



# VILLAGER

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## State agrees to fund Snelling medians

### It's unclear if money will be accepted or if controversial project will be built

By JANE McCLURE

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) has recommended contributing up to \$197,000 in state funds to construct a series of medians on Snelling Avenue between Grand and St. Clair avenues. Meanwhile, Ward 3 St. Paul City Council member Pat Harris continues to question the project's design and how the medians would affect residents living east of Macalester College and the businesses at Lincoln Commons near Grand and Snelling.

St. Paul officials have until April 28 to decide whether or not to accept the state money for the \$750,000 project. The cost would be split by Macalester and the state. The state money would cover the cost of a basic set of concrete medians, but Macalester officials

want to add landscaping and other features. MnDOT is involved because Snelling is a state highway.

Harris said he would consider having the city accept the funding before the April deadline, but only with the understanding that the project would need to be changed. The scope of changes MnDOT would allow and still enable the city to keep the funding is unknown.

A series of 10-foot-wide landscaped medians are being proposed for the five-block stretch along the east side of Macalester's campus. Two lanes of traffic would be maintained in each direction, with turn lanes provided at Grand and St. Clair. There also would be openings for southbound vehicles turning left only at Goodrich and Osceola avenues. Parking

SNELLING MEDIANS ▶ 4



O'Donovan's Irish Pub owner Dermot Cowley interviews Peyton Haecker, 11, of Macalester-Groveland, who for the past four years has gotten his head shaved at the downtown Minneapolis bar for the benefit of the St. Baldrick's Foundation's children's cancer research fund. This year Peyton convinced his grandfather and four of his 5th-grade classmates at Capitol Hill School to join him. Their team, the Bald Boys, raised over \$1,000 for the foundation. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

## Central Corridor transit zoning study is running a bit late

### City planners want to extend temporary limits on University development beyond one year

By JANE McCLURE

The city of St. Paul on March 29 will unveil its plans for redevelopment around the seven transit stations that have been proposed along University Avenue as part of the Central Corridor light-rail project. The public is invited to review and comment on the plans between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. that Saturday at the Central Corridor Resource Center, 1080 University Ave.

Architectural renderings of the stations at

Westgate, Raymond, Fairview, Snelling, Lexington, Dale and Rice streets will be exhibited, along with possible public art works and plans for land uses within a quarter-mile of each station under a proposed zoning ordinance that is intended to promote transit-oriented development around the stations.

St. Paul city planners and city consultants from the Toronto firm Urban Strategies will be on hand to answer questions and gather public testimony. The station area plans will eventually be adopted by the St. Paul Planning Commission and City Council to guide public and private investment around each of the proposed stations.

Since last June, the city has regulated development around the proposed transit sta-

tions under an interim zoning ordinance. The interim ordinance will expire this June as required by state law. However, a permanent ordinance for transit-oriented development in the Central Corridor will not be ready for final adoption by the City Council until at least mid-summer. In the meantime, the Planning Commission is asking the City Council to adopt the interim zoning regulations as the permanent ordinance and then amend that ordinance once the station area plans are ready.

The short-term fix has raised red flags for the St. Paul Area and Midway chambers of commerce. Midway Chamber president Lori Fritts said her organization supported the interim zoning ordinance as a short-term com-

promise. "Our hope was that it would only be in place for 12 months," she said.

Molly Grove, vice president of public affairs for the St. Paul chamber, said the chamber's membership is concerned that the interim zoning regulations could become the final regulations for new development around the station sites.

Paula Maccabee, an attorney representing Midway Center owner RK Midway, has asked the Planning Commission to be mindful of the challenges faced by University Avenue businesses in the current soft economy. "This is a very difficult time," Maccabee said. "The tax burden in St. Paul is very high." She said

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Highland District Council board members look forward to putting a year of troubles behind them ▶ 4

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# Transit sales tax finds favor among county commissioners

BY KEVIN DRISCOLL

Three of the four county commissioners representing districts in the area served by the *Villager* say they will vote for a new quarter-percent sales tax devoted to transit. Commissioners Rafael Ortega and Toni Carter in Ramsey County and Peter McLaughlin in Hennepin County have embraced the sales tax as a way to promote mass transit without further burdening property taxpayers.

Meanwhile, Dakota County Commissioner Tom Egan said he hasn't "completely made up my mind. But I also recognize the importance of this money to help with local matching funds for the \$133 million that the federal government is providing for the Cedar Avenue Corridor Bus Rapid Transit project. We're also going to need funds for rapid bus transit on I-35W."

Permission to impose the sales tax was granted to the seven counties in the Twin Cities metropolitan area as part of the \$6.6 billion transportation bill recently passed by the Minnesota Legislature over the veto of Governor Tim Pawlenty. However, Scott and Carver County officials have said they won't be approving the transit tax, at least for now.

## Annual transit sales tax revenue forecast

County	2008	2009	2010
Anoka	\$1.5 million	\$9 million	\$9.3 million
Dakota	\$2.24 million	\$13.8 million	\$14.2 million
Hennepin	\$33.6 million	\$59 million	\$61 million
Ramsey	\$11.1 million	\$19.5 million	\$20.15 million
Washington	\$1.5 million	\$5.9 million	\$6.05 million
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$49.394 million</b>	<b>\$107.2 million</b>	<b>\$110.7 million</b>

The chart above shows the projected revenue from a 0.25 percent sales tax enacted on July 1, 2008, by the five metropolitan area counties that are considering such a tax this year.

Meanwhile, officials from Ramsey, Hennepin, Dakota, Anoka and Washington counties have formed a joint powers board that will vote on the allocation of the sales tax revenue project by project.

According to McLaughlin, 95 of the 100 votes on the joint powers board will be allotted to the five counties based on population and annual sales tax receipts. Currently, that would give Hennepin 47, Ramsey 18, Dakota 13, Anoka 10 and Washington County seven votes. The other five votes would go to the governor-appointed Metropolitan Council, which operates the transit system in the metro area.

"The transit sales tax fulfills the long-term goal of providing a

dedicated funding source for mass transit throughout the metropolitan area," McLaughlin said. "Some of the counties were worried about not having a say, so we all decided it will take a minimum of 63 votes to pass anything and 75 votes to approve large amounts of money for big projects."

Ortega said he is happy with the joint powers arrangement. "Even though Hennepin County is the elephant in the room, they'll still need the voting equivalent of at least two other counties for approval of anything," he said.

Carter said she is "looking forward to voting for the transit sales tax because it will help us build and operate the Central Corridor and

other transit lines and ease the burden on local property taxes."

Ortega agreed. "Revenue from the transit sales tax will save \$47 million in property taxes we would've otherwise paid as part of Ramsey County's \$105 million share of the Central Corridor construction costs," he said. "And it will completely eliminate the need for any future property tax hikes to cover the light-rail line's operating costs."

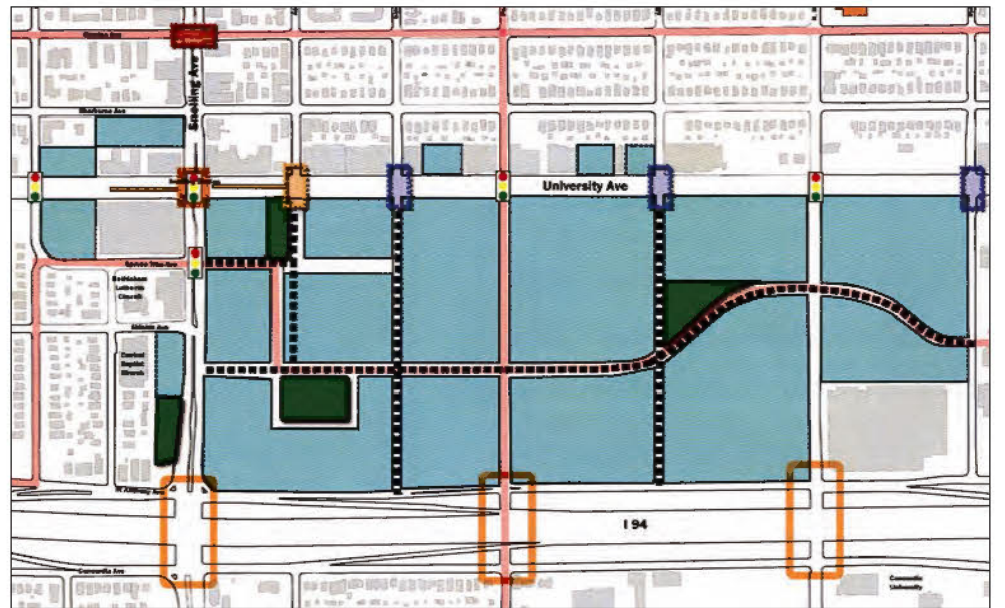
Janice Rettman, perhaps the most fiscally conservative of the seven members of the Ramsey County Board, said she is leaning in favor of the transit tax, especially if it will "remove the burden Ramsey County property taxpayers were facing in paying for construction and ongo-

ing operation of the Central Corridor."

The sales tax on purchases other than food, clothing and medicine is now 6.5 percent in Minnesota, though additional local sales taxes increase that to 7 percent in St. Paul and 7.15 percent in Minneapolis. The transit sales tax would raise those numbers to 6.75 percent in Dakota County, 7.25 percent in St. Paul and 7.40 percent in Minneapolis. (St. Paul also has an additional sales tax on hotel rooms, and Minneapolis has an additional sales tax on lodging, entertainment and downtown liquor and restaurant sales.)

Ortega, Carter, Rettman and McLaughlin are not up for re-election until 2010. Egan, who is due to face voters this fall, said he has been lobbied by the Minnesota Taxpayers League to oppose the transit sales tax, but most of the comments he has received have been in favor of the tax.

Counties may not begin collecting the transit sales tax until 90 days after they approve the tax. Ortega is hoping that happens soon. "We don't want to miss out on that new sales tax revenue that will be generated by the Republican National Convention in September," he said.



Diagrams from the city of St. Paul's proposed Station Area Plan for Snelling Avenue show the current layout of the Midway Shopping Center (left) and how bicycle, pedestrian and motor-vehicle traffic could be improved in the area by putting new east-west and north-south thoroughfares through the half-mile long shopping district (right).

### 1 ◀ STATION AREA PLANS

any new zoning regulations need to encourage, not discourage, commercial and residential development.

The interim zoning regulations restrict new development in several ways. Their parameters for building height and setback, building design, the size and placement of parking lots and the ratio of usable floor space to a building's footprint are all intended to promote more dense, transit-oriented development. The regulations also forbid some land uses entirely, including auto sales, auto rentals, auto repair and service stations.

According to Fritts and Maccabee, any new zoning regulations in the Central Corridor need to accommodate projects that are already in the works, including RK Midway's plans for a large home improvement store at Pascal and St. Anthony avenues and new retail stores on the former Metro Transit bus barn site at Snelling and St. Anthony avenues.

Local district planning councils, University United and the District Councils Collaborative all encouraged the Planning Commission to recommend the extension of the interim zoning regulations until a permanent zoning ordinance can be adopted. "We want to see University Avenue transformed into a transit-

oriented, pedestrian-friendly environment," said Linda Winsor of University United, "and we believe these regulations would do that."

According to city planner Donna Drummond, "keeping transit-supportive zoning in place along University Avenue is critical, especially given the support that the proposed Central Corridor light-rail line received in February."

Drummond was referring to the Metropolitan Council's adoption of a \$909.1 million plan for building the Central Corridor light-rail line between the downtowns of St. Paul and Minneapolis. Having transit-oriented zoning regulations in place will also help the

city make a case for federal funding for the Central Corridor project, Drummond said.

Each plan for the seven station areas includes a history of the area, an overview of current land uses, the proposed location of each transit station, potential new public art and public spaces, and ways to improve motor vehicle, pedestrian and bicycle traffic.

The potential for economic development around each transit station is also projected out to 2030, including the prospects for new housing, offices, retail stores, industries and hotels should the Central Corridor light-rail transit line open as scheduled in 2014.



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# HDC directors hoping to put troubles of 2007 behind them

By Kevin Driscoll

With the Highland District Council's financial troubles on the verge of resolution, HDC president Bill Klein says he is looking forward to the organization's annual meeting on April 9 and a chance for its board of directors to "get back to its core responsibilities of serving the residents of Highland Park on crime issues, rebuilding the block clubs and resuming our strong involvement in the neighborhood cleanups and Home Improvement Fair.

"I hope the next year is a more cooperative and productive one for the council," Klein said. "Dealing with the financial troubles and other issues took up all of our time, and we didn't accomplish as much as I'd hoped."

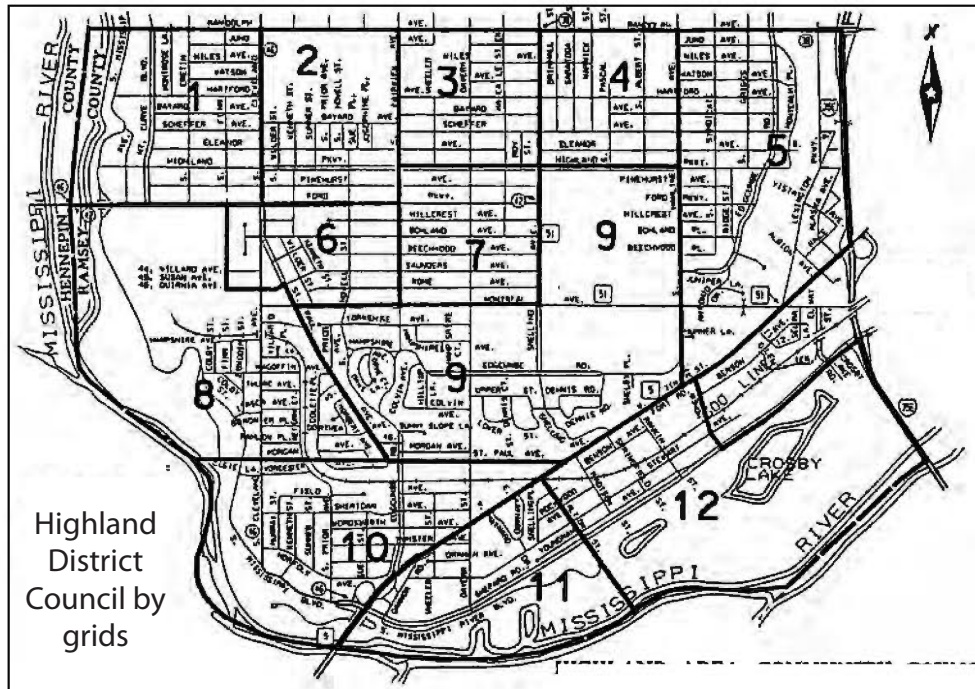
It was at the HDC's annual meeting in April 2007 when a record turnout of Highland residents brought about a significant turnover in the HDC's board of directors. At that meeting, local residents with Republican leanings succeeded in electing eight of their own to seats on the HDC's 18-member board.

In May, new board members Bill Poulos and Georgia Dietz were elected board president and vice president, respectively. A week later, longtime HDC community organizer Gayle Summers resigned and the new board leadership discovered that the HDC had failed to pay state and federal withholding taxes and had failed to file state and federal tax returns for several quarters between the years 1998 and 2007. With penalties and interest, the HDC's tax liability was believed to be close to \$88,000.

Sevenich, Butler, Gerlach & Brazil, a Highland Park accounting firm hired by the HDC to review its financial records, attributed the tax liability to sloppy bookkeeping and minimal oversight by previous HDC boards.

The HDC board was able to make some tax payments with available funds, and it discovered an overcharge of more than \$11,000 by the IRS. However, it still owed more than \$56,000 in taxes, penalties and interest to the IRS.

Over the next nine months, Klein and newly elected HDC treasurer Tim Puffer worked out a settlement with the local office of the IRS that will require the HDC to pay only \$8,042.25 in actual taxes owed. The money



would be drawn from the \$65,500 in reimbursement grants that the HDC receives each year from the city of St. Paul.

Late last year, city officials agreed to allow the HDC to use unspent city grant money from 2007 to pay back taxes from previous years as long as the HDC could find eligible expenses in those years for which it was never reimbursed. No city grant money was allowed to be spent to pay penalties or interest.

The HDC is now awaiting the approval of the New York City office of the IRS, which is expected to render its decision by the end of April, according to Puffer.

Shawn Bartsh, a Highland Park attorney who has represented the Highland Business Association on the HDC board for the past 15 years, said she has "never experienced the kinds of problems and rancor between board members that I have this past year."

That rancor culminated on January 29 in the removal of Poulos as president of the HDC board. Poulos had opposed the board's efforts to settle its tax liability from previous years with unspent city grant money from 2007. Fellow board members accused Poulos of trying to undermine the HDC's efforts to reach a settlement with the IRS. Poulos, who is still a member of the HDC board, said he was concerned that the HDC was being al-

lowed to slip through a loophole in city law and believed he was acting in the best interests of taxpayers and the HDC.

HDC vice president Georgia Dietz may also have been removed from office on January 29, but the board backed off when she threatened to file a complaint with the St. Paul Human Rights Department that she was being ousted in retaliation for the age-discrimination complaint she had lodged against the board a few weeks earlier for not hiring her as the HDC's permanent community organizer.

Though she was not removed as vice president, Dietz "filed the second complaint anyway," Klein said. "She's claiming that it was retaliatory for the board to even consider removing her."

Both of Dietz's complaints are still pending with the city's Human Rights Department.

Bartsh attributed the rancor on the board to Poulos and Dietz. "They touted how they were elected as reform Republicans, but it proved to be a contentious and unproductive year because of their very positions," she said. "I've worked with Republicans, Democrats and independents on this board for all those years and we've always worked well together. (Poulos and Dietz) caused a lot of division on the board, and there ended up being too many useless meetings where the whole time

was spent arguing over one minor procedure. It made it hard to go to the meetings when you felt nothing constructive was going to be accomplished.

"With Bill Klein as president and the hiring of Kathy (Carruth as HDC community organizer), things are finally calming down and going more smoothly," Bartsh said. "I have great hopes that we can get back to doing what we're chartered by the city to do."

Klein is hoping for a large turnout at the HDC's annual meeting. "We exist to serve everybody in Highland," he said, "and the more people who participate, the better for the community and the HDC. Hopefully, the annual meeting will be the start of a new year of cooperation and civility among board members."

The annual meeting will include a full report on the HDC's tax settlement as well as the election of eight board members to two-year terms, including the representatives of the district's six even-numbered grids (see map) and two at-large representatives.

"There are a lot of good people out there who can and should run (for the board)," said Gary Marx, who represents Grid 8 on the board but has not decided yet whether he will seek re-election. "We're expecting a big turnout at the annual meeting because of the controversy during the past year."

"(Puffer) did a great job of dealing with the financial mess," Klein said. "I truly hope he stays on as treasurer."

Puffer, who represents Grid 7 on the board, said he is "not opposed to serving another year as treasurer. If we don't have all the loose financial ends wrapped up by the election of officers in May, I'll definitely run for treasurer again. But I hope we can move past the financial problems now that they're essentially over, and get back to addressing crime and traffic issues. We need to start focusing on what it is St. Paul's district councils are supposed to be doing."

The annual meeting will run from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 9, in the auditorium of Ford Motor Company's Twin Cities Assembly Plant, 2239 Ford Pkwy.

"I'm putting together a big dessert table, too," Carruth said. "If anyone wants to contribute a dessert, they can call the HDC office at 651-695-4005."

## 1◀ SNELLING MEDIANS

would be banned on both sides of Snelling except for customer parking at St. Clair.

MnDOT notified the city on March 12 of the decision to contribute to the project. However, the money would not be made available until 2009. MnDOT officials have indicated that another \$250,000 would be available for the project through a mill and overlay project on Snelling that is scheduled for 2012. That could be moved up if the St. Paul Public Works Department agrees to cover the costs now and be reimbursed by the state later.

Harris said he is still weighing the pros and cons of the medians. "We have to look at all of the impacts this project could have," he said. "It's not a done deal."

Harris said he would like to see another median test, using a different configuration than

the one that was used last year. However, the deadline for accepting the state funds makes a test before then unlikely.

Tom Welna, director of Macalester's High Winds Fund, said MnDOT's decision is a green light for the college to start raising money for the medians. However, he is concerned about Harris' qualms about the project.

The Macalester-Groveland Community Council recommended conditional approval of the project in January, with the understanding that the board would have a vote on the final median plans.

The project has been pitched as a way to improve pedestrian safety across Snelling and slow traffic. However, some residents living east of Snelling contend that the medians could push more traffic onto their streets and alleys. The medians would also eliminate access for southbound Snelling traffic to the businesses

at Lincoln Commons. Southbound vehicles on Snelling would have to turn left onto other neighborhood streets and backtrack, or make U-turns on Snelling where there are median breaks to get to those shops.

Lincoln Commons owner Ross Fefercorn said the medians might cause more traffic problems that they would solve. His tenants, which include Coastal Seafoods, Caribou Coffee, Great Clips and Fed Ex/Kinkos, reported lost business during the test run of the medians last fall, according to him.

"I'm not against pedestrian safety and traffic calming," Fefercorn said, "but it's questionable whether putting medians on a very short stretch of street is going to have the impact people are looking for."

Last November, the Macalester-Groveland Community Council's Transportation Committee recommended approval of the project

with four conditions, two of which Public Works rejected. A request for a left-turn arrow for southbound traffic at Snelling and St. Clair was rejected because traffic counts were not deemed high enough to justify it. A request to create cut-ins on Snelling to allow stopped buses to pull out of traffic lanes was nixed because buses already stop in traffic on that stretch of Snelling and it would not make much of a difference to traffic flow.

A third request was to see if Lincoln Avenue could be turned back into a two-way street. It was changed to a westbound one-way street east of Snelling in 1992 because of neighborhood concerns about traffic. Lincoln residents have already expressed their opposition to the change.

The fourth condition was to explore other options for providing access to Lincoln Commons. Those options are still being studied.

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A 1920 postcard showing the eastern entrance to the old Selby Avenue streetcar tunnel.

# Streetcar desires Plan to turn old Selby tunnel into museum picks up speed

By JANE McCLURE

The eastern entrance to the old Selby Avenue streetcar tunnel sits all but forgotten today. Summit Hill resident Jim White would like to change that by preserving the space within the arched opening as a small museum.

"The end of the tunnel is deteriorating and it should be preserved," said White, who has spent the last few months asking St. Paul district councils and other groups to write letters of support for a tunnel's preservation.

The Summit Hill Association has already voted to support the project. The Summit-University Planning Council heard a presentation on the tunnel last month, but is waiting for more information before taking a position. Presentations to other area councils are scheduled in the weeks ahead.

The tunnel, which will turn 101 this year, was closed when the Twin Cities streetcar system gradually shut down from 1953-54. Most of the 1,474-foot-long tunnel was filled in. The west entrance near the Cathedral of St. Paul is long gone, but the east end below the offices for the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis is still there.

The tunnel's entrance has been fenced off, though it has been frequented by squatters and urban explorers from time to time. White wants to clean out the years of accumulated trash inside and restore the entrance to its former appearance.

Preliminary estimates put the cost of restoration at \$500,000. The tunnel cost about \$366,000 to build a century ago.

The east end of the tunnel is on city-owned property, so the project would be eligible for Capital Improvement Budget funds. The next CIB funding cycle is in 2009, so money from the city would not be forthcoming until 2010-2011 at the earliest. White also hopes to receive financial support from the Minnesota Transportation Museum, where he is a volunteer, and from the nearby Minnesota History Center.

In the mid-1970s, the Selby tunnel was eyed as part of the Metropolitan Transit Commission's proposed downtown "People Mover" route. The 2.6-mile monorail would have provided circulating mass transit for St. Paul's downtown, but was scuttled following a failed referendum in 1980.

In his book *Lost Twin Cities*, author Larry Millet points out that the Selby tunnel was one of the first in America to be built of rein-

forced concrete. It was designed for the Twin Cities Rapid Transit Company by Charles Shepley. The tunnel became part of a streetcar route that had opened in January 1888 as the Merriam Park and then Selby-Lake line. Much of the old route is still followed by Metro Transit's Route 21 buses.

Before the tunnel was built, getting streetcars up the steep grade of what was then called St. Anthony Hill was a challenge. The streetcars ran on a cable line at first, with moving cables beneath the street surface. One of the most serious streetcar accidents in the city occurred there a few days after the route opened. A two-car streetcar train went out of control and crashed at the bottom of the hill, killing one passenger and injuring 30 others.

The cable system was slow and problematic in the winter. A counterweight system was then installed in 1898. Smaller modified streetcars were used as counterweights to guide streetcars up and down the hill. That system was abandoned when the Selby tunnel opened in 1907.

Twin Cities newspapers hailed the tunnel as an important safety feature for the Twin Cities streetcar system. The 15-foot-high and 23-foot-wide tunnel had two sets of tracks and allowed streetcars to safely travel a 7 degree grade for one-third of a mile. The tunnel's curved design at its base was meant to prevent streetcars from going out of control.

The east end of the tunnel was in a mixed residential and institutional area, and the west end was near the Cathedral and a mix of homes and businesses. Several of those businesses used the location in their names, including Tunnel Drug at 281 Selby Ave. and Tunnel Tavern at 293 Selby. Streetcar tokens from the Tunnel Tavern still show up on eBay today.

## Corrections

A story in the March 12 *Villager* should have stated that anti-Catholic groups like the Orangemen gave rise to the Hibernian order.

The final scope and budget for the \$909.1 million Central Corridor light-rail transit project, approved by the Metropolitan Council on February 27, includes resurfacing University Avenue and installing new curbs and sidewalks on either side from 29th Avenue in Minneapolis to Rice Street in St. Paul.

Earlier this month, the District 13 Council reaffirmed the Snelling-Hamline board's opposition to vacating an additional portion of an alley near the new Anchor Bank.

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# Macalester envisions institute for educating global citizens

By JANE MCCLURE

Macalester College's plan to construct a building to house an Institute for Global Citizenship at the northwest corner of Grand and Snelling avenues received a recommendation of support from the Macalester-Groveland Community Council on March 13. The site plan for the construction project is set for review by city staff on March 26. Construction could begin in June and be complete by summer 2009.

The institute would be erected where the one-story Winton Health Services building now stands. The new building is expected to cost \$7.5 million, with an additional \$2.5 million earmarked for endowed programs. The project has already received a \$3 million gift from Ruth Stricker Dayton and Bruce Dayton, according to Mark Dickinson, the college's director of facilities. The architect for the project is Bruner/Cott of Massachusetts.

The proposed 17,000-square-foot building would house the college's internship program, civic engagement center and international cen-



Macalester's proposed Institute for Global Citizenship on Grand and Snelling avenues.

ter. Plans also are under way to develop a six-course, multidisciplinary concentration in global citizenship.

No zoning changes are required for the building, since it would lie within the campus boundaries. However, plans call for the building to be constructed 34 feet from Grand and 73 feet from Snelling, which requires a setback variance. Macalester's conditional use permit

from the city calls for a minimum 50-foot setback from the public right-of-way. The Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a public hearing on the variance request, though no date for it has been set.

Work on the new building would start just as another major construction project on campus is nearing completion. The college's \$45 million athletic and recreation center

on Snelling Avenue is expected to be finished in August, said Tom Welna, director of the college's High Winds office.

Dickinson said Macalester will be seeking platinum certification for the institute through Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), a building rating system devised by the U.S. Green Building Council. The building's "green"

features will include the use of environmentally friendly construction materials, numerous windows designed to maximize sunlight, permeable paving on the grounds, solar panels on the roof and an energy-efficient lighting system.

Most district council questions on March 13 centered on the building's setbacks, what its LEED status will mean and whether existing trees will be preserved. College officials hope to save a large white pine near the Grand and Snelling corner as well as other trees. The building's design was praised as enhancing the appearance of the corner.

Welna said the idea for creating a global institute at Macalester was hatched after former United Nations' Secretary General Kofi Annan's visited the campus several years ago. Annan, a 1961 Macalester graduate, is a member of the institute's advisory board. Other board members include former vice president Walter Mondale, former St. Paul mayor George Latimer, former governor Arne Carlson and several local and international foundation and academic leaders.

## News Briefs

### Panel to discuss controversial energy source for Rock-Tenn

One of the most potentially controversial new energy sources for the Rock-Tenn paper recycling plant on Vandalia Street and I-94 will be discussed at the next Rock-Tenn Community Advisory Panel meeting on March 31: refuse-derived fuel (RDF). The meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. at Wilder Center, 451 N. Lexington Pkwy. Rock-Tenn officials have stated publicly that they would prefer not to use RDF, which is often referred to as garbage.

Rock-Tenn is working with the St. Paul Port Authority, District Energy St. Paul subsidiary Ever Green Energy and RCAP to find an alternative to the steam power that kept the paper recycler running for many years. Its steam power was lost last year during construction of Xcel Energy's new natural gas-powered High Bridge plant. Rock-Tenn has been using an older fuel oil and natural gas boiler to continue operations, but that is not seen by company officials as economically feasible over the long term.

Without a new, ongoing source of inexpensive power, there are concerns that Rock-Tenn could close and more than 500 jobs could be lost. RCAP, which was established by the Minnesota Legislature, has been debat-

ing new power sources for many months. A wide range of fuels, including biomass, natural gas, wind and solar energy, have been reviewed over the past several months. Consultants have also looked at the energy needs for Rock-Tenn and ways the plant can reduce its energy consumption.

The first phase of RCAP's study of new energy sources is supposed to be completed this summer. The goal is to have a new Rock-Tenn power plant up and running by 2011.

### SHA seeks more comments on refrigerated rink at Linwood

The ice skating season is over and discussion of a proposed refrigerated rink at the Linwood Recreation Center may be heating up again. Believing that more public discussion is needed before any decision is made, the Summit Hill Association decided on March 13 to set up an ad hoc committee and plan a public meeting to seek comments.

"There's still a lot of information to be gathered," said SHA board president Mark Sutherland. "There's a lot we don't know."

SHA board member John Angst is chairing the ad hoc group. The committee will work with the Linwood Booster Club and St. Paul Division of Parks and Recreation to set up a meeting. The booster club has asked for more

details on how a rink would fit at Linwood and how it would affect field space.

Mayor Chris Coleman pushed for the city to install three public refrigerated ice rinks last year. One was installed at Phalen and a second at North Dale. Groveland was suggested as a third site due to the popularity of skating and hockey there, but the Groveland Booster Club and Highland-Groveland Recreation Association rejected the idea due to space issues.

There also are field space limitations at Linwood. Open space on the upper area of the park along St. Clair Avenue is restricted by deed and installing a rink on the lower area would eliminate at least one field. The fields are used by the Linwood Booster Club, St. Thomas More Catholic School and one other youth league.

### Dixie's receives City Council's approval to expand its patio

Dixie's on Grand, 695 Grand Ave., will be allowed to extend its outdoor bar and restaurant service area and rebuild its patio as a result of St. Paul City Council action on March 19. The council approved the service extension without adding additional conditions to the licenses held by the restaurant.

A legislative hearing on the patio was held last month after six neighbors sent e-mails of

concern to city officials. However, none of the neighbors attended the legislative hearing.

The patio plans and extension of liquor service were recommended for approval in January by the Summit Hill Association. Dixie's remodeled the interior of its building more than a year ago, moving its main entrance from Grand to the east side of the building in the process. That, in turn, reduced the patio seating.

Last year the City Council gave Dixie's a \$32,500 loan to expand the patio through the city's Neighborhood Sales Tax Revitalization program. That money will be matched by Dixie's owners to enlarge the patio for year-round use, improve accessibility for disabled people and add a gas fireplace. The improvements will also include new wrought iron fencing, new lighting and a new sidewalk.

The patio will remain 49 feet long, but will be widened to the east by 10 feet. The number of seats will actually will be reduced from 42 prior to last year's remodeling to 34, in order to add the fireplace and provide space for smokers. The parking lot will be reconfigured to keep the same amount of parking spaces.

Work on the patio is scheduled to be completed before the Republican National Convention comes to St. Paul in September.

News Briefs compiled by Jane McClure.



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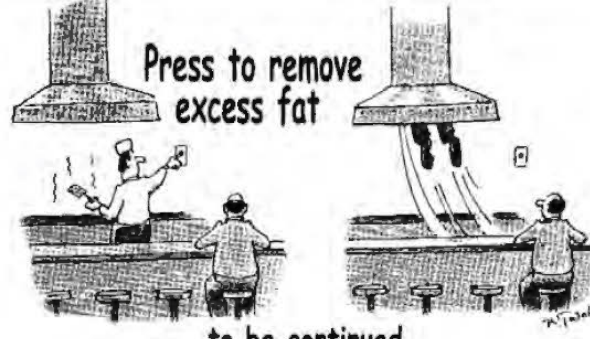


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# Council cancels condition for more decorative openings on UST ramp

By JANE McCLURE

When the University of St. Thomas starts construction on its new 700-space parking ramp at the southwest corner of Cretin and Grand avenues this spring, it will not be as decorative as the St. Paul Planning Commission would have liked. The St. Paul City Council voted unanimously on March 19 to uphold the university's appeal of the commission's earlier decision to require decorative elements on the ramp's openings that face Cretin and Goodrich avenues. The condition was added after a public hearing was held on the project's site plan without St. Thomas officials being able to respond.



The proposed ramp at Grand and Cretin.

Putting decorative glass or grillwork over the ramp openings was seen as a way to mitigate noise from the ramp. University officials reviewed five different designs for the ramp openings, but did not like any of them, which prompted the appeal.

Doug Hennes, the university's vice president for intergovernmental relations, said St. Thomas would have preferred not to appeal the condition to the City Council. "But this was literally an 11th-hour addition," he said.

No one appeared at the public hearing to speak against the appeal. Ward 4 council member Russ Stark argued that the Planning Commission's condition should be reversed, given the broad support the ramp has garnered and the extensive review process that St. Thomas went through.

The \$15 million ramp will be built of pre-cast buff and brown concrete. Adding any one of the screening options would have increased construction costs by about \$150,000, Hennes said, and would have required additional maintenance costs. The screening also could have affected light and ventilation, said Mark Welsh of Ryan Companies, the contractor for the project.

On March 11, the West Summit Neighborhood Advisory Committee voted to support

the university's appeal. Both the District 13 and Macalester-Groveland community councils also recommended approval of the ramp without the decorative elements.

"In my mind, a deal's a deal," said WSNAC co-chair Scott Banas. He noted that St. Thomas made several changes in the design of the ramp to accommodate requests from WSNAC and he questioned why any more changes should be needed.

WSNAC member Joel Clemmer said the ramp is far enough from residences that it should not negatively affect light and air for surrounding properties. The ramp will be set back 70 feet from Cretin and a softball field will separate it from Goodrich.

"I'm also concerned about the process," Clemmer said. According to him, the suggested design changes should have been made when St. Thomas could have responded without paying a \$500 appeal fee.

The ramp will have one level below ground and four levels above, with the capability to add two more stories. Construction will start after graduation in May and be finished by the fall of 2009. The ramp needs to be in place before St. Thomas can build a new student center on its parking lot at the northeast corner of Cretin and Summit avenues.

A management plan has been prepared to keep neighbors apprised of potential traffic, noise and dust issues during construction. That plan will be posted on the university's website this spring.

# St. Paul picks firm to design new fire station at Randolph-West 7th

By JANE McCLURE

The St. Paul Fire Department's plan to build a new \$15.2 million station at the corner of West 7th Street and Randolph Avenue took a step forward on March 25 with the selection of Collaborative Design Group as the architect.

The new fire station will house the companies from Stations Nos. 1 and 10, along with the Fire Department's administrative offices, which must move from their longtime downtown location to make way for the proposed Penfield condominium project. Construction of the fire station is expected to start this fall and be finished by late 2009.

Preliminary plans call for a two-story, 52,600-square-foot building that will be similar in design to Station No. 8, which was recently built in downtown. Collaborative Design Group will also be asked to incorporate ideas from a fire station task force in the design.

Collaborative Design Group has designed fire stations in Minneapolis and Rochester as well as several smaller fire stations for volunteer departments in small towns. This will be the Minneapolis company's third fire station in St. Paul. It also designed Station 14 at Snelling and Laurel avenues and Station 23 on Como Avenue.

The two neighborhood fire stations that are being replaced—No. 10 at 754 Randolph Ave. and No. 1 at 296 W. 7th St.—are considered functionally obsolete.

Ward 2 City Council member Dave Thune said there is a desire to have the new fire sta-

tion reflect the character of the West End neighborhood's historic character. According to him, there is a push to have the building have two facades, given its location on a such a prominent intersection, and that it be faced with brick to complement surrounding buildings.

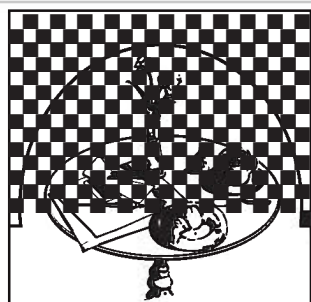
The corner where the fire station will be built is currently occupied by a gravel parking lot and two houses. At a discussion of fire station plans on March 10, West 7th/Fort Road Federation board members said they want to see a design that improves the corner and makes it more of a gateway. The station will be built across the street from where United Family Practice Health Clinic plans to build its new facility this year.

"Having another anchor on that corner would be a really good thing," said West 7th board member Erik Hare.

Federation members also want the building to tie into long-range plans to transform Randolph Avenue between West 7th and the Mississippi River into a pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly boulevard.

Stations No. 1 and 10 will be sold once the new station is complete. Some sentiment was voiced on March 10 for turning No. 10 into a museum, but Thune questioned whether that was practical.

Before talking about reusing the old stations, Thune and federation board members said decisions have to be made about the impact of the new fire station. One issue is how to accommodate customer parking on West 7th and Randolph after the parking lot at the corner is gone.



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# Viewpoint

## Revolving prison cell doors

BY MICHAEL MISCHKE

Was justice served, or cruel and unusual punishment meted out? Not that it makes much of a difference at this point, pending a threatened legal appeal.

Either way, Sara Jane Olson (née Kathleen Soliah) is back in a California prison that she has called home for the past six years because of the admitted role she played in 1975 in the Symbionese Liberation Army's attempted bombing of Los Angeles police cars, and in the same self-styled urban guerillas' armed robbery of a Sacramento bank that left one innocent bystander dead.

Olson, a Highland Park housewife and mother of three, had been living underground for 23 years, as far as the authorities were concerned, when she was arrested by FBI agents at 8:30 a.m. on June 16, 1999, while driving her minivan near Edgumbe Road and Niles Avenue in Highland Park. Three years later, she pleaded guilty to both crimes and was sentenced to two concurrent six-year prison terms. Her sentence was subsequently extended by two years.

Olson was released from the Central California Women's Facility last Monday. After staying for five days with family members in Palmdale, California, she was waiting to board a flight to the Twin Cities on Saturday when she learned that she wasn't going anywhere. The California Corrections Department had determined that there had been a mistake: Upon further review, she was not supposed to be released from prison until March 17, 2009.

It's hard to fathom a corrections department having that much trouble figuring out the correct release date for a prisoner, despite the fact that sentencing guidelines in California have changed over the past 30 years.

It's also hard to fathom the feelings of Olson's daughters and of her husband, United Hospital emergency room physician Gerald "Fred" Peterson. To learn on the day of their planned reunion in St. Paul that Olson had been reincarcerated for another year must have been wrenching, though obviously nowhere near as wrenching as was the death of Myrna Lee Opsahl, the innocent bystander who was shot during the bank robbery, to her family.



Sara Jane Olson as Minnesota suffragette Julia Bullard Nelson, performing in 1990 at Highland Park Elementary School.

The *Villager* published a feature story on Olson in November 1990 when she was on a statewide tour with the one-woman play, *A Woman of Purpose*, which is based on the life of Minnesota suffragette Julia Bullard Nelson. The story stated that Olson had been active in the women's movement since 1970.

Olson said in that story that her portrayal of Nelson showed audiences that "people don't have to be powerless; there's a lot they can do. But it's not easy to change things and you don't always get respect." Olson said the message of *A Woman of Purpose* was that "if you think there's something important to be changed in this society, go out and work. Every individual can make a difference. Any contribution is important."

Olson's "contributions" to California society may have been criminal, but by all accounts her contributions to her adopted home of St. Paul—as wife, mother, actress and social activist—were important. St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman, who met Peterson 29 years ago through common musical interests, said in that 1999 *Villager* story when he was still serving as a City Council member: "Sara always struck me as a gentle soul and very compassionate. Both Fred and Sara would give you the shirts off their backs if you needed it."

For better or worse, barring a successful appeal in the courts, Olson can keep her shirt on for the next year.



## For Highland's sake, let's come together

BY TIM PUFFER

Several letters to the editor have been published in the *Villager* over the past few months regarding the Highland District Council (HDC), its tax liability problems and partisan politics. As one who has been at the epicenter of the situation as the HDC's treasurer since last May, it has been frustrating to see so much unconstructive criticism based on misinformation, partial truths or a lack of effort to find the facts. The letter "What Republican coup?" (*Villager* Inbox, March 12) is a case in point. With no disrespect to Mr. Baum, its author, there is more to the story.

The HDC board elections and leadership changes orchestrated by Georgia Dietz and Bill Poulos in May 2007 did not oust people of just one political party. Very qualified Republican HDC board and committee members were removed or otherwise alienated as well.

Since last May, the HDC's new "Republican-controlled" board has had every opportunity to launch its reform agenda, but very few resolutions put forth by then-president Poulos and vice president Dietz were ever passed. One notable exception was the written action by Poulos to put Dietz on the HDC's payroll at an hourly rate that was 63 percent higher than the average pay for equivalent positions in the Twin Cities. It was an arrangement that Dietz fought desperately to keep by filing multiple complaints of human rights violations against the HDC when she could not secure the position permanently. Meanwhile, nearly every board proposal to move the HDC toward resolution of its tax liabilities and fulfillment of its responsibilities to the IRS and state of Minnesota was vociferously opposed by then-president Poulos.

Mr. Baum's letter seemed to criticize the removal of Poulos as HDC president and the election of Bill Klein as his replacement because Klein shared responsibility for the tax problems as an HDC board member when the tax problems were accumulating. However, Poulos was also an HDC board member during that time. Klein has devoted more of his own time to resolving the HDC's financial problems than any other HDC board member except the treasurer. That Klein was elected president on a 14-3 vote is more a testament to the respect he has earned from HDC board members of all political persuasions than any indication that the "new Republican members of the HDC board are going to start voting like the older members," as Mr. Baum writes.

Too much has been made of the blame game. There is plenty of blame to go around. In the 10 months that I have served as HDC treasurer, I have not seen one instance of anyone excusing what happened with the tax situation or denying responsibility for it. Former HDC community

organizer Gayle Summers was quite public in her admission of bad bookkeeping, delinquency in meeting tax reporting and payment obligations, and failure to involve the board in the situation. I cannot tell you the number of times former HDC officers and board members have told me in essence that "we screwed up" or "we should have done a better job of oversight."

One fact that I hope will not be overlooked is that the tax problems of the HDC are essentially behind us. If, as expected, the HDC receives notice in April that its compromise offer has been accepted by the IRS, federal tax obligations will have been satisfied. All federal withholding trust fund obligations have been fully met. Withholding and unemployment issues with the state of Minnesota have been satisfied. Assessment errors by the IRS were discovered and the liabilities were reduced. State penalties that were paid unnecessarily have been refunded. No taxpayer dollars were used to pay interest, penalties or debt. New financial practices are in place that will ensure that the HDC is not in this situation again. An outside review of the HDC's recent financial transactions gives us confidence that there have been no fraudulent transactions or misappropriation of funds.

There may be those who continue to publicly criticize the HDC and the way in which it resolved its tax liabilities. Unfortunately, there weren't a lot of options for getting the job done. The organization was insolvent. There were several months of uncertainty. The final extent of the tax liability was not known until November 2007 after the IRS processed all missing returns. With virtually no assets and tens of thousands of dollars in unpaid withholding, penