighbor's home to rile her.

—Police responded to a disturbance on the 400 block of Dewey Street at about 3:00 a.m. Saturday, May 17. A 26-year-old man was arrested for obstruction after he fought with police. A 23-year-old woman was also arrested for unlawful assembly, obstruction and disorderly conduct.

Snelling-Hamline

Robbery—A car-jacking at gunpoint occurred on the 1500 block of Laurel Avenue at about 4:30 a.m. Friday, May 30. Property from the car-jacking was recovered on the 400 block of Thomas Avenue on June 3.

Burglary—DVDs and wine were stolen from a home on the 1400 block of Hague Avenue between 10:30 a.m. Thursday and 8:00 p.m. Sunday, May 22-25. The window screen was cut to gain entry.

—Super America, 52 N. Snelling Ave., was burglarized at about 5:00 a.m. Sunday, June 1. The front door was pried open.

—About 3,000 feet of copper wire was taken from the Xcel Energy building, 1560 Iglehart Ave., between 5:00 p.m. Thursday and 6:00 a.m. Monday, May 29-June 2.

Theft—Two men in their mid-20s were arrested at Twin Cities Transport and Recovery, 1396 Concordia Ave., for attempted theft from an auto at about 5:00 a.m. Wednesday, May 21.

Assault—Two men were assaulted in the parking lot at Higher Ground Academy, 1381 Marshall Ave., at about 9:00 p.m. Sunday, June 8. The suspects fled the scene.

Summit Hill

Burglary—Police arrested a 46-year-old Summit-University man for burglary of an apartment on the 900 block of Grand Avenue at about 9:30 p.m. Thursday, May 15.

—Several items were stolen from a home that had been broken into on the 700 block of Goodrich Avenue between May 11-18.

Theft—Two female suspects stole jeans, a purse and three belts from Quince, 850 Grand Ave., at around 5:15 p.m. Thursday, May 22. The items were valued at more than \$1,000.

—A purse was stolen from a vehicle at the Pleasant Ice Arena, 849 Pleasant Ave., between 8:00 and 8:30 p.m. Thursday, May 29.

Miscellaneous—Nine chickens were recovered on the 800 block of Grand Avenue at

CRIME REPORT ► 13



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Names in the News

Howard Orenstein, a Highland Park resident and former state representative, has announced his candidacy for the Ramsey County District Judge seat being vacated by John Finley. Orenstein's campaign committee is being chaired by former St. Paul Mayor George Latimer. Orenstein, 52, has been a practicing attorney in Minnesota since 1984. He currently serves as an assistant county attorney in Hennepin County, and has also been a partner at the law firm of Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi. Since 2005, he has been the volunteer chair of the board of the St. Paul Public Schools Foundation. He is also on the boards of the Metropolitan State University Foundation, the Edgumbe Youth Hockey Association where he has coached for 14 years, and the St. Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists. He served in the Minnesota House of Representatives from 1986-1996.



pays tribute to this year's 50th anniversary of the Arboretum and 100th anniversary of the HRC. Price also is the author of the *Minnesota Gardener: An Illustrated History* and *Growing Home: Stories of Ethnic Gardening*.

Laura Smidzik of Lexington-Hamline will serve as the new executive director for Project 515, a Minnesota nonprofit organization that works for equal rights for same-sex couples and their families. Smidzik is the past executive director of Rainbow Families. She has a master's degree in educational policy and administration from the University of Minnesota and spent more than 10 years working in career development and internships at Macalester College and Hamline University.

Five members of Troop 264 were presented with the Eagle Scout Award on May 31 at St. Peter's Church in Mendota. They include Cole Jessen, Dylan Chapin and Sam Skemp of Sibley High School, Andrew Reichenbach of St. Croix Lutheran and Tyler Buffie of Minnehaha Academy. The boys have been together in the troop since the 5th grade and all completed their Eagle Scout requirements within the last five months.

Rebecca Bisciglia and **Lauren Jessen** have earned the Gold Award, the highest award for Girls Scouts ages 14-18. Both girls are seniors at Sibley High School. They built benches for the patio of the school's cafeteria for their service project.

Susan Davis Price of Merriam Park is coming out with her third gardening book, *Northern Treasures: The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and Horticultural Research Center* (Afton Press, June 2008). The book, which is illustrated by photographer John Gregor,

Tom Conlon, 48, a Macalester-Groveland resident and St. Paul School Board member, was elected a delegate to the Republican National Convention at the party's state convention on May 30 in Rochester. Conlon was among 14 delegates elected at-large. Minnesota will send 41 delegates to the national convention on September 1-4 at the Xcel Energy Center. Conlon previously served as a national delegate in 2004 and as an alternate national delegate in 1992, 1996 and 2000.

12 CRIME REPORT

about 1:30 p.m. Sunday, June 1. The chickens were turned over to St. Paul Animal Control.

—A 29-year-old New Brighton man was cited for public urination when police saw him on the front step of a business at Victoria Crossing at about 6:30 p.m. Sunday, June 1.

Summit-University

Robbery—A man was robbed at knifepoint as he walked home on Dayton Avenue and Lexington Parkway at about 9:00 p.m. Thursday, May 8.

—A woman was robbed of her purse on the 200 block of Marshall Avenue at about 3:00 a.m. Thursday, May 15. The male suspect fled in a grey Mercedes.

—A car-jacking at gunpoint occurred on Aurora Avenue and Farrington Street at about 10:00 p.m. Sunday, May 25.

—A strong-arm robbery occurred on the 300 block of Fuller Avenue at about 8:15 a.m. Monday, June 2.

—Two males displaying handguns robbed a couple on the 600 block of Portland Avenue at about 11:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 4. A brown leather purse and \$45 in cash were taken. The suspects were in their 20s.

—Several unknown males robbed a man and woman at Chatsworth Street and Portland Avenue at about 11:00 p.m. Friday, June 6. The suspects implied they had a gun, forced the two to the ground and took items from the victims.

Burglary—A computer and 42-inch TV were taken from a home that had been broken into on the 500 block of Ashland Avenue between 3:30 and 5:00 p.m. Thursday, May 22.

—A home on the 600 block of Marshall Avenue was burglarized between 1:30 and 2:30 a.m. Thursday, May 29.

—Selby Wine and Spirits, 778 Selby Ave., was burglarized at about 2:00 a.m. Tuesday, June 10. The window on the west side of the building was broken and police later arrested two juvenile suspects for burglary.

Theft—Six home radiators were stolen from a home on the 1000 block of Dayton Avenue

between 7:30 and 8:00 p.m. Monday, May 26. A male suspect was seen driving away in a white pickup truck with an attached trailer.

Arson—A blanket was set on fire on the front porch of a house on the 200 block of Marshall Avenue at about 5:30 p.m. Thursday, May 1. The entry door and frame were charred, but the fire did not spread to the interior of the house.

Assault—An unknown suspect shot a man with an air gun at about 5:30 p.m. Sunday, May 11, on Dale Street and Holly Avenue.

—A woman was stabbed at about 10:30 a.m. Sunday, May 18, at First Trinity Church, 981 Marshall Ave. A 26-year-old female suspect was later arrested.

—A boy shot a man in the jaw with a BB gun on at Holly Avenue and St. Albans Street at about 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 27. The boy admitted shooting at passing vehicles. The victim decided not to press charges.

—A 45-year-old Summit-University man with AIDS was arrested for assault after biting his father on Tuesday, May 27.

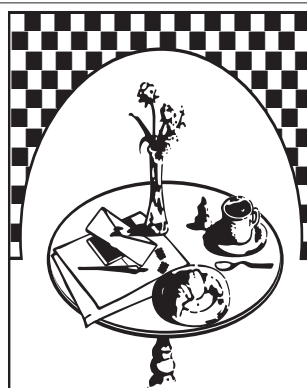
West End

Burglary—The former Schmidt Brewery, 882 W. 7th St., was burglarized on Tuesday, May 20. A door was forced open to gain entry.

—A home on the 300 block of Pleasant Avenue was burglarized between 4:30 and 5:30 a.m. Saturday, June 7.

Theft—Two suspects stole a truck from the parking lot of Liquor Barrel, 665 W. 7th St., at about 9:30 p.m. Friday, May 30, and later realized a child was in the rear seat. The victim had left the keys in the ignition and the truck unlocked as he went into the store. The suspects dropped the child off on the 200 block of Birmingham Street. A 22-year-old male suspect tried to run away, but was held down by residents until police arrived. The other suspect is being sought. The stolen truck was recovered.

Miscellaneous—A sculpture in the yard of Jewish Family Service, 1633 W. 7th St., was damaged between 4:00 p.m. Friday and 7:30 a.m. Monday, May 30-June 2.



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District Council News

Highland Park

www.highlanddistrictcouncil.org • 651-695-4005

Deer policy—The Highland District Council's Community Services Committee will hold a discussion on the management of Highland's resident deer population at 7:00 p.m. Monday, June 23, at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. Speakers will include John Moriarity of Ramsey County Parks and Recreation, Bill Stephenson of St. Paul Animal Control and Adam Robbins of St. Paul Parks and Recreation. All three will discuss the current deer management program and how it may be amended.

Library/rec center remodeling—A public meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 18, in the community room of the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy., on plans for the future remodeling of the center and the adjacent Highland Park Library. The results from a survey on how those facilities are currently being used and what improvements the public would like to see may now be found at www.sppl.org/surveyresults/index.html.

Crime report/electronic news—Highland Park residents may sign up to receive weekly crime reports and updates of district council news by e-mailing community organizer Kathy Carruth at hdc@visi.com.

Meeting dates—Community Services Committee, 7:00 p.m. Monday, June 23, Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy.; and Transportation Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, June 30, Hillcrest.

Macalester-Groveland

www.macgrove.org • 651-695-4000

Mac-Grove Moves—Macalester-Groveland residents who leave their cars at home and walk and bike to destinations in the neighborhood can once again win great prizes from local businesses this summer. Entry forms for the Macalester-Groveland Community Council's third annual Mac-Grove Moves program are now available at the Edgcombe Recreation Center or on-line at www.macgrove.org.

Noise control—Assistant St. Paul City Attorney Yamy Vang will discuss the city's noise ordinance and what area residents can do about noise problems in their neighborhood at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 25, at the Edgcombe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St. Bill Stephenson of the city's Animal Control office and a representative of the city's Department of Safety and Inspections will also attend. For information, contact Marie Nelson at 651-695-4000 or marie@macgrove.org.

Republican National Convention—St. Paul Police Commander Doug Holtz will discuss public safety issues related to the Republican National Convention and how the event will affect Macalester-Groveland at 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 8, at the Edgcombe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St. A question-and-answer session will follow. Contact Marie Nelson at 651-695-4000 or marie@macgrove.org.

Backyard composting and worm bins—Eureka Recycling will conduct workshops on backyard composting and worm bins at 6:30 p.m. on June 18, July 8 and 24 at the Edgcombe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St. Participants will learn about the environmental benefits of composting and how they can easily reduce waste at home. The cost is \$5.00 for the workshop. Compost bins will be available for an additional \$45. Registration is required. Call Eureka at 651-222-7678 or visit www.eurekarecycling.org.

Job Connection—Dependable youth and adult contractors are being sought to perform a host of household chores or repairs for residents of the Macalester-Groveland, Highland Park and Summit Hill neighborhoods who are at least 60 years of age or have a disability. Workers must be age 16 or older and

have no criminal history. For information, contact Marie Nelson at 651-695-4000 or marie@macgrove.org.

Crime report—The St. Paul Police Department updates area residents on crime in meetings at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every month at the Western District police station, 389 N. Hamline Ave. For information, contact Marie Nelson at 651-695-4000 or marie@macgrove.org.

Summit Hill

www.summithillassociation.org • 651-222-1222

SHA board notes—Summit Hill residents, business people and property owners are invited to attend the monthly Summit Hill Association board meetings at 7:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at the Linwood Recreation Center, 860 St. Clair Ave. The next meeting will be held on July 10.

Summit Hill House Tour—The biennial Summit Hill House Tour will be held on Sunday, September 14. Tickets may be purchased by visiting the SHA website or stopping by the office in the Linwood Recreation Center. The tour, the SHA's major fundraiser, will feature 12 private residences and three public spaces, including the new SteppingStone Theatre at 55 N. Victoria St. Volunteer tour guides are now being sought. Those who work a three-hour shift will be invited to take the tour for free and attend a post-tour party. They will be matched with friends who volunteer as requested. For information, visit the SHA website or call the SHA office.

History of Summit Hill—Summit Hill is one of St. Paul's oldest neighborhoods, but up to now there has been no official history of its people, places and institutions. A crew of volunteer writers, researchers and editors is working to change that. A history of the neighborhood is expected to be published in time for the Summit Hill House Tour. Financing for the project has been provided in part by a generous donor, but additional donations are being sought to help defray the cost of printing. All those with a story to tell or a historic photograph to share, and writers who would like to donate their time to the project, may call the SHA office or e-mail summithill@visi.com.

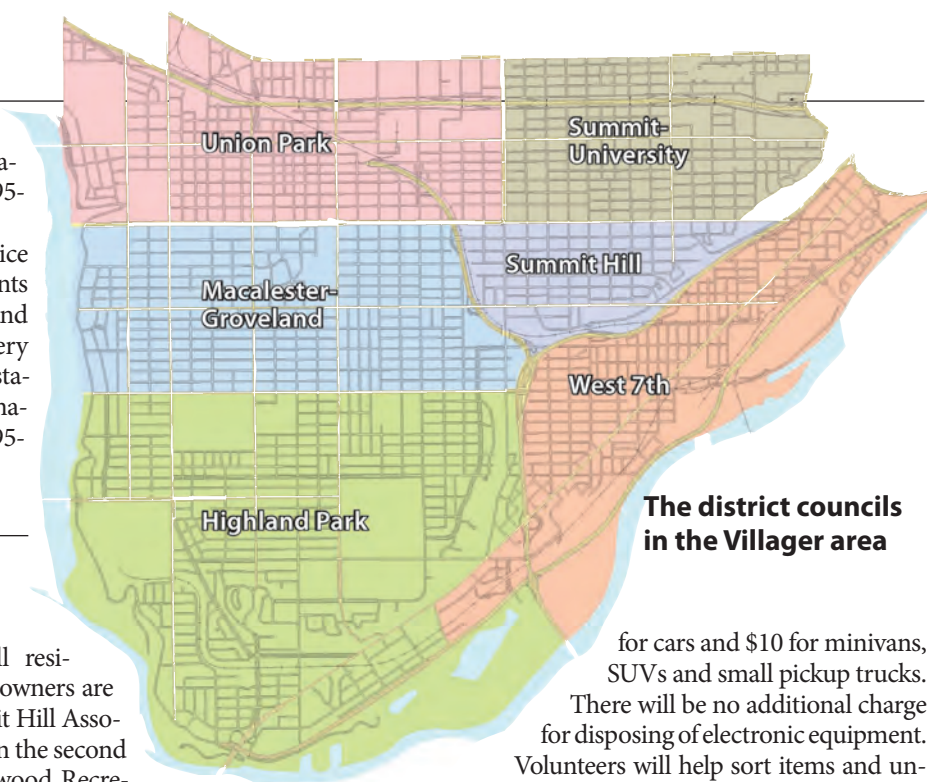
Getting green in Summit Hill—The SHA Environment Committee is looking for volunteers with a green thumb to help sustain the gardens and Morgan prairie at Linwood Park. Residents with ideas for promoting environmental stewardship in the Summit Hill neighborhood also are needed. For more information and a free copy of "The Blue Thumb Guide to Rain Gardens," a publication made available by the Capitol Region Watershed District, call the SHA office.

Upcoming meetings—Environment Committee, 7:00 p.m. Thursday, June 19, Linwood Recreation Center, 860 St. Clair Ave.; and Communications Committee, 7:00 p.m. Monday, June 23, Linwood.

Summit-University

www.Summit-U.com • 651-228-1855

It's cleanup time—The Summit-University Planning Council will hold its annual neighborhood cleanup from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Saturday, June 21, at the Rondo Education Center, 560 Concordia Avenue. This year, the SUPC is partnering with the Lexington-Hamline Community Council to organize the cleanup. The cost for the disposal of household goods is \$5.00



The district councils in the Villager area

for cars and \$10 for minivans, SUVs and small pickup trucks. There will be no additional charge for disposing of electronic equipment. Volunteers will help sort items and unload cars. They will also provide curbside pickup service for senior citizens. Volunteers who work for three hours will receive free entry to the cleanup site and lunch provided by Pizza Luce. For information, call the district council office or visit the website.

Recycled notice—Recycling is picked up in the Summit-University neighborhood every Wednesday. Residents can stop by the SUPC office at 627 Selby Ave. to pick up a blue recycling bin or call the office to have one delivered to them.

Stay in the loop—Summit-University residents may sign up for electronic news updates about events, meetings and other neighborhood issues by visiting the planning council's website.

Meeting schedule—Community Improvement and Safety Committee, 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 17, at the St. Albans Community Room, 665 Selby Ave.; Neighborhood Issues, 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 17, at St. Albans; board of directors, 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 24, at St. Albans. For more information, visit www.summit-u.com/calendar. To add items to the calendar, call the office or e-mail info@summit-u.com.

Union Park

www.unionparkdc.org • 651-645-6887

Upcoming Union Park District Council meetings—Land Use Committee on Wednesday, June 18 (call 651-645-6887 for time and location); board of directors at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 2, at the Merriam Park Community Center, 2000 St. Anthony Ave.; Neighborhood Issues Committee at 7:00 p.m. Monday, July 7, at the Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave.; Parks and Recreation Committee at 7:00 p.m. Monday, July 7, at the Merriam Park Community Center.

Recycled reminder—Recycling bins are handed out between 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at the Merriam Park Community Center, 2000 St. Anthony Ave. For more information, contact Julie Oney at 651-645-6887 or julie@unionparkdc.org.

Summer dates—Mark your calendars for the following:

- Saturday, July 12—Merriam Park ice cream social.
- Tuesday, July 15—Desnoyer Park picnic.
- Tuesday, August 5—National Night Out.
- Saturday, September 20—Neighborhood cleanup.

Electronic newsletter—To receive monthly newsletters from the Union Park District Council via e-mail and to be included on an e-mail list for crime notifications, visit www.unionparkdc.org and enter your e-mail address where indicated in the right column.

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Seniors

Adopt-a-Grandparent

Mac-Grove Seniors marks two decades of creating bonds between students and area's elderly

BY LARRY ENGLUND

For the past 20 years, students from Macalester College and senior citizens from the surrounding neighborhood have enriched each other's lives through the Adopt-a-Grandparent program of Macalester-Groveland Seniors, a Living at Home/Block Nurse program. The students are paired with senior citizens from the neighborhood and visit with them regularly throughout the school year.

"Not every senior needs nursing service," said Karen Pollesch, Macalester-Groveland Seniors' volunteer coordinator. "Maybe they just need information or someone to take them to an appointment. They might need some in-home assistance or simply someone to talk with."

"Macalester-Groveland Seniors allows students to volunteer without having to have a car, since it covers the neighborhood around the school," she said.

Executive director Kathleen Arneson said the relationships that form between the students and seniors has proven to be a benefit for the neighborhood. "The diversity of ages cements the fabric of this community," she said.

Elfriede Falvey was paired two years ago with Jessie Light, then a junior at Macalester majoring in religious and German studies. Light was recruited during a Taste of Service event held twice a year at the college. Recently graduated, the 22-year-old recalled her moti-

vation at the time. "I was looking for a volunteer opportunity," she said, "and I thought this would be a good way to get out of the Mac bubble and meet people living in the area."

The fact that Falvey is originally from Germany was a bonus: It provided an opportunity for them to speak German together. "It was good to hear correct German spoken and to hear Elfriede's accent," Light said. "She helped make me more polished."

Light would visit or call Falvey weekly, and the two would have lunch once a month. "Elfriede has a book of German children's songs and I play piano, so we'd also sing," Light said. Light would also accompany Falvey when she visited her husband Don, who has Alzheimer's and lives in an assisted-living facility.

"We'd talk about anything and everything," Falvey said. "Sometimes she'd call just to see how Don was doing."

During their conversations, Falvey would often talk about her life, which Light appreciated. "We're at different stages in our lives, and it was great to hear about her life as I leave college and start my own," Light said.

Though Falvey does not think of herself as an "adopted" grandparent by college students, she acknowledged the age difference. "My oldest grandchild is 31," she said with a laugh. "I've had student volunteers and adult volunteers. Everyone was so wonderful. I could depend on them."

Light underlined the point that students need to commit to the program to make it

work. "It takes time to form a relationship and make it something real," she said. "You need to be there emotionally."

As students graduate and leave, new students are recruited for the Adopt-a-Grandparent program. However, Pollesch said sometimes the relationships last beyond graduation.

"Some still come and visit me, just to say hi," said Falvey, who has been involved in the program for nearly six years. "One is from Iowa and one is from Wisconsin and they still keep in touch."

Both Light and Falvey found the experience rewarding. "It's a great way to take a break that's not academic but still fits with learning and life," Light said.

"It's a wonderful organization," Falvey said. "All the volunteers are screened. I'd recommend it highly."

Adopt-a-Grandparent is just one of the programs offered by Macalester-Groveland Seniors, which operates out of the Macalester College's Lampert Building at 36 S. Snelling Ave. The organization provides home nursing care, caregiver support, social activities, health classes and other programs to help an increasing number of seniors remain safe and independent in their own homes.

"We've had a 30 percent increase in clients in the past five years," Arneson said.

The program also helps by finding volunteers to assist seniors with household chores and other tasks. "Last fall, 60 students from St.

Paul Academy raked leaves for seniors in the neighborhood," Arneson said. Members of the Macalester College women's cross country team also washed windows and cleaned out cupboards for area seniors.

The program also uses volunteer nurses from the neighborhood, nursing students from Inver Hills Community College and adult volunteers to provide various services.

In spite of its success, Macalester-Groveland Seniors is facing a budget shortfall for this fiscal year, which ends June 30. According to Arneson, the shortfall can be managed with the public's help, but its occurrence is troubling. The program has traditionally depended on government and foundation funding, which has decreased.

"In my 15 years with the program, this is the first time there's been a shortfall," Arneson said. "It's unprecedented."

Macalester College, which has long been a partner of Macalester-Groveland Seniors, has offered the organization a challenge grant, which requires matching funds. Money also has been promised by the University of St. Thomas. Arneson said the program is hoping to raise about \$5,000 from the public.

"We leverage our resources so well that every donation, no matter how big or small, has an impact," she said. "With the help of the public, we can jump this hurdle."

For information on volunteering, contributing or using the services of Macalester-Groveland Seniors, call 651-696-6882.



Recent Macalester College graduate Jessie Light formed a special relationship with senior Elfriede Falvey as part of the Adopt-a-Grandparent program.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MACALESTER-GROVELAND SENIORS

Sholom opens first building for elderly in Victoria Park campus

Alliance celebrates century of serving St. Paul's seniors

BY DAVE PAGE

After 100 years of caring for St. Paul's elderly population, Sholom Home is returning to the city's West End. The nursing home was founded a century ago near Irvine Park and has operated for the past 85 years near the State Fairgrounds. All of the home's operations are scheduled to move by next spring to the Rossy and Richard Shaller Family Sholom East Campus on West 7th Street and Otto Avenue.

The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Apart-

ments, a 45-unit HUD-subsidized building for low-income seniors, is now open and ready for occupancy. The \$58 million Sholom East campus will also be home next year to the Bentson Family Residence, a 66-unit assisted-living apartment building; and the Shirley Chapman Sholom Home East, an 80-bed nursing home with an additional 12-bed hospice.

In about a year and a half, a 44-unit market-rate senior apartment building will also open just south of the Sholom East campus. All of the services offered by Sholom will be available to residents of the apartment building, including the dining room and deli. Sholom



Cynthia Frances explains future facets of the Rossy and Richard Shaller Family Sholom East Campus to Richard Tuohy and Boris Bondarenko. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

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Director of senior living services Kim Webster stands in the entry to the in-house salon of Stuart Management Corporation's new Alton Memory Care and Care Suites, 1306 Alton St. A commons area is shown below. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER



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New high-tech memory care center opens in Shepard Park

By FRANK JOSSI

A glimpse of the future of long-term care for seniors with dementia can be found in the newly opened Alton Memory Care and Care Suites off West 7th Street. Part of an evolving senior complex in the Shepard Park area of Highland Park, the Alton's hallways, commons areas and rooms look more like a high-end hotel than a nursing home or senior citizen complex.

The curved, carpeted hallways have framed art on the walls. The common areas have kitchens and flat-screen televisions. The dining room could grace any medium- to high-end restaurant and there is a wide variety of items on the menu. A meeting room near the front door looks like a comfortable living room with a fireplace, couch and leather chairs. The homeyness seems to have great appeal.

"Some families have come in with a family member and said, 'Where do I sign up? This looks great,'" said Deb Newton, the Alton's community and resident service coordinator. "We've tried to make the Alton feel like home."

Developed by Stuart Management Corporation and designed by Minneapolis-based Trossen Wright Plutowski Architects, the Alton offers 32 suites broken up into four "neighborhoods" on two floors of a three-story building at 1306 Alton St. Most of the units are for older adults with memory loss. Eight of the units are for seniors who need a higher level of physical care, but do not suffer dementia, Newton said.

The Alton currently has 16 residents, among them seniors from the Highland Park and Macalester-Groveland neighborhoods, as well as retirees who have returned from the Sunbelt to be closer to family in their final years, Newton said. The third floor will remain undeveloped until the first two floors are filled.

The Alton is the first facility in Minnesota to outfit residents with pendants that are connected to a wireless system to track their movements. The pendants, developed by Bismarck-based Intelligent InSites, give staff members "the ability to know where everyone is all the time," said Kim Webster, director of

senior living services. "If a resident were to wander out the front door or side door, the pendant would notify staff immediately."

If a family member calls and the resident is not in his or her suite, the call is routed to the front desk from which a staff member can track down the resident immediately. "Nothing is foolproof, but this gives us the opportunity to quickly know where everyone is without having to call our staff members," Webster said.

Residents are required to stay within the confines of the building or, under supervision, on an outdoor patio that will soon open.

Staff members also use a PDA palm pilot system, Webster said, to record and access health care data for every resident. Reminders are sent when a resident needs to receive medicine.

On a tour of the building, Newton and Webster pointed out the large community rooms where residents meet to read, eat and converse with one another and their families. The rooms feature a lot of cabinetry, comfortable furniture and dining areas where seniors eat on white linen tablecloths.

Each suite offers a spacious bathroom and 355 square feet of living space. Seniors are welcome to decorate the rooms with furniture from home, Newton said. The rooms are small by design so residents do not have to travel as far to use the bathroom or rest in a chair.

The Alton completes the senior living campus at Shepard Park, which also includes the 105-unit Wellington assisted-living facility and the 168-unit Rockwood Place senior apartment building. The average age of residents in the buildings is 82. Special activities are planned for the residents, including visits to the Mall of America and Highland Village, Webster said.

The Shepard Park area, which is located between West 7th Street and Shepard Road, also includes three market-rate apartment buildings operated by Stuart—Highland Ridge, the Plaza and the Woodstone. Stuart recently gave the area a half-million-dollar facelift, including stone signs, bus benches, light posts, sidewalks, a community garden and additional open space.

For more information, call Newton at 651-695-2384 or visit www.thealton.com.

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15 ◀ SHOLOM EAST CAMPUS

CEO Bruce Kahn said the apartments might be occupied by seniors who anticipate moving into Sholom in the future, or by people who have family members living at Sholom.

The role of St. Paul's Jewish community in caring for the elderly dates to before the turn of the last century. Then, in 1908, a group of Jewish women known as the Charity Loan Society managed to raise \$2,000 to buy an old mansion at 75 Wilkin St. near Irvine Park. The first of what were then called "inmates" were admitted to the Jewish Home for the Aged of St. Paul on June 14 of that year.

Eight years later, the building was condemned and plans were made to construct a new home. In 1923, the doors opened on the Jewish Home for the Aged of the Northwest at 1554 Midway Pkwy. In 1971, the home merged with the George Kaplan Sholom Residence and became known as Sholom Home Inc. It became Sholom Home East after a second nursing home opened in St. Louis Park.

The Community Housing and Service Corporation (CHSC) was founded in 1971 to provide housing services for Jewish residents in Minneapolis. Its first venture was a HUD-supported independent senior apartment building in St. Louis Park. A second low-income apartment building was constructed in St. Louis Park in 1987, followed by a market-rate senior housing building in 1988. With the opening of Sholom Home West in 1991, the site became known as the Ackerberg Campus. The nonprofit Sholom Community Alliance was formed in 1995 when Sholom Home Inc. joined with CHSC.

Michael Klein, chief operating officer for the Sholom Community Alliance, said Sholom Home East has established a variety of innovative programs over the years, including a summer day camp for the residents' children and grandchildren, and a partnership that has sold knishes for the past 15 years during the Minnesota State Fair. It also supplies

hot meals to Jewish day school students and provides assistance for seniors with mental illness.

"Twenty years ago we started one of the first programs for people with Alzheimer's," Klein said. In fact, 18 of the assisted living apartments on the new Shaller Family Sholom East campus will be designated for memory care.

Klein said he has seen many changes during his 25 years with the organization, including the move toward providing more services to allow seniors to continue living in their own homes. "We instituted an adult day care program at the Midway Parkway facility," he said, "and we'll offer the same program on the new campus."

The day care program will operate from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. five days a week. Guests will be able to use the exercise center and pool, get a trim at the beauty/barber shop, attend services in the worship area, purchase meals at the deli, shop at the mini-store and take advantage of various programs.

Sholom also helps people live independently by providing meals on wheels. Last year, it served 25,000 meals in St. Paul and more than 100,000 in Minneapolis.

The new Sholom East campus will continue to provide short-term rehabilitation for seniors who need transitional care before returning home after a hospital stay. The rehab department will include the new David Feinberg Vitality Center, which will feature a therapeutic pool and exercise facility.

Home health care will also be provided to those living on the new campus. The Sholom Community Alliance is now applying for a Medicare license to provide home health care throughout the Twin Cities.

Klein is most proud of the fact that over the years Sholom has served people of all faiths. "Pastors, priests and nuns have come to Sholom East because of its reputation for quality care," he said.

For details about the new St. Paul campus, call 651-637-0360 or visit www.sholom.com.



Pictured above is the entrance of the newly completed Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Apartments in the Victoria Park development on West 7th and Perlman streets.

PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Sholom Home got its start as the Jewish Home for the Aged of St. Paul (pictured at right), which opened in 1908 at 75 Wilkin St.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SHOLOM COMMUNITY ALLIANCE.



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Joe Landsberger looks down into a thicket of Blue False Indigo. One of his peonies is pictured on the opposite page. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

West End shows off its green thumb with inaugural garden tour June 21

BY JUDY WOODWARD

Joe Landsberger's garden at the easternmost end of Goodrich Avenue represents 30 years of Zen-like concentration on minimalist aesthetics and a careful choice of exotic plant species. His painted Victorian home is surrounded by exquisitely themed "outdoor rooms" linked with stone pavers, rough-hewn Japanese granite lanterns and a terraced hillside. Positioned on the bluff overlooking the Mississippi River, his garden is a calming retreat from the persistent hum of traffic on nearby West 7th Street.

A few blocks away on James Avenue lies Jeanne Morgan's cottage garden, a riot of color tucked into a narrow city lot barely wide enough to accommodate her profusion of impatiens- and ivy-filled window boxes, sun-faced wall plaques and wrought-iron garden furniture. Morgan's garden took root about five years ago, almost as an afterthought to home repair. "I needed new front steps," she explained, "and

one thing led to another."

Today, Morgan's small lot is almost entirely filled with carefully mulched patches of peonies, irises, day lilies, hostas and other perennials, all connected by brick pathways. "There's only one patch of grass left in the backyard for the grandkids to play on," she said.

Landsberger is intrigued by the possibility of adding further specimens to his already remarkable display of weeping willows, mulberry trees, cherry trees and sculptured evergreens. Morgan is resolutely practical in her choice of plants. "I favor the tried-and-true," she said. "Don't try new, different plants that are borderline for this region."

Different gardens, different landscape philosophies. However, Landsberger and Morgan share one thing. They both are eager to show visitors the greener side of their heavily traversed West End neighborhood.

Their gardens and those of 14 others in the neighborhood will be on display from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

on Saturday, June 21, when the West 7th/Fort Road Federation sponsors the first West End Neighbors Garden Tour. The free tour also features a stop at the federation's parking lot, 974 W. 7th St., where potted cuttings and divided plants from the neighborhood gardens will be offered for sale.

For event organizer Kent Petterson, owner of Terrace Horticultural Books at 503 St. Clair Ave., the garden tour is a natural vehicle to promote the neighborhood. Petterson will also open the garden behind his bookstore for the tour.

Petterson said drive-through traffic in the neighborhood is about to experience a dramatic upturn in the next couple of months. "We're in the direct path from the Xcel Arena to the airport for the Republican National Convention," he said. What better time to introduce outsiders to the neighborhood?

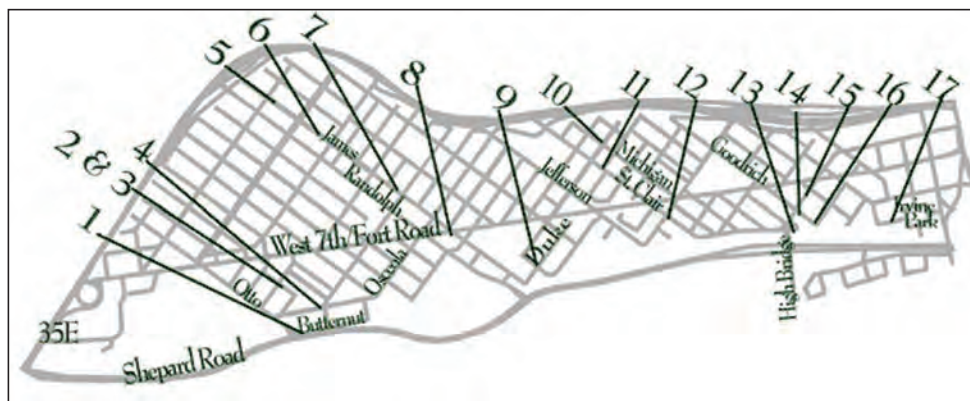
According to him, the West End historically has been a "poor re-

WEST END GARDEN TOUR ► 19

The gardens

The following neighbors will show off their gardens and offer plant divisions for sale at the federation offices during the West End's inaugural garden tour on Saturday, June 21:

1. 791 Butternut Ave.—a shade garden in the front yard and a mix of cottage flowers and vegetables in a French potager garden with fountain in the back.
2. 769 Scheffer Ave.—a 24-hour meditation garden dedicated to prayer as well as casual entertaining.
3. 765 Scheffer Ave.—a good example of how to take advantage of small, shady spaces between buildings to grow vegetables with trellises.
4. 766 Stewart Ave.—terraces of shrubs and flowers, a formal fenced raised-bed vegetable garden and a log house set off by a large waterfall, pond and shade garden.
5. 934 James Ave.—a cottage garden with



- flowers, fruits and vegetables, and magical fairy gardens in back.
6. 895 James Ave.—cottage-type gardens with a lovely mix of shrubs and perennials, numerous hostas under the apple trees and clematis.
7. 744 James Ave.—an ever-evolving experiment of gardening with native plants, from a prairie to oak savanna to mesic hardwoods, all on a miniature scale.
8. 974 W. 7th St.—a plant sale in the West

- 7th/Fort Road Federation parking lot, with proceeds supporting local gardening projects.
9. 417 Duke St.—a shady front garden with native ground covers, hostas, stone and rock. Sunny spots incorporate plants that attract to birds, bees and butterflies.
10. 529 Michigan St.—a back yard with two small ponds, a statue, grape vines, annual and perennial flower beds, and a side-yard rose garden.
11. 503 St. Clair Ave.—a garden edged by

- a decorative iron fence with container and window box accents. Perennial borders and a conifers with ornamental grasses fill the yard.
12. 376 St. Clair Ave.—two mounded boulevard gardens, a voyageur tree sculpture, street paver driveway and patio.
13. North High Bridge Park on Smith Avenue—a sculpture garden, day lily collection and wild flower/butterfly garden.
14. 218 Goodrich Ave.—a traditional mixed border and lush lily bed, with street paver edging and paths and new fruit trees in traditional espalier fashion.
15. 436 Smith Ave.—raised-bed gardens built with retaining walls over a former asphalt lot. The gardens support small trees and include perennials, annuals, vines and shrubs.
16. 169 Goodrich Ave.—Asian-themed plants, pathways and stone lanterns overlooking the Mississippi River.
17. 299 Ryan Ave.—a cottage garden framing a deck with wildflowers and other perennials.

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18◀ WEST END GARDEN TOUR

lation" in some respects, but that has changed dramatically in the past few years. Traditionally a working class neighborhood with small, well-built older houses, the West End has been a draw of late for those who are looking for a distinctive yet affordable neighborhood.

"A lot of younger people who work downtown find it quite easy to reach us," Petterson said. "We've drawn in a lot of new people and we want to draw in more."

In contrast to more established garden tours in other parts of the city, Morgan said the West End tour will be "more low-key." The gardens on display, in other words, will be friendly, approachable green spaces that might be duplicated even in a currently untended wilderness of a backyard.

It's not just the sight of pretty flowers that has made the federation and West End businesses such enthusiastic supporters of the tour. According to Denise Gathman, director of the Home Ownership Center of Community Neighborhood Housing Services, research has shown that boulevard gardens reduce the speed of traf-



fic. "People drive slower where there are gardens," she said.

Gardeners, in other words, are not only making their neighborhood better looking, they are making it safer. For a heavily traveled neighborhood like the West End, that's a winning argument.

West End neighbors are happy to share gardening advice. Use perennials to keep the work-load manageable, they suggest, and mulch to keep the weeds down. Once the initial burst of spring planting is over, they say the time required to keep a garden looking good is surprisingly minimal. "If you mulch and have the weeds under control by

mid-June, then it's just dead-heading and general cleanup," Petterson said. He estimates that, once the garden is established, he spends no more than "a couple of hours plus lawn mowing" in upkeep each week.

Not that the gardeners seem too concerned about putting in extra hours on the landscape. Despite leading lives with all the normal demands of work and family, they are anything but stressed by time spent amid their flowers and vegetables.

"It's a good way to keep fit—mentally, physically and aesthetically," Landsberger said. "The garden is where I exercise my creativity."

Morgan, who commutes to Fridley to work as a calibration technician, calls the free time she spends in her garden a joy. "It's relaxing and so enjoyable to see things grow," she said.

Above all, Petterson said, the secret of happy gardening is moderation. "Do what you like to do," he advised. "Don't be disappointed in yourself for not doing more."

Free maps of the gardens are available at the federation office and West End businesses. For information, call 651-222-5536 or visit www.fortroadfederation.org/garden.htm.

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Senior News

The Thompson Park Activity Center, 1200 Stassen Lane, West St. Paul, will offer the following activities for seniors in the coming weeks: a Sunshine Garden Party with food, sun-dae and antique cars at 1:00 p.m. Monday, June 30 (\$1.00); and a hot dog and jam session at noon Wednesday, June 25 (\$3.00). Call 651-450-8291.

Carty Heights, a federally subsidized residence for individuals age 62 and older, held its grand opening on May 1 at 412 N. Dunlap St. The four-story building is operated by Episco-

pal Homes and features 49 one-bedroom apartments. Rent is set at 30 percent of a resident's income. The waiting list to get into the building has grown to an estimated 10 years long. Carty Heights is named after the Reverend Denzil Carty (1904-1975), the rector of nearby St. Philip's Episcopal Church and an advocate for civil rights and affordable minority housing. Carty Heights is the first HUD project in the nation with geothermal heating and air conditioning, which is expected to save 40-60 percent in energy costs. For information, call 651-288-1142.

Low Vision Doctors Help Legally Blind to See

Members of the *International Academy of Low Vision Specialists* help those with macular degeneration to keep reading and driving.

By **Elena Lombardi**
Freelance Writer

Jackson, New Jersey Donald Paquette, 72, a former assessor from Anaheim, California thought that his driving days were over. "I could not read the street signs soon enough and I couldn't pass the vision test at the DMV office."

Gonzalo Garcia, 74, Albuquerque, New Mexico, wanted to be able to read and write more easily. He wanted to see the nails and screws when he tried to use them in home repairs. He wanted see his grandchildren singing in the church choir. But he thought those days were over when he was diagnosed with Macular Degeneration.

Neither Donald nor Gonzalo knew that a low vision optometrist could help with some of those issues.

"In New Jersey, Biotopic Telescopic Glasses can be used to pass the vision test for driving", says Dr. Chris Palmer,

optometrist in Minneapolis, Mn. "This can allow some with conditions like macular degeneration to continue driving".

"Amazing!" says Donald. "I can read the street signs twice as far as I did before and even see the television better!" Mr. Paquette received biopic telescopic glasses and also special prismatic reading glasses for easier newspaper reading.

People don't know that there are doctors who are very experienced in low vision care. "Not many doctors like to work with people who are often upset and anxious" says Dr. Palmer, who traveled to California for special training recently. "I love to see their faces light up when they see again."

Macular Degeneration is the most common eye disease among the senior population. As many as 25% of those over 65 have some degree of degeneration. The macula is one small part of the entire retina, but it is the most sensitive

and gives us sharp images.

When it degenerates, ARMD leaves a blind spot right in the center of vision making it impossible to recognize faces, read a book, or pass the driver's vision test.

The experts do not know what causes macular degeneration. But major factors include UV light from the sun, smoking, aging, and improper nutrition.

Vitamins can help. The results of two studies, AREDS and LAST deonstrated a lowered risk of progression by about 25% when treated with a high-dose combination of vitamins.

A new, proprietary supplement based on the scientific studies is available from these doctors. A very powerful formulation, Macula Therapy Formula is available from Dr. Palmer's office.

Nine out of ten people who have macular degeneration have the dry type. There is no medical treatment ex-

cept for vitamins. The wet type is more aggressive and results in more dramatic vision loss. It involves leaky blood vessels that sometimes can be sealed with hot or cold laser. Newer treatments, such as Macugen, Lucentis and Avastin are injections to prevent leakage.

"Our job is to figure out everything and anything possible to keep a person functioning," says Dr. Palmer. "Whether it's driving, reading, watching television, seeing faces, playing bridge...we work with whatever is on the persons "wish list".

"Telescopic glasses usually cost over \$2000", says Dr. Palmer, "especially if we build them with an automatic sunglass". Readin glasses start at \$500 and hand magnifiers under \$100. Every case is different because people have different levels of vision and different desires.



RICHARD DOUGHERTY WITH TELESCOPE GLASSES

Richard Dougherty, 89, of Palmdale, California came to Dr. Shuldiner in June, 2003. He has returned every two years to have the DMV vision report form filled out to keep driving. Dr. Shuldiner prescribed biopic telescopic glasses to read signs and see traffic lights farther away in June, 2003.

At his visit on March 3, 2007, Mr. Dougherty said "The telescopic glasses keep getting better and better!". "They are actually better, by far, than the day I got them. The doctor is a genius! Definitely worth the \$2300 I paid for them". On his visit this past March, Mr. Dougherty reported that the special prismatic reading glasses were still working fine.

The following are some of the very experienced doctors working with low vision patients. They are members of the International Academy of Low Vision Specialists and are happy to speak with you:

Chris Palmer, OD Minnesota	888 882 2040	Brian Saunders, OD Georgia	877 948 7784
Yanna Nachtigal, OD Pennsylvania	877 523 2020	Marc Gannon, OD, FFAO Florida	866 942 2020
Randolph Kinkade, OD Connecticut	800 756 0766	Ross Cusic, OD Washington	877 823 2020
Richard Shuldiner, OD, FFAO Southern California	888 610 2020	Sheldon Smith, OD Michigan	877 677 2020
David Armstrong, OD Virginia	866 321 2030	Larry Chism, OD Texas	888 243 2020

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School Notes

St. Paul Open School, 90 S. Western Ave., enlisted the help of its entire student body in grades K-12, along with parents, on May 16 to package 47,512 meals to be sent to Haiti as a benefit for Kids Against Hunger. The nonprofit organization works with volunteers to package its specially formulated rice and soy casseroles, which provide starving children with essential vitamins and minerals. Planning is in the works at the Open School to hold two more days of packaging food next fall and spring. Visit www.feedingchildrenstewart.org.



Open School students package meals for hungry kids.

The Central High School class of 1958 will celebrate its 50-year reunion with a dinner buffet for classmates only at 6:00 p.m. Friday, August 15, at Mancini's Char House, 531 W. 7th St. The celebration will continue on Saturday, August 16, with a tour of the high school at 11:00 a.m. and a reunion dinner at 5:00 p.m. at the Town and Country Club, 300 N. Mississippi River Blvd. To register, call 651-483-2769 by July 17. Also, visit www.central58.com.

The Highland Park Senior High School class of 1978 will hold its 30-year reunion from 6:00 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Saturday, July 19, at the Fort Snelling Officers' Club, Building 89. Tickets are \$40 by July 5 and \$65 at the door. Call Jim Leventhal at 651-292-1185 or 612-598-3030, or Peter Nickitas at 651-238-3445.

The Highland Park Senior High School class of 1968 will hold its 40-year reunion from 7:00 p.m. to midnight Friday, August 8, at the Mendakota Country Club in Mendota Heights. For information or to place an ad in the program book, call Pat Johnson Kaplan at 651-454-8811 or Maureen Edelston Davis at 952-949-3783.

The Monroe High School class of 1968 will hold celebrate its 40-year reunion with a cruise on the Magnolia Blossom out of the Watergate Marina on Saturday, August 16. The cruise will be held from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. Boarding and a happy hour begin at 5:00 p.m. Food and music are included, and spouses are welcome. Reservations are due by July 15. Call Linda or Steve at 651-779-1806 or Laura at 763-755-0222.

The Sibley High School class of 1966 will hold a reunion party on Saturday, August 2, at the Pool & Yacht Club. Classmates are celebrating the fact that many of them are now turning 60. Call 763-557-0177.

The Brady High School class of 1968 will hold its 40-year reunion on Saturday, October 4, at the Pool & Yacht Club. Call 763-557-0177.

The Art Academy relocated on June 1 from 1550 Summit Ave. to 515 S. Albert St., in space rented from Holy Spirit School. The academy was founded in 1993 by director James Robinson and today is one of the largest traditional drawing and painting schools for children and teen-agers in America. The average enrollment is 350-400 students per term, with more than 525 students attending during the summer session, which runs through August 23. Visit www.theartacademy.net. or call 651-699-1573.

Yinghua Academy, a K-5 public Chinese immersion school, has created a relief fund for the family of kindergarten teacher Caiyun Zhou. After the 7.9-magnitude earthquake hit the Sichuan province of China, Zhou learned that her grandparents weren't accounted for and her family members

St. Thomas receives \$10M to support business ethics

A Philadelphia energy industry entrepreneur has given \$10 million to the Opus College of Business at the University of St. Thomas to support its programs in corporate ethics and responsibility. The gift is from Harry R. Halloran Jr., chairman and CEO of the American Refining Group Inc. and founder and CEO of Energy Unlimited Inc., two Pennsylvania-based companies. He also is the founder of Halloran Philanthropies, an organization that supports efforts to enhance global business ethics, microfinance and community service.

"Over the past decade I have come to know and admire St. Thomas' scholars and programs devoted to corporate ethics," Halloran said. "The university and its Opus College of Business are leaders in this critically important field, and I am grateful to be able to support their efforts."

Halloran's donation primarily will support the university's SAIP (Self-Assessment and Improvement Process) Institute, which was formed in May 2007 to help companies assess and enhance their ethical performance. Halloran led the SAIP's development and provided financial backing for the institute's launch.

The gift also will underwrite a three-year project at the Center for Ethical Business Cultures to research and write a history of corporate responsibility from post-World War II to the present. Located at the Opus College of Business, the center was founded by business leaders in 1978, and became affiliated with St. Thomas in 1988.

The donation brings the university's \$500 million Opening Doors capital campaign to \$342.5 million.

were living without shelter and running low on food. She also learned that the school where her father was principal for 30 years was damaged and the school where her sister taught had collapsed. Donations may be sent to the Zhou Family Relief Fund at Yinghua Academy, 1355 Pierce Butler Route, St. Paul, MN 55104, or dropped off at any Bremer Bank in the Twin Cities. Call 651-379-4112 or visit www.yinghuaacademy.org.

Kerry Schnell, a 2004 Central High School graduate, has won a Fulbright Scholarship that will take her to Indonesia for the next school year. Beginning this August, she will teach English at the secondary level in Indonesia. Schnell majored in biology at the University of Chicago.

Macalester College is seeking families and individuals who are interested in forming friendships with international students for the upcoming academic year. This is not a homestay program. Most hosts see their students once a month. Call Nienke Wijnia at 651-696-6849 or visit www.macalester.edu/isp/hostfamily.html.

Jason Davis, a Mendota Heights resident and senior at St. Thomas Academy, received a National Merit Scholarship. He plans to attend the University of Minnesota.

iQ Academy Minnesota has launched an on-line school for grades 6-12 and is now enrolling students for the 2008-09 school year. The academy provides a tuition-free education, small group instruction and one-to-one feedback from certified teachers, all conducted on-line using a laptop provided by the school. Open houses will be held on June 29 at the Crowne Plaza Riverfront Hotel in St. Paul and July 13 at the Courtyard Marriott in Mendota Heights. Visit www.iqacademymn.org or call 1-877-994-4766.

Volunteers

The St. Paul Midway Lions Club is collecting old cell phones. Drop-off boxes are located at the Midway Family YMCA, 1761 University Ave.; Anchor Bank, 1750 Concordia Ave.; Korte's Supermarket, 1326 Randolph Ave.; Lund and Lange Florist, 272 S. Snelling Ave.; Associated Hearing of St. Paul, 393 N. Dunlap St. #115; and Brewberry's Coffee, 475 S. Fairview Ave. The collection will support the Lions' many charitable programs. Call Paul Smrekar at 651-646-4733.

Doug and Mary Olson of Ramsey Hill have been named the 2008 Volunteers of the Year by the St. Paul Public Library,

The Olsons have volunteered for the library system for 10 years as part of the Garden Club of Ramsey County. In the late '90s, the Olsons volunteered to create gardens with native plants around the Highland Park Library. Years later, the couple assisted with planting around the Sun Ray Library.

The Minnesota History Center is seeking volunteers for its "Vatican Splendors" exhibit that will open on September 27. This exhibit is one of the largest collections of art, documents and historically significant objects from the Vatican ever to tour North America. About 150 volunteers are needed to

assist staff. Training will be provided. Call 651-259-3188.

The Summit Hill Association is looking for volunteers to help with various office tasks, such as copying, data entry and neighborhood mailings. It also is looking for a volunteer to coordinate ad sales for "The Summit" newsletter. Call Diane Hilden or Jeff Roy at 651-222-1222.

Guild Incorporated will offer informational sessions about how it serves people with mental illness at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, June 19, and 11:00 a.m. Thursday, July 10. For information, call George Broostin at 651-925-8454.

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Food



Hot Dish
By Morgan Smith

There's a lot to like at Lucky's in Mendota

BY MORGAN SMITH

Twin Cities restaurateur Linda Young may have sold off most of her Axel's restaurant chain in April, but she is not abandoning the hospitality food business by any means. She and long-time business partner Charlie Burrows have created two new concept restaurants in hopes of starting up another chain or two—Rudy's Red Eye Grill in Rosemount and Lucky's 13 Pub in the village of Mendota.

Young and Burrows opened Lucky's 13 last October, on Highway 13 just a block from their first restaurant, Axel's River Grille. Though she no longer owns Axel's in Mendota, Young still has an affinity for the building that houses it. Her father and mother worked there from the 1950s to the '70s when it was known as the Parker House. She herself started working there at age 11.

Young went on to work for Gannon's, Champps and Byerly's restaurants. In 1996 she and Burrows leased the former Parker House building and totally remodeled the space to open Axel's, which they named after her father, Axel Lofgren. Two years later they branched out to Chanhassen with Axel's Steakhouse and eventually expanded to a dozen locations.

Lucky's 13 is located on the site formerly occupied by the Gay Paree Lounge and Mendota Saloon. "We tried to save the building," Young said, "but it was too dilapidated." The interior of the new building has an eclectic mix of styles—a turn-of-the-last-century tin ceiling, Depression-era belt-run ceiling fans, antique bicycles on the walls, Mason jar drinking glasses and the ubiquitous flat-screen TVs. The free popcorn is a nice touch, but the free peanuts are an unexpected bonus.

Young does not view Lucky's 13 as competition for the casual fine dining at Axel's River Grille. "We want Lucky's to be the kind of place that can go into towns needing restaurants, like an Applebee's," she said. At Lucky's 13, everything is made fresh, according to Young. "We prepare our own sauces and dressings in house," she said, "and we cook the ham, turkey and beef on a wood-burning stove."

We visited Lucky's 13 early on a recent Monday evening. My dining partner, a fan of exotic beverages, ordered the Flirtini (\$6.00). She thought the price was great, but the drink itself



Lucky's 13 in Mendota has atmosphere, hands down, but clearly its strong suit is the menu, which includes the Challenger Burger at left. PHOTOS BY JANET HOSTETTER

was not strong enough for her tastes. The bacon-wrapped shrimp appetizer (\$9.95), on the other hand, more than met our expectations. It was served with a scrumptious homemade chili sauce for dipping. The shrimp, which as an appetizer comes with coleslaw and wonton chips, can also be ordered as an entrée (\$17.95).

The homemade tater tots (\$7.95) are the signature appetizer at Lucky's 13, but I will have to try them on another visit or at the Minnesota State Fair, where Young will again be selling them at a booth carrying the Axel's name.

The soup of the day at Lucky's 13 was pasta fagioli (\$3.95 for a cup, \$5.95 for a bowl). It had just the right amount of spices and lots of big chunks of beef. It made me want to go back and

try the chili, French onion, and turkey and wild rice soups.

For her entrée, my dining partner ordered the Philly cheese steak sandwich (\$10.95) with hand-cut fries. She wasn't impressed with the sandwich, but I thought the fries were great. The parmesan crusted pork loin (\$15.95) that I ordered was just a tad overdone, but had a delicious flavor. The side dish of broccoli, cauliflower and carrots was perfectly prepared.

Some of the desserts at Lucky's 13 are huge. We shared the brownie a la mode (\$6.25). The brownie was warm and tasty and was a great way to end the meal.

There are a lot of intriguing items on the menu at Lucky's 13 that I didn't try. The steak and potato salad (\$10.95)—a grilled steak with tomatoes, red onion and crumbled bleu cheese on romaine lettuce with fried shoestring potatoes and bleu cheese vinaigrette dressing—sounded scrumptious, as did the homemade pizza rolls (\$7.95). I'm also hoping to go back and try some of the classic pasta dishes, including the chicken and broccoli penne (\$11.95) and the chicken parmigiana (\$14.95), as well as the blue ribbon meatloaf (\$12.95) and the country-fried chicken or steak (\$13.95).

Lucky's 13 has live music on Thursday nights. Young said she is planning to offer the same every other Friday evening. She is also considering cranking up the karaoke on Wednesday nights, so be forewarned or apprised, depending on your feelings about that particular form of self-flagellation.

Tidbits

Big Top Wine Club will hold its annual patio party at 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 18, at the Wine Company, 425 Minnehaha Ave. This year's theme will be the wines and foods of Argentina. Big Top grill masters will prepare beef, vegetables and empanadas to accompany reds and citrusy Sauvignon Blancs, along with pitchers of wine cocktails. The cost is \$20. Call 651-644-4501.

A **bread baking class** will be offered from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Saturday, June 21, at historic Fort Snelling. Learn the secrets of baking fresh bread in a wood-fired brick oven and in an iron bake kettle. Visitors will use authentic recipes and ingredients and, as the bread bakes, will churn butter and make preserves. They also will take home the bread they bake. The cost is \$30. Call 612-726-1171

Tupperware and hot dishes will be the topics of discussion during a Creative Keepsakes event from 10:00 a.m. to noon Saturday, June 28, at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. Tupperware expert Dawn Edlefsen will discuss Tupperware's popularity among homemakers of the 1950s. Betty Crocker test kitchen chef Ann Burckhardt will offer classic recipes from her book, *Hot-*

dish Heaven. Refreshments will be served. The cost is \$15-\$20. Call 651-259-3015.

TeaSource, 752 S. Cleveland Ave., will host a workshop on "How to Make Iced Tea: Easy, Healthy & Homemade" from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Saturday, June 28. The workshop will focus on making gourmet iced teas. The fee is \$15. To register, call 651-690-9822 or visit www.teasource.com.

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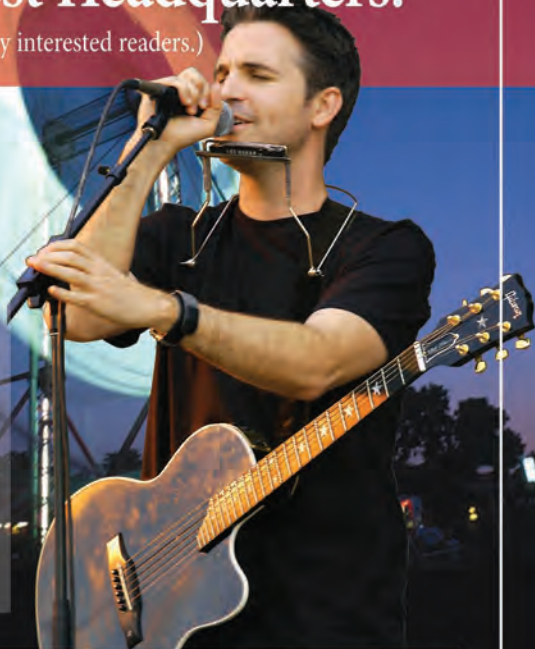
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Business Briefs

Emerging Business Systems Ltd. has opened a new location at 963 W. 7th St. According to owner Brian Nepstad, the Emerging Business Systems helps small- to medium-sized independent businesses better manage, promote and expand their operations by providing their owners with the same benefits enjoyed by franchise owners without the expense or obligation of franchise ownership. Visit www.ebsystemsltd.com.

A "Marketing Your Business" seminar will be offered by SCORE small business counselors from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 18, at Anchor Bank, 1570 Concordia Ave. The cost is \$39, which includes materials. Call 651-632-8937.

Whoa Mamma! has been launched by Macalester-Groveland native Rebekah Stivers, a 1991 graduate of Highland Park Senior High School. Whoa Mamma! is a wholesaler of upscale maternity clothing catering to existing online and bricks-and-mortar stores. Visit www.whoamamma.com.



A Whoa Mamma! fashion.

Jeffrey Sieben, a Macalester-Groveland resident and a member of the law firm Sieben Grose Von Holtum & Carey, has been recognized as an "up and coming" Minnesota attorney by *Minnesota Lawyer*. Sieben began his work as a personal injury attorney in 2001 and has negotiated several million-dollar settlements for victims of serious accidents.

Matt Anfang of Highland Park has been named president of the Greater St. Paul Building Owners and Managers Association. Anfang was most recently vice president of planning with Insignia Development. He also spent part of his early career as manager of

public policy for the St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce, and was on the St. Paul Planning Commission from 2000-2006. He currently serves as a commissioner on the St. Paul Regional Water Services board.

Creative Kidstuff, 1074 Grand Ave., is inviting kids to camp out from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Saturday, June 21. The evening will feature crafts, treats and storytelling, and kids are welcome to wear their pajamas. The cost is \$10. Creative Kidstuff will also offer kids a chance to learn about bugs and butterflies at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Thursday, June 26. The cost is \$10. Call 651-222-2472.

"Polish Your Pitch," a workshop on crafting a winning sales pitch, will be offered from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Fridays, June 27 and July 11, at WomenVenture, 2324 University Ave. The cost is \$125. Register at www.womenventure.org or call 651-646-3808.

Aspire Chiropractic, 333 Grand Ave., will offer an infertility workshop at 6:45 p.m. Wednesday, June 25. Admission is free, but reservations are required. Call 651-294-2332.

Pottery workshops will be offered by Gallery Okto owner Marietta Theodorou-Le Mieux from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. on four consecutive Saturdays, beginning June 28. She is an eighth-generation Greek master potter and a 2008 finalist for a Bush Artist Fellowship. The workshops will take place at her studio, which is located a few blocks away from her gallery in Victoria Crossing West, 867 Grand Ave. The cost is \$145 and space is limited. Call 651-222-8881 or visit www.galleryokto.com.

Coldwell Banker Burnet's Crocus Hill and Highland Park offices set out 500 American flags on Summit Avenue and on arterial streets in the Summit Hill, Macalester-Groveland and Highland Park neighborhoods in honor of Flag Day on June 14. The realty offices have displayed flags in St. Paul for the last nine years. Sixty people from the two offices volunteered for the project.

Religious Notes

Loyola Spirituality Center, 389 N. Oxford St., is offering Welcome Home, a new ministry that provides free spiritual direction to veterans and their families. To staff the program, Loyola has hired Sheila Laughton, a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel with master's degrees in theology and counseling and a master's certificate in spiritual direction. Call 651-641-0008 extension 10 or visit www.loyolaspiritualitycenter.org.

Institute of the Himalayan Tradition, 1317 Summit Ave., will offer a program on the wisdom of Swedish scientist and theologian Emanuel Swedenborg from 10:00 a.m. to noon Saturday, June 21. The cost is \$15. Call 651-645-1291.

A **Bible 101 class** is being offered from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. on each Wednesday in June at Central Presbyterian Church, 500 Cedar St. The schedule will include the Gospels on June 18 and the letters of Paul on June 25. There is no cost. Call 651-224-4728.

Temple of Aaron Synagogue, 616 S. Mississippi River Blvd., will present freelance television producer Lori Fink Garelick speaking on "Judaism in the World of Media and Advertising" following Shabbat services on Saturday, June 21. There is no cost. Call 651-698-8874.

The **summer solstice** will be celebrated in song, story and ritual beginning at 6:51 p.m. Sunday, June 22, at Pilgrim Lutheran Church, 1935 St. Clair Ave. A musical program, "Resurrection: A Story of Re-Creation," will draw on the Finnish epic the *Kalevala*, about a mother who finds her broken son adrift in the river and weaves him back to life. Joining

composer and singer Ruth Mackenzie will be guitarist Dean Magraw and singer Natalie Nowytski. A reception and silent auction will follow. Tickets are \$20. Call 651-699-6886 or visit www.pilgrimstpaul.org.

Peter Colosi of Franciscan University will speak on "Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body" at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 19, in Rowan Hall at the Church of St. Helena, 3204 E. 43rd St., Minneapolis. Gourmet desserts will be served at 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$10. For tickets, call 612-729-7321.

The Beatification of Mother Rose Flesch, foundress of the Franciscan Sisters of St. Paul, took place in May in Trier, Germany. A Mass in celebration will be held at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, June 19, at Lumen Christi Catholic Church, 2055 Bohland Ave. Call 651-690-1501.

Holy Spirit Catholic Church, 515 S. Albert St., will host performances of *Lolek* at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 26, and *Alessandro* at 8:00 p.m. Friday, June 27. The performances feature Jeremy Stanbary, founder of the Minneapolis-based Catholic theater company Epiphany Studio Productions. Admission is \$15. Proceeds will help Epiphany Studio travel to Australia to perform at World Youth Day 2008. Call 651-698-3353.

St. Clement's Episcopal Church, 901 Portland Ave., will offer a communal solar cook-off of cookies and soup at 9:15 a.m. Sunday, June 22; Games on the Green, including volleyball and croquet, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 25; and a sing-along of favorite Broadway tunes from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 2. Call 651-228-1164.

The Kiosk

Wednesday/June 18

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave., will hold its 78th annual meeting at 6:15 this evening. The meeting will feature a Camp Butwin highlights video in honor of the camp's 50th anniversary, along with camp decorations, music and a picnic dinner. The cost is \$18 for dinner. The program that follows is free. Call 651-698-0751 by June 11 for reservations.

AUTHOR LORNA LANDVIK will be the guest speaker at a Lunch for Libraries fundraiser event today in Kagin Commons at Macalester College. Book sales and signings will begin at 11:30 a.m., followed by lunch and a presentation. WCCO-TV anchor Angela Davis is the emcee for the event. Tickets are \$40. Proceeds will benefit the Minnesota Library Foundation. Call Judy Todd at 651-645-5731.

A RICE PARK TOUR will be offered at 10:00 this morning from Landmark Center. Participants will learn the hidden secrets of the unique buildings that surround one of St. Paul's most beloved parks. Admission is free. Call 651-292-3276 to reserve a spot.

FIREFLIES, OWLS and other night creatures will be sought out during a program at 8:30 this evening at the Dodge Nature Center in West St. Paul. Participants are encouraged to bring a flashlight. The cost is \$5.00-\$7.00, or \$15 for families. Call 651-455-4531 to register.

A CENTRAL CORRIDOR meeting with Metropolitan Council chair Peter Bell will be held from 6:00 to 7:30 this evening at Model Cities' Brownstone Conference Room, 849 University Ave. The public will be able to share concerns about light-rail transit on University Avenue and downtown St. Paul. Call Shoua Lee at 651-602-1014.

Thursday/June 19

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

Saturday/June 21

A GREAT RAMSEY REUNION and Ice Cream Social will take place from noon to 2:00 p.m. today at the Alexander Ramsey House, 265 S. Exchange St. In celebration of Minnesota's 150th birthday, the Ramsey House is hosting an old-fashioned yard party complete with games of skill, dancing lessons and ice cream. A welcome ceremony begins at noon and a group commemorative photo will follow on the front porch. House tours will run from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The cost is \$5.00-\$8.00. Call 651-296-8760.

A FARM TOUR will be offered at 10:00 this morning at the Dodge Nature Center in West St. Paul. Visitors will tour the pasture, barn and hayloft. All ages are welcome. The cost is \$1.50-\$3.00. Call 651-455-4531.

AN IRVINE PARK WALKING TOUR will be held at 10:30 this morning at the Alexander Ramsey House, 265 S. Exchange St. The 90-minute tour will take in the Irvine Park District. Walkers will see examples of Victorian architecture and learn about the families who called the area home. Lemonade and cookies will be



More than 100 St. Paul Girl Scouts ages 6-17 took part in a six-hour paddle down the Mississippi River on June 14, compliments of Wilderness Inquiry and the Mississippi River Fund. Taylor Jefferies, 10, listened intently as a National Park Service ranger explained the finer points of canoeing in Hidden Falls Park prior to the paddle (right). Kalley Dynes, 9, was all smiles once they launched their 21-foot canoes (above). Then, near the end of their voyage, the girls saluted one of their leaders, who was standing high above them on the High Bridge.

PHOTOS BY ANNE BRANDRUD



served on the Ramsey House front porch. An optional tour of the house, including the remodeled parlor, is included. Admission is \$7.00-\$9.00. Call 651-296-8760.

"PLAYTIME AT THE HILL HOUSE" will be held at 1:00 this afternoon at the James J. Hill House, 240 Summit Ave. Children ages 8-12 are invited to explore the grounds of the Hill House as they play outdoor games from the turn of the 20th century, including potato races and a scavenger hunt leading to the mysterious mushroom cave. The program includes storytelling, lemonade and a snack. Parents can join along or tour the mansion at the same time. The cost is \$6.00-\$8.00. Call 651-297-2555

A HISTORY RIVER WALK will be offered from 10:00 to 11:30 this morning at the Sibley House Historic Site in Mendota. Join Sibley staff on a morning river walk (dogs welcome) and learn about the history of the juncture of the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers and its importance to the fur trade and development of the state. Participants will also hear more about Sibley's dogs, including Lion, his beloved Irish Wolfhound. Please remember bags and dog leashes. The cost is \$4.00-\$6.00. Call 651-452-1596.

A CANOE TRIP along the Minnesota River will be offered from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Fort Snelling State Park. Participants must provide their own canoe or kayak. The program is being presented in partnership with the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Call 952-492-6400.

A SOCIAL TO BENEFIT AccessAbility will be held from noon to 5:00 this evening in the garden of Lee and Rose Hallgren, 2160 Eleanor Ave. Water features, benches and more than 100 varieties of hostas are included in this urban retreat, which has been featured in local and national publications. The afternoon will include gardening demonstrations, a plant sale, a garden-inspired raffle and refreshments. Contributions of \$10-\$30 or more are suggested. A twilight VIP reception for those donating \$50-\$200 or more will follow from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. and will feature wine and cheese, chamber music and a silent auction. Call 612-331-5958.

Monday/June 23

FÊTE DE LA ST. JEAN-BAPTISTE will take place from 6:30 to 8:30 this evening at the Sibley House Historic Site in Mendota. The annual celebration will honor French-

Canadian history and culture with an evening of historic costumes, folk music and dance from the 1840s, when Mendota was the social center of the region. Visitors are invited to bring their lawn chairs and blankets, and sit back and enjoy the region's finest folk art performers. A bonfire will cap the evening's festivities. Admission is free. Call 651-452-1596.

Tuesday/June 24

THE MAD HATTER'S TEA HOUSE, 943 W. 7th St., will hold a conversational salon from 6:30 to 8:30 this evening. Documentary filmmaker Dawn Mickelson will show *Green Green Water*, in which she traces the source of her "green energy" to the indigenous Cree and Metis in Northern Manitoba, and a clip of *The Red Tail*, the story of a former airline mechanic who travels across the globe to meet the person who is doing his job after it was outsourced. The salon is free, but donations are encouraged for the program and treats. Call 651-227-3228.

A GUIDED WALKING TOUR of the Longfellow Gardens in Minnehaha Park will be held from 6:30 to 7:30 this evening. Landscape gardener Teresa Burton will lead the tour of the 4-year-old formal garden, which features a pergola gracing the top of the land bridge and a variety of annuals and perennials. The cost is \$10-\$15, with a \$5.00 discount for those who bike or in-line skate to the park. To register, call the Minnesota State Horticultural Society at 651-643-3601.

FRIENDS OF THE MISSISSIPPI River needs help from 6:00 to 8:00 this evening tending to the new native prairie at Crosby Farm Regional Park. The 3-acre demonstration area includes 1,000 native plants and species to educate and inform visitors. Volunteers are needed to weed and otherwise care for the plants. To register, call Sue Rich at 651-222-2193, ext.14.

Wednesday/June 25

"BEYOND BOARDING SCHOOLS and Foster Homes" will be offered from 9:00 a.m. to noon today at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. The discussion will look at the relationship between American Indian families and state government, including the history of care for Indian children. Admission is free. Call 612-624-1999.

Thursday/June 26

"AMERICA'S FAILING HEALTH Care—Solutions and Proposals" will be presented at 7:00 this evening at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. Speakers will include John Schwarz of United Health System and Eric Menniger of the Community University Health Care Center. Admission is free. Call Howard Stolz 1-320-543-3693.

Friday/June 27

"STARLIGHT, STAR BRIGHT" will be offered at 8:30 this evening at the Dodge Nature Center in West St. Paul. Join astronomers from the University of Minnesota as they share their telescopes and knowledge of the heavens at this free event. Refreshments will be available for purchase. Call 651-455-4531.



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On the Town

State of the Union

Lex-Ham Theater reaches back to 1946 for election year morality tale



Frank Blomgren, Paul McGlynn, Lynne Vannelli, Stuart Alger, Sasha Walloch and Mark Margolis star in Lex-Ham Community Theater's production of *State of the Union*. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER.

BY BOB GILBERT

Stuart Alger, current chair of the St. Paul DFL Party, has been practicing to be a Republican. And, no, it has nothing to do with the GOP's upcoming national convention. Alger is starring in Lex-Ham Community Theater's production of *State of the Union*, which opens June 20 on the Wellstone Center stage. He plays Grant Matthews, an industrialist and political newcomer who is drafted by the Republicans



Stuart Alger plays Grant Matthews and Sasha Walloch is his wife Mary in Lex-Ham Theater's *State of the Union*.

to run for president following the death of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the Democratic president who defeated his Republican opponents in 1932, '36, '40 and '44.

State of the Union won the Pulitzer Prize in 1946, but it is perhaps best known for Frank Capra's silver-screen adaptation of 1948 starring Spencer Tracy, Kathryn Hepburn and Angela Lansbury.

"There's a certain irony in the head of the St. Paul DFL playing a Republican," Alger said. "But I think my involvement in politics informs the character and gives me a perspective about what's boiling inside of Grant Matthews. The story is about a man with high ideals confronting the realities of running for office. It's a modern theme."

"The thing I like about this show is that though it's set in the 1940s, a lot of the issues are still relevant," said Urban Landreman, artistic director of the Lex-Ham Community Theater. "Its themes of campaign financing and the problem of how to engage in civic affairs without falling into pandering are as true now as they were then."

The comedy is also driven by a love triangle among Matthews, his wife Mary (played by Sasha Walloch) and Kay Thorndyke (played by Lynne Vannelli), an ambitious newspaper publisher who wants Matthews elected.

To help his cast of 22 actors find their characters' voices, director John Townsend has asked them not to view the movie.

Instead, he has been steeping them in the zeitgeist of the postwar era, when labor unrest was commonplace and the national

"There's a certain irony in the head of the St. Paul DFL playing a Republican. But I think my involvement in politics ... gives me a perspective about what's boiling inside of Grant."

unity that helped carry the U.S. through WWII was unraveling.

"In 2008 we're not as naive about political scandals and political corruption as people were in the 1940s," Townsend said. "While Watergate, Iran-Contra and the Monica Lewinsky scandals have hardened us a nation, they've also made us more cognizant of how corrupt politics can be."

However, even in the 1940s, politicians on the national stage derided opponents for the special interests they harbored. One of the political surprises for Grant Matthews comes when his advisers encourage him to focus on wedge issues that will drive apart various constituencies and win him votes. "It's Karl Rove personified," Alger said, "and it's part of the struggle of the play. Matthews knows that if he goes that route he may win, but in the end he'll be governing a country that's even more divided and more angry and more split than it was when he started."

Alger, 45, who lives in the Lexington-Hamline neighborhood, was born in Fargo. He earned an undergraduate degree at Concordia College in Moorhead, a master's degree at Columbia University in New York and a law degree at William Mitchell College

of Law in St. Paul. In 2003 he ran for the St. Paul City Council as a DFLer from Ward 1, finishing fourth in a primary field of eight candidates. In 2005 he was elected chair of the St. Paul DFL and will be stepping down from that position at the end of June.

Alger gets his acting genes from his parents, who met as theater students at Augustana College in Sioux Falls. Married and the father of one, he works as a real estate litigator in the Minneapolis law firm of Leonard, Street & Deinard when he is not before the footlights.

Townsend and Alger have worked together before. Alger was a student in several acting classes that Townsend taught through the St. Paul Public Schools' Community Education program. Alger also starred as a traumatized soldier in *Rise and Shine*, a short play written by Landreman and directed by Townsend.

"Stuart is a wonderful actor," Townsend said. "He has a great presence, a great speaking voice and a lot of charisma. But he also knows how to relate on a very conversational level with other people...like all good politicians."

State of the Union will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, June 20-28, and at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, June 22, at the Wellstone Center, 179 E. Robie St. It is being produced in collaboration with Sweet Charities Theatre Company, and proceeds will benefit the Minnesota Chapter of the National Organization for Women. Tickets are \$17, \$15 for students and seniors. For reservations, call 651-808-3600 or visit lexhamarts.org.

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On the Town *Briefly*

Theater

Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure, a chilling mystery by Steven Dietz involving scandalous letters, a kidnapped diva and London's seamy underside, is playing June 19-22 at Park Square Theatre, 50 W. 7th Place. Steve Hendrickson, Bob Davis and James Cada star. Call 651-291-7005.

Rent, the Tony Award-winning musical about being young, falling in love and finding your voice, is being performed through June 22 at the Ordway. The curtain rises at 8:00 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, 2:00 and 8:00 p.m. Saturday and 2:00 and 7:30 p.m. Sunday. For tickets, call 651-224-4222.

Harvey, the Pulitzer Prize-winning comedy about Elwood P. Dowd and the friend that only he can see, is being performed through June 29 at Theater in the Round, 245 Cedar Ave. S. in Minneapolis. The curtain rises at 8:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$20. Call 612-333-3010.

Mom's the Word, a wildly funny, sometimes touching collection of monologues, skits, songs and dances about motherhood, is being performed through July 13 by Actors Theater of Minnesota. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Sundays and 1:00 on select afternoons at the Lowry Theater, 16 W. 5th St. Tickets are \$27-37. Call 612-673-0404.

The Rocky Horror Picture Show, the cult film of the 1970s, is being shown along with a live side show by the troupe Transvestite Soup at 11:00 p.m. every other Saturday through September 20 at the Mounds Theatre, 1029 Hudson Road. Tickets are \$7.00. Call 651-772-2253.

Someone Who'll Watch Over Me, a play by Frank McGuinness based on the true story of three political hostages in Lebanon in the early 1990s, will be performed June 20-28 by Triumvirate Theater, a new company dedicated to exploring the human condition. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 4:00 p.m. Sunday at the Lowry Lab Theater, 350 St. Peter St. Tickets are \$12. Call 612-423-9901.

The second annual **Twin Cities Improv Festival** returns June 26-29 with 14 local acts and 11 others from across the nation. Four evening shows are scheduled at the Brave New Workshop Comedy Theatre,



Christopher Kehoe and Nathaniel Nesheim-Case (below) star in *The Count of Monte Cristo*. The melodramatic take on Alexander Dumas' swash-buckling story of love, betrayal and retribution is playing through August 23 on the University of Minnesota Centennial Showboat at Harriet Island. Interspersed among the scenes are a host of comic olios (left) featuring, among others, Stuart Gates, Billy Mullaney, Sara Munzesheimer, T. Blake Snortland and Kehoe. Tickets are \$20-\$25, or more with dinner, lunch or river cruise options. Call 651-227-1100.



2605 Hennepin Ave. S. in Minneapolis. The schedule includes Larynx and T-Rex Force at 7:00, Stevie Ray's Improv Company and Scram at 8:30, and Vaudeville With a Pig and 123 Improv at 10:00 on Thursday; pH and the Election Show at 7:00, Rampleseed and Irish Mutts at 8:30, Five Man Job and Coldtowne at 10:00, Girls, Girls, Girls and Pimprov at 11:30, and the Neutrino Project at 12:30 on Friday; the Onion Writers at 6:00, Ferrari McSpeedy and the Josh and Tamra Show at 7:00, Brave New Workshop and Bassprov at 8:30, Survivors of the Undead Plague and Darby Lane at 10:00 on Saturday; and Police Cop Detective PI, the Mustache Rangers and Huge at 8:00 on Sunday. For ticket information, call 612-332-6620.

Shakespeare's tragedy *Richard II*, his comedy *As You Like It* and Carlo Goldoni's commedia del arte *Servant of Two Masters*

will be performed in repertory from June 28 through August 3 at Shakespeare & Company's outdoor theater behind Century College, 3300 N. Century Ave. in White Bear Lake. Show times are 7:00 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 6:00 p.m. Sundays. Picnic suppers, blanket and lawn chairs are welcome. Tickets are \$12, \$10 for seniors and free for children under age 12. For scheduling information, call 651-779-5818.

Dance

Cassandra Shore and her Jawaahir Dance Company will present an "Enchanted Evening" of Middle Eastern dance beginning at 8:00 on Friday, June 20, in Jawaahir's theater, 1940 Hennepin Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Tickets are \$15. For reservations, call 612-872-6050.

Lóma Mór Irish Dance Club will play host to a Summer Solstice Sunny Sunday Soiree on Sunday, June 22, at the Dubliner Pub, 2160 University Ave. Both set and céilí dancing will be yours to perform to live music between 2:00 and 5:00 p.m. Lessons in basic steps will be offered beginning at 1:30. Admission is by donation with \$5.00 suggested. Visit www.lomamor.org.

Exhibits

"The Lion's Mane," surprising facts about the true purpose of a lion's mane and its role in attracting a mate, are presented by University of Minnesota researchers Craig Packer and Peyton West in an exhibit running through July 27 at the Bell Museum of Natural History, 17th and University avenues in Southeast Minneapolis. Admission is \$5.00, \$3.00 for seniors and children ages 3-16, free to children under age 3 and to everyone else on Sundays. Call 612-624-7083.

"Before the Teardown," rarely seen photographs from the *Star Tribune* archives of Minneapolis on the eve of 1960s urban renewal, are on view through August 31 at the Mill City Museum, 704 S. 2nd St. in Minneapolis. Call 612-341-7555.

The balmiest, greenest, most summer-inspired imagery from its Scandinavian collection, "Midsommarsdag" is being displayed through June 30 at the Water and Oil Art Gallery, 506 Kenny Road in St. Paul's Payne-Phalen neighborhood. Admission is free. Call 651-774-2260.

"Blooming Butterflies" a 3,000-square-foot butterfly garden filled with a variety of tropical annual and perennial plants and hundreds of butterflies, is on view through September 7 at the Como Park Zoo and Conservatory. Shaped like a caterpillar, the exhibit demonstrates the symbiotic relationship of butterflies and plants.

Journey to a galaxy far, far away ... or stop by the Science Museum of Minnesota, where science fiction meets science fact in the 12,000-square-foot "Star Wars" exhibit. There through August 24 you can explore the fantasy technologies depicted in the popular movies as well as dozens of real-world technologies. Highlights include more than 80 *Star Wars* costumes and

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props, videos explaining the filmmakers' techniques, model starships, a robot theater, a levitating hovercraft and a life-size model of the Millennium Falcon where, for an extra charge, visitors can experience the jump to light speed. Admission is \$19, \$16.50 for children ages 4-12 and seniors age 60 and older. Call 651-221-9444.

Artist Judy Weinberger is showing her batiks, ceramics and acrylic, oil and watercolor paintings through August 18 at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. A reception for the artist will be held from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Sunday, June 22. Admission is free. Call 651-698-0751.

College of Visual Arts alumni will be showing their art from June 27 to July 19 in the gallery at 173 N. Western Ave. An opening reception is scheduled from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Friday, June 27. Call 651-290-9379.

Books

Common Good Books, 165 N. Western Ave., will present free readings by the following authors: Charles Leerhsen from his book, *Crazy Good: The True Story of Dan Patch*, at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, June 22, at the Virginia Street Swedenborgian Church, 170 N. Virginia St.; Doug Hoverson from *Amber Waters* at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, June 28; Nancy Manahan and Becky Bohan from *Living Consciously, Dying Gracefully* at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, June 29. The readings will be held at Common Good Books unless otherwise indicated. Call 651-225-8989.

"Poetry, Berries and Wine: A Midsummer Event." Bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy an evening of art, poetry, berries and beverages from 7:30 to 9:00 on Saturday, June 21, at ArtStart, 1459 St. Clair Ave. Participating artists include painter Randy Scholes and poets Roseann Lloyd, Todd Boss, Norita Dittberner-Jax, Tim Nolan, Margaret Hasse, Jill Breckenridge, Sharon Chmielarz, William Reichard, Sun Yung Shin and Heid Erdrich. Admission is free. To register to read your own favorite poetry, call 651-698-2787.

The story of Grey Cloud (1765-1844), the daughter of Dakota Indian Chief Wabasha, will be told by Duke Addicks in the role of her husband, Scottish-born fur trader James Aird, in a free program beginning at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, June 22, at the Historic John H. Stevens House in Minnehaha Falls Park. Visit www.johnhstevenshouse.org.

"Modern Marvels: Jewish Adventures in the Graphic Novel," a series of free discussions on Jewish literature, will be offered at 7:00 p.m. Tuesdays beginning June 24 at the Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy. Author and University of Minnesota instructor Judith Katz will lead the sessions on Will Eisner's *A Contract for God* on June 24; Art Spiegelman's *The Complete Maus: A Survivor's Tale*, July 8; Ben Katchor's *Julius*

Knipf, Real Estate Photographer: Stories, July 22; Harvey Pekar's *The Quitter*, August 5; and Joann Sfar's *The Rabbi's Cat*, August 19. For more information or to register, call Susan Gangel at 612-626-2281.

How to Be Useful: A Beginner's Guide to Not Hating Work will be discussed by author Megan Hustad in a free program at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, June 26, at Barnes & Noble, 2080 Ford Pkwy. Call 651-690-9443.

The St. Paul JCC book club will discuss Mohsin Hamid's *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, June 26, at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. New members are always welcome. Call Beth Friend at 651-255-4735.

Film

The third annual Solstice Film Festival returns June 19-21 to downtown St. Paul. Twelve feature films and 16 short films will be shown on the two screens at Galtier Plaza. The schedule includes *Killer Movie* at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday; *Charlie and Sadie's Waltz* at 5:00 p.m., *Patsy and Robbie's Withdrawal* at 5:00 p.m., *Spotlight Social Hour* at 7:00 p.m., and *From Within* at 8:00 p.m. on Friday; and *Rainbow Around the Sun* at 11:00 a.m., *One Night* at 7:00 p.m., *Woodpecker* at 2:10 p.m., *Shorts Gallery 2* at 3:00 p.m., *Shorts Gallery 1* at 4:15 p.m., *Further North* at 5:00 p.m., *Closing Social* at 7:00 p.m. and *Brothers at War* at 8:00 p.m. on Saturday. Tickets are \$10 each for the opening and closing night screenings and galas and \$5.00 each for individual screenings. A \$20 pass at, includes all films, opening and closing night ceremonies and after parties. Visit www.solsticefilmfest.org.

Jerusalem is Proud to Present, a documentary on the controversy that erupted in 2006 over a gay pride parade in the Holy City, will be shown at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 23, at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. The 82-minute film is in Hebrew, English, Arabic and Yiddish with English subtitles. Admission is \$8.00. Call 651-698-0751.

Music

Summer at Northrop, a series of free noon-hour concerts on the plaza in front of Northrop Auditorium, continues with Les Exodus on June 18; Cafe Accordion Orchestra, June 19; Seven Corners Quartet, June 23; Dingus, June 24; Jay Logendran, June 25; Pistol Packin' Mamas, June 26; Abdomen, June 27; Donohue, Newton & Raynor, June 30; Seven Steps to Havana, July 1; and the Christine Rosholt Quintet, July 2. Call 651-624-2345.

The city of St. Paul's summer Music in the Parks series continues with free shows at the Como Lakeside Pavilion. The music begins at



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The Black Orchid, Urban Spectrum Theatre's story of the life of Josephine Baker, will be performed June 19-29 at the Parkway Theater, 4814 Chicago Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Madeleine Howie (left) plays the African-American singer and dancer who starred for a time on vaudeville and in New York before becoming an overnight sensation in Europe. The curtain rises at 8:15 p.m. on Thursday and Friday and 3:15 and 8:15 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. For tickets, priced at \$30, \$20 and \$10, call 612-821-2385.



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Some of the Twin Cities best pipe organs will be played by some of the best organists in the world during the Twin Cities Organ Festival, held June 21-29 in conjunction with the American Guild of Organists' national convention. The schedule includes organist Frederick Hohman at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, June 21, at St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Bloomington (\$10 at the door); the 33-voice choir of St. Paul's Cathedral in London (above) performing works by William Byrd, Orlando Gibbons, Benjamin Britten and Stephen Paulus at 7:45 p.m. Tuesday, June 24, at the Cathedral of St. Paul (\$29-\$39, call 651-290-1221); French organist Marie-Bernadette Dufourcet-Hakim at 7:30 p.m. Friday, June 27, at the Church of St. Louis in downtown St. Paul; Uruguayan organist Cristina Garcia Banegas at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, June 28, at the Basilica of St. Mary in Minneapolis; English organist Stephen Cleobury at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, June 29, at Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis; and Jelani Eddington playing light classics at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, June 29, on the Wurlitzer organ at the Fitzgerald Theater, 10 E. Exchange St. Admission to the concerts is by donation unless otherwise indicated.

7:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted. The schedule includes the Medalist Concert Band, June 18; Classic Big Band, June 19; Pops Ensemble at 3:00 p.m. and St. Louis Park Community Band at 7:00 p.m. on June 22; Red Hot Harmony, June 23; St. Anthony Park Community Band, June 24; Classic Brass, June 25; Robbinsdale City Band, June 26; Pops Ensemble at 3:00 p.m. and St. Anthony Civic Orchestra at 7:00 p.m. on June 29; Brio Brass, June 30; Amy & Adams, July 1; Whistlepigs String Band, July 2.

The Twin Cities Jazz Festival returns June 19-29 with 11 days of jazz in all its varieties. The 1970s fusion group Return to Forever featuring Chick Corea, Al Di Meola, Stanley Clarke and Lenny White will kick off the 10th annual fest with a concert at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 19, at the Orpheum Theatre in downtown Minneapolis. Free concerts on June 20 and 21 in Mears Park in downtown St. Paul will feature Salsabrosa at 6:00 p.m. and Jerry Gonzalez & the Fort Apache Band at 8:30 p.m. on Friday and Walker West Music Academy at noon, a big band at 2:00, Bill Crutcher at 4:00, Tanner Taylor at 6:00 and the Ravi Coltrane Quartet at 8:30 on Saturday. Other highlights include stride piano night on June 24; Connie Evingson, Jon Weber and the George Maurer Group on June 25; and free concerts on June 27, 28 and 29 on Peavey Plaza and at the MacPhail Center in downtown Minneapolis. Call 612-343-5943 or visit www.TwinCitiesJazzFestival.com.

Thirty new works by Twin Cities composers will be performed June 20-22 by the Zeitgeist quartet. The music begins at 8:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday in Studio Z, 275 E. 4th St. Tickets are \$10, or \$20 for the benefit reception and concert on June 21. Children are welcome on June 22. Call 651-755-1600.

Traditional Irish musicians Liz Carroll, Tara and Dermot Diamond, Tommy Martin and Daithi Sproule will perform at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, June 21. The concert is part of a Young Irish Musicians Weekend presented by the Center for Irish Music June 20-22 at McNally-Smith College of Music, 19 E. Exchange St. It includes a reception at 7:00 p.m. Friday and daily workshops. Tickets for the concert are \$15 each and

\$45 per family. Call 651-493-2022.

One Voice Mixed Chorus will take a trip down memory lane, performing audience favorites from the past 20 years in shows at 7:30 p.m. Saturday and 3:30 p.m. Sunday, June 21 and 22, at the History Theatre, 30 E. 10th St. Appearing with the singers will be host Dan Chouinard, Kairos Dance and One Voice alumni. For ticket information, call 651-298-1954.

Miriam Gerberg and Ensemble Mezzo will perform "Moods of the Mediterranean" in a cabaret concert at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 25, at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. The music of Iraq, Syria, Morocco, Israel and the Balkans will be performed on a variety of traditional instruments. Admission is \$8.00. Call 651-698-0751.

The Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus will present its annual pride concerts at 8:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday, June 27-28, at the Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 4th St. S. in Minneapolis. The program "Love is a Many-Splendored Thing" will feature love songs from Broadway musicals and popular films and a medley of hits sung to the accompaniment of a string quartet and dancers Justin Leaf of the James Sewell Ballet and David Schmidt of Ballet Minnesota. Tickets are \$23-\$43, or half that for children age 12 and under. Call 612-624-2345.

Family

Celebrate Minnesota's 150th birthday. Make a souvenir sesquicentennial hat with state symbols, flags, stars, song lyrics, postcards and colorful ribbons and stickers during "State on a Stick," a History Hijinx activity that is being offered from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. daily through June 30 at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. Admission is free. Call 651-259-3000.

Dodge Nature Center, 365 W. Marie Ave. in West St. Paul, will offer the following programs in the weeks ahead: "Night Creatures," an investigation of the mysteries of fireflies, owls, skunks, nighthawks, bats, moths and worms, 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 18 (\$7.00, \$15 for families); an introduction to the sheep, cows, pigs, chickens and

other domestic critters inhabiting the center's pasture, barn and hayloft, 10:00 a.m. Saturday, June 21 (\$3.00, \$1.50 for children ages 3-12); "Starlight, Star Bright," a tour of the heavens with astronomers from the University of Minnesota, 8:30 p.m. Friday, June 27 (free). To register, call 651-455-4531.

Barnes & Noble, 2080 Ford Pkwy., invites young children to engage in crafts and listen to a story beginning at 10:00 a.m. Thursdays and 7:00 p.m. Fridays. Call 651-690-9443.

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 *Oodles of Animals* storytime and crafts with Ellen Ferrari, 10:30 a.m. Saturday, June 21; Elizabeth Atkinson and her new middle-school novel, *Presents From Alice to Zen and Everyone in Between*, 2:00 p.m. Saturday, June 21; Mary Casanova and her new picture book, *Utterly Otterly Day*, 10:30 a.m. Saturday, June 28. Call 651-224-8320.

Learn about Minnesota's black bears, see a bear skull, feel its pelt and visit a bear's den during the Nature Tots program from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. Thursday, July 3, at the Bell Museum of Natural History, 17th and University avenues in Southeast Minneapolis. Preschoolers and their parents will also sing bear songs and work on a bear crafts. The program is free with museum admission of \$5.00, \$3.00 for seniors and children ages 3-16. To register, call 612-624-9050.

Et cetera

Ribbons, trophies and more than \$950,000 in cash will be awarded to the winning entries in various competitions held in conjunction with the Minnesota State Fair, scheduled from August 21 through September 1. The deadlines for entering those competitions are as follows: fine arts, July 14; pigeons, poultry and rabbits, July 30; creative activities and education, August 5; crop art and scarecrows, August 8; flowers, fruits, potatoes, vegetables, bee culture, wine, stock dog trials, August 11. Call 651-288-4417.

Sports



The Wright Call By Dave Wright

Strange season ends for Raiders

Cretin-Derham Hall's reign as the king of Class AAA high school baseball ended in a rather ignoble way this spring. Instead of getting a chance to shake the hands of their conquerors on a diamond and wish them well, the Raiders learned of their section playoff loss while gathered in the school parking lot.

"I guess it was an appropriate way for a weird season to end," said longtime CDH coach Jim O'Neill with a sigh. "It's nobody's fault, but it's weird nonetheless."

The Raiders' season started on an unusual note, a 5-2 loss at Hastings. When teams have been as successful as CDH has been in baseball under O'Neill, any loss is a little surprising. However, losses at the start of the season are especially rare because the Raiders are known for hitting the ground running.

"Our pitchers weren't ready," O'Neill said at the time. "We walked too many people, but that's what happens when you haven't pitched off real mounds. I think we'll get past it, but everybody is going to have to be patient."

It took a while before they could do so because Minnesota's awful spring weather kept the Raiders—and just about everybody else—indoors for the ensuing week. When they finally did get outside, CDH began to swing the bats the way people are used to, winning 14 of the next 16 games and claiming the Suburban East Conference title in the process.

The Raiders took a 15-5 record into the postseason, but they had been moved to Section 4AAA and were facing some unfamiliar foes. In their first game, the Raiders had a 2-0 lead at home in the final inning only to see Hill-Murray—coached by a Cretin grad, Bill Lechner, no less—score a shocking three runs for the win.

It's hard to crawl out of the loser's bracket in baseball if you drop the opener, since you have to win six games in seven days. But the Raiders have made it to state from the loser's bracket before. "The kids believed they could do it," O'Neill said.

After a pair of lopsided wins over Central (8-1) and North St. Paul (9-2), CDH seemed to get its swagger back. Unfortunately, top-seeded Tartan was also making its way through the loser's bracket after losing a tough 1-0 game to Stillwater in the third round. The Raiders and Titans finally squared off on May 30 at Midway Stadium.

"We got off to a bad start and were losing 6-2 in the sixth inning when it started raining hard," O'Neill said. "It was agreed that we would suspend the game and pick it up the next day. I didn't think anything of it. We'd done it before. I remember coming back for three outs to finish off a game with Sibley a year or two ago."

Coming back from four runs down with three outs left is a tall task, but the Raiders received some inspiration from an

WRIGHT CALL ▶ 32

Sweet repeat

SPA boys claim second straight state tennis title

BY BRIAN JOHNSON

It would have been a stretch to call them underdogs. After all, the St. Paul Academy Spartans were the defending state Class A boys' tennis champions this year and had 10 players back from last year's team.

Still, nothing came easy for the 2008 Spartans, who netted their second consecutive state crown, and fourth overall title, with a 6-1 win over Rochester Lourdes on June 4 at the Reed-Sweet Tennis Center in Minneapolis.

The road to the championship was paved with wins over Blake and Breck—two teams that had earned earlier regular-season victories over SPA. The Spartans defeated Blake in the section finals and outlasted Breck in the state semis, both by 4-3 margins.

Overall, it was a satisfying run for a team that tasted its share of adversity, but kept its eyes on the prize.

"I'm very proud of the boys," said SPA coach Viet Pham. "This year's squad deserved to take home the championship and I'm glad everything worked out. Some of the parents were saying you couldn't have scripted a more dramatic year, losing to two teams in the regular season and beating them both on the road to the state championship."

The drama started in the Section 4A finals on May 20 against Blake, one of the best teams in Class A boys' tennis. SPA defeated Blake last year to win the state title, but realignment placed the two powerhouses in the same section this season.

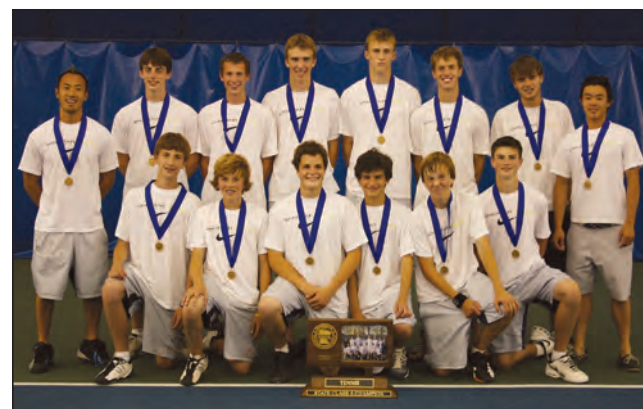
The Spartans swept the doubles competition against the Bears and senior Pierce Norton prevailed at first singles to clinch the victory, which avenged a 5-2 regular-season defeat. "On that particular day (in the regular season), the Bears were better than we were," Pham said. "We did everything we could."

SPA showed what it could do in the first round of state with a 7-0 whitewashing of the Luverne Cardinals. None of the contests went over two sets, with the Spartans only giving up 15 games in the entire match.

In the semifinals, Breck and SPA were knotted at three apiece, with the Spartans getting wins from Norton and their first and second doubles teams. The deciding match rested on the shoulders of SPA freshman John Hill, who outlasted



Senior Pierce Norton, above, was strong at singles all year for the Spartans, shown with their 2008 state trophy below.



Eric Chien 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 in a two-hour shootout.

"It was a nail-biter," Pham said.

"I'm so happy it was John who had a chance to clinch it. That being said, without the other wins, John wouldn't have been in a position to win the match. This year was one of those years where it was really a team effort."

In the state final against Rochester Lourdes, SPA swept doubles play with wins by junior Dillon Titcomb and senior John Wight at first doubles, sophomores Harry Whitaker and Evan McMillan at second doubles, and 8th-grader Birk Mitau and junior Andrew Magne at third doubles.

Norton sewed it up with a 6-0, 4-6, 6-2 effort over Eagles sophomore Ben Kopecky. The final score against Lourdes was deceptively close, with three of the seven matches going to three sets.

"You knew it was going to be a tough match because Lourdes is a well-coached team," Pham said. "To come from such an emotional win, beating Breck 4-3, to bounce back and be ready to rock against Lourdes, it's a credit to the boys. We ended up winning 6-1, but it wasn't until Pierce at No. 1 singles beat

Kopecky that you could breathe a sigh of relief."

The future looks bright for SPA boys' tennis. Two of this year's top players, Norton and Wight, are headed for college, but most of the 2008 roster should be intact for next season—and a possible third consecutive state crown.

Pham said he preaches three things to his charges: preparation, intensity and attitude. "As far as I'm concerned, I just want the boys to do everything in their control, to do the right things," he said. "We keep doing the right things and the wins will take care of themselves."

Class AA

Junior Michael Lunka and 8th-grader Matt Schull of Henry Sibley took second in the state Class AA doubles championship at the Baseline Tennis Center at the University of Minnesota. They defeated teams from Hibbing, Elk River and Edina before losing 6-3, 6-2 in the final on June 6 to seniors Amrik Donkena and William Tremaine from Rochester Mayo.

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Glenn retires after four decades of coaching Redhawk baseball

BY BILL WAGNER

The sky over Minnehaha Academy is a little darker these days. The Redhawks not only lost a chance to play in their first state baseball tournament, they lost David Glenn, who has retired as a head coach and teacher following a 42-year career at the school.

Glenn, 66, started teaching social studies at Minnehaha in 1966 and has been head coach of the baseball team since 1968. He was only hired to be there for a year, but ended up staying for four decades.

"I replaced a teacher who was on leave for a year," Glenn said. "He came back, but somebody else left."

Glenn has already said his good-byes, which included addressing the student body as a speaker at the school's commencement ceremony.

Glenn served as an assistant baseball coach for one year before being elevated to head coach. The man he succeeded was Woody Larson, the grandfather of Mark Halstengard, an outstanding senior pitcher who just concluded his career with the Redhawks.

Minnehaha (18-6) was on the verge of heading to state this fall after rolling through the Section 4AA playoffs with convincing wins over

Arlington, Fridley, DeLaSalle and Washburn. At one point, the Redhawks were the only undefeated team in the double-elimination playoffs, but lost to top-seeded St. Anthony twice in the section final on June 7.

It was the second year in a row that Minnehaha came that close to gaining a state berth. Last year, the Redhawks had a great regular season and were the top seed in the sections, but came up short against Jordan.

Glenn admitted that it would have been nice to go out by making it to state, but he wasn't about to lose any sleep over it. "It was tougher to take last year," he said. "We had a 21-2 regular season, and we also needed to beat Jordan twice to get in. We were one strike away from beating them in the first game, but we couldn't get it done."

This season, Glenn had a much younger team whose players weren't expected to make it as far as they did. "We started some young kids," he said, "and we played against some veteran teams. We had great senior leadership this year."

Glenn suffered a broken jaw in mid-April after getting hit by a line drive while pitching batting practice, but he's doing fine now. "I've



David Glenn has a lot of baseball to look back on after spending nearly two-thirds of his life as Minnehaha's skipper. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

been hit before," he said.

Glenn does not know his lifetime coaching record with the Hawks, but figured he had to have more than 300 victories. But to him, coaching is more about molding character than winning games.

Those who have worked with

Glenn describe him as a real people person. "Every morning at school he greets every single person in our office," said Ruth Bauer, the business office assistant at Minnehaha. "He was my daughter's favorite teacher."

Glenn said former students still stay in touch with him and tell him

just how much they valued his role in their lives. "But it might not happen right away," he said.

He spoke of one former student who has kept in touch. The man, now retired from teaching in the St. Paul Public Schools, was not a particularly successful student in high school, but came to treasure his time in Glenn's class. "He said, 'I didn't get it back then, but I do now,'" Glenn said.

For Glenn, the day he was hired at Minnehaha was a happy one in more ways than one. It was also the day he married his wife Nancy. They have two children—daughter Kari Fields, an assistant principal at Minnehaha Academy Middle School, and son Scott, a teacher at a private elementary school in Minneapolis who has served as an assistant baseball coach at Minnehaha for the past five years. They also have three grandchildren.

Glenn's wife has one more year to go before she retires from the Lakeville School District. She previously served in the Minneapolis Public Schools for many years. Once she retires, the couple plan to travel.

Asked how he'd like to be remembered at Minnehaha, Glenn said, "As a guy who didn't teach and coach for myself, but for the kids."

31 ◀ WRIGHT CALL

unexpected source. The day before the game the Minnesota Twins had rallied for five runs in the ninth and won a 10-inning contest at Kansas City. If the Twins' Craig Monroe could do it...

"We were looking forward to getting back to Midway," O'Neill said.

Unfortunately, Minnesota State High School League baseball tournament director Kevin Merkle noticed in the paper that the game had gone six innings. Section rules say that the game is over if it goes five complete innings and is suspended with one team ahead. So it didn't matter if the Raiders and Titans wanted to finish. The game was over.

O'Neill gathered his troops in the school parking lot the next day and delivered the bad news. "I didn't really know what to say to them," he said. "I felt bad for the seniors. They can take getting beat on the field. In this case, you'll always wonder 'What if?'"

For O'Neill, the end of one season only brought a short reprieve before the beginning of the next one. He is coaching a new American Legion team this summer, the Hamline

Purple. A while back, the American Legion's 4th District decreed that there were enough players in the area to have two teams. Longtime St. Paul Academy coach Mike Brown is leading the Hamline Red.

"It's a good thing anytime you get more kids playing baseball," said O'Neill, whose Legion team is composed of CDH juniors. "There's value in playing with kids who go to other schools, but this is OK. It'll be fun. The best thing is the kids get to play against older kids. That can only make you better." (Legion ball allows high school seniors and college freshmen to play.)

There are also future Raiders playing VFW ball at Ranview, for which Jack Palmer's team claimed the state title in 2007.

AAA baseball tournament to move?

With the exception of a couple of seasons when games were played at Parade Stadium or the Metrodome, the big-school games at the state high school baseball tournament have always been played in St. Paul. That may change.

Midway Stadium may have to mount a marketing campaign to keep the games when the Twins' new stadium opens in 2010 in downtown Minneapolis. And another

potential contender emerged last week in Burnsville when two local businessmen unveiled their plans for a 5,000-seat ballpark near I-35W and Highway 13. A Northern League franchise would be the main tenant there, but you have to believe an attempt will be made to move the Class AAA high school games to a newer facility.

Longtime groundskeeper Connie Rudolph and stadium manager Bob Klepperich did their usual outstanding job last week in getting Midway in shape for the Class AAA tournament. However, the issue may be out of their hands.

It has been a happy marriage for many years, but it's well known that the St. Paul Saints don't like having to hit the road in late May and early June in order to accommodate high school sectional and state tournament games at Midway. It doesn't take much to imagine the Saints, who've been privately grumbling over the lack of improvements to Midway, suggesting that it's time for the tournament to change locales.

Stay tuned.

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

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The **St. Paul Celts varsity lacrosse team** took fourth place in the recent Minnesota Boys' Scholastic Lacrosse Association Tournament. The Celts (11-3 overall) defeated Coon Rapids and Orono in the first two rounds, but lost to Champlin Park in the state semifinals on June 5 and then to Andover on June 13 in the third-place game. Formerly known as Riverlax, the team includes players from more than 10 metro-area high schools, including Central, Cretin-Derham Hall and St. Paul Academy. Home games are played at Macalester College. For information, call coach Ben Mooney at 612-750-2638.

The **Mississippi River Challenge** will be presented by the Friends of the Mississippi River on Saturday and Sunday, July 26-27. Participants in the two-day Challenge will canoe, kayak or row 44 miles through the heart of the Twin Cities from the Coon Rapids Dam to Grey Cloud Island, spending the night inside Fort Snelling. They may also bike a Saturday-only route starting and ending at the fort. Money raised by pledges will be used to protect and enhance the river. Visit www.mississippi-riverchallenge.org.

The **West 7th Street Boys Club Golf Tournament** will be held on Sunday, July 20, at River Oaks on Highway 61 in Cottage Grove with a shotgun start at 12:30 p.m. Dinner and an auction will follow at Mancini's Char House on West 7th Street. Those who are interested in playing, sponsoring a hole or donating prizes should call Snap Leitner at 651-587-5355.

Colin Snow, founder and principal instructor of Natural Step School of Tai Chi and Qigong, will teach six free classes at Rice Park in downtown St. Paul from 12:15 to 1:00 p.m. Tuesdays, June 17-July 22. Tai Chi exercises are specific but uncomplicated and gentle movements of the body. Registration for the classes begins at noon each Tuesday in the lobby of the Central Library, 90 W. 4th St. In case of rain, the classes will be conducted in the library's fourth-floor meeting room. For information, call 651-266-7000, ext. 5.

Georgie Jones of Central and **Shady Salamon** of Cretin-Derham Hall were named the outstanding high school minority female and male student-athletes, respectively, at the 32nd annual Winfield Awards Banquet on June 8. Jones was an outstanding basketball player for the two-time defending state champion Minutemen and will be attending Marquette University this fall. Salamon was a football, basketball and track star for the Raiders and will be attending the University of Minnesota on a football scholarship. Other female finalists included Michaela Bird of Cretin-Derham Hall, Blair Bonner of Highland, Brittany Dorsey of Central and Audrey Thompson-Amarteifio of Arlington. Other male finalists were Todd Gramenz of Harding, Carlos Luna of Humboldt, and Michael Floyd and Sean King of Cretin-Derham Hall.

Henry Sibley senior Lizzy Carl took third place at the state Class AAA girls' golf tournament on June 3-4 at Bunker Hills in Coon Rapids. Carl shot 76s on both days on the Par 73 course for a 152. Catherine Wagner of Austin took second with 151 and Ali Nelson of Moorhead was first with 150. This was the first time the tournament was divided into three classes.

P.J. Zwach, a senior third baseman and catcher for Sibley High



St. Paul Celts junior midfielder Mike Anderson takes a tumble while battling Champlin Park in the state tournament for boys' lacrosse club teams. PHOTO BY ANNE BRANDRUD

School, has signed a national letter of intent to play for the University of Minnesota-Crookston Golden Eagles. Zwach hit .435 for the Warriors this year, with a .661 on-base percentage and only two strikeouts.

The **state track and field meet** took place on June 6-7 at Hamline University. In the boys' Class AA meet, Cretin-Derham Hall took eighth place. Senior Sean King paced the Raiders with second-place finishes in the 100- and 200-meter dashes, and senior Danny Docherty finished sixth in the 1,600-meter run. In the boys' Class A meet, senior Mitch Elliott of Minnehaha Academy took 10th in the discus. In the girls' Class AA meet, junior Laura Docherty of CDH finished 10th in the 1,600-meter run. In girls' Class A, senior Megan Erlandson of Minnehaha took sixth in the pole vault.

Strength for Living instructor Barbara Fritz will offer classes from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays this summer at St. Paul Academy and Summit School, 1712 Randolph Ave. Strength for Living uses a variety of tools and techniques—including the Russian kettlebell—to increase one's flexibility, strength, endurance, body awareness and confidence. New students are invited to attend a class at no charge. Otherwise, it is \$20 per class (drop-in rate) or \$70-\$100 a month. Call 651-690-2506 or visit www.barbaralouise Fritz.com.

Highland Park Senior High School has named the following four new members to its Athletic Hall of Fame: Jeff Lander, a 1974 graduate, for football and track; Richard Lewis, 1998, for football and track; Katie Class, 1981, for cross country and track; and Tim Ryan, 1970, for cross country, wrestling and track. They will be inducted into the Hall of Fame at Highland's homecoming football game on September 27.

Participants are responsible for bringing their own bikes and helmets. Tandem bikes are not allowed. Teams will be timed on the finish of the slower team member, so they are expected to stay together through the race.

The cost is \$40 and the entry deadline is June 20. Medals will be awarded to the top three finishers in each division. Call 763-785-5603, e-mail sgames@mnsports.org or visit www.starofthenorthgames.org.

Other local games

- Basketball Hot Shot Competition from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Saturday, June 28, at the new Oxford Community Center, 270 N. Lexington Pkwy. Admission is free. Star of the North athletes may show up anytime to compete. Non-Star of the North athletes also may enter if they have purchased a \$7.00 all-events wristband. There will be separate division for both 9th grade and under boys and girls, both 10th-12th grade boys and girls, and both adult men and women. The top three finishers in each age group will win medals.

- Time to Fly Run/Walk on Saturday, June 28, at the Harriet Island Pavilion. The family-friendly event will feature a 5K Run at 8:00 a.m., followed by a 10K Run, 5K Walk and 1K Kids' Fun Run. There also will be musical entertainment, treats, drinks, performance T-shirts, and goodie bags for all walkers and runners. Register online at www.ccrftimetofly.com or the Running Room, 1068 Grand Ave., by June 23. Time to Fly teams also may collect pledges to benefit the Children's Cancer Research Fund. Call 507-664-9438.

Star of North Games features Eco-Adventure

The 2008 Star of the North Games will be held during the weekends of June 20-22 and June 27-29 throughout St. Paul. More than 6,000 athletes from around the state will be in town to compete in 22 different sports, ranging from billiards and bowling to volleyball and weightlifting.

The registration deadlines have passed for many of the events, but there it still time to sign up for the Family Eco-Adventure Triathlon that will begin at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, June 28, in Hidden Falls Park on South Mississippi River Boulevard. The race combines bicycling, an obstacle course and rock climbing for teams consisting of one child and one adult. Teams will be grouped in three divisions based on the age of the child (7-10, 11-14 and 15-18). There will be separate heats for male, female and coed teams.

Teams will bike approximately 2 miles from Hidden Falls to Crosby Park, complete an obstacle course with 10 different stations (push ups, target toss, hurdles, etc.), bike back to Hidden Falls and then scale a 26-foot tall climbing wall.

Optional clinics will be held before the day of the race for teams lacking experience in rock climbing. A mandatory participants' meeting will be held in the park the morning of the race.

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QUALITY GARAGE Sale. Antiques, Collectibles, Bottles, Glassware, Toys, Nordictack, Art, O'Brien Waterski, plus Misc. Household. June 28-29, 10-4; 2212 Hartford Ave.

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RAMSEY HILL. Share fabulous Coach House. Private entrance/bath. Utilities paid. Smoke/pet free. \$550 with icebox privileges. Avail. Aug. 1. www.bethanyvillageliving.com; 612-237-6784 or 651-291-0965.

LEXINGTON PARK Apartments. Located off of 35E and Randolph Ave. Charming 2 bedrooms, hwd. floors, eat-in kitchens, spacious closets; \$744-\$779. Cozy 1 bedrooms, carpeted, spacious closets; \$635-\$655. For appt. call Cindy, 651-699-8471.

MAC GROVELAND, 2083 Lincoln Ave. 2 bdrm. upper duplex, near busline, front porch, hwd. floors, remodeled bath, fenced yard, patio, off-street parking; \$1,100 + util. 651-387-7673.

SPACIOUS 1 & 2 bdrm. apt. homes available in the Highland Park & Crocus Hill areas. Call 651-698-6111 today for rental information on several communities professionally managed by Mid Continent Management Corp.

FOUR BDRM. family home, 20XX Berkeley, newly remodeled, new appliances, 1 3/4 bath, large rec room, deck, porch, large yard, carport, NP/NS; \$1,350; 651-695-1710.

YORKSHIRE GROVE. Come home to the sought after neighborhood of Highland Park. We offer one bdrms. with thoughtful, classic floor plan, \$689. Our studio homes celebrate compact and comfortable lifestyle at an affordable price, \$565. Call Al Loughrey, 651-698-2180.

SUMMIT AVE. DUPLEX. Bright, spacious, upper two bedroom; central air, NS/NP; \$1,390 plus util. 651-699-8807.

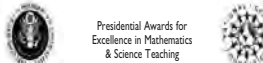
1 & 2 BRs from \$599-\$780. 1704 Norfolk Ave. & 2061 Shepard Rd. www.krcapartments.com. 651-698-7684.

SPACIOUS THIRD floor, 1 bdrm. apt., DR, LR, private entrance and balcony. Heat, cable and WiFi provided; 3 blocks to Grand; \$900; 651-291-2855.

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VICTORIA/RANDOLPH. Recently renovated. Charming 2 bdrm. Victorian lower duplex. Sunny eat-in kitchen/wood floor. Ceramic bathroom. Lots of built-ins, high ceilings, on site laundry, newer carpeting. Incl. heat, water, trash. NP/NS. Landlords who care! \$950; 651-292-8596.

SUMMIT HILL. Victorian Mansion. Spacious garden level. 3 bedrooms. 3 baths. 3 fireplaces. Hi-speed internet, Cable TV, heat/water included. Semi-furnished. Smoke/pet free. Gourmet kitchen, \$1,525. Available now. Must see to believe. www.bethanyvillageliving.com; 612-237-6784 or 651-291-0965.

CROCUS HILL. 3 BR, S/S duplex, nat. wdwk., hwd, floors, dishwasher, attic, basement, 2 screen porches, fenced yard; \$1,375 +; 651-222-4327; avail. Aug. 1.

RENTALS TO SHARE: Summit Hill. Private rooms/fireplace in exquisitely furnished historic mansion. Includes all utilities, laundry, in-room hi-speed internet and cable TV. Smoke/pet free. \$500-\$625. Avail. Aug. 1. www.bethanyvillage.com; 612-237-6784 or 651-291-0965.

ONE & TWO bdrm. apartments available. Quiet community environment. Heat, water and trash removal included. Call 651-645-7602.

SUMMIT HILL. Spacious side-by-side. 4 BR plus, 4 BA. Gourmet kitchen, fireplace. Smoke/pet free. \$1,600 plus utilities. Avail. Aug. 1. 651-291-0965 or 612-237-6784.

LUXURY TOWNHOMES. Great location off W 7th. Features include 2+ bedroom, stainless steel appliances, granite countertops, maple cabinets, balcony and 2+ car garages. Fully furnished an option. For more information, call Amy at BDC Management Co., 612-371-0766. Equal Housing Opportunity.

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GRAND AVE. Prime 1 and 2+ person office space available immediately. Ideal for consultants, therapists, body work, etc. Adjacent shops & parking. From \$250. Contact Ross, 612-824-7000, ext. 31, or Sue, ext. 32.

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PROF. OFFICE rental: fireplace, waiting room, hardwood floors. Call Alison, 651-647-5722.

OFFICE SPACE. Highland Village, 900 sq. ft. of first floor office space; ready to move in; 670 S. Cleveland Ave. Call 651-698-3828

BLOOMINGTON EXECUTIVE SUITES, 7800 Metro Pkwy. Prime 1 and 2+ person office space available immediately. Ideal for consultants, psychologists, attorneys, etc. Located near both airports and MOA. From \$400. Contact Judy, 952-851-9040.

OFFICE SPACE Merriam Park, 366 Prior Ave. N. Call Ron, 612-386-6964.

PROFESSIONAL OFFICE, second floor, 961 Grand Ave. Great rate. 612-810-2281.

3107 E. 42ND ST. Store approx. 25x60. Full basement. Ideal office, shop or display room. Excellent condition. Near busy restaurant; near Ford Bridge; 2 blocks from light rail. 1-507-282-3237.

GRAND AVE. at 45 S. Syndicate; across from Kowalski's Market, retail/office space, 1954 sq. ft. plus basement. Excellent exposure. Heavy traffic. Please call 651-699-3003.

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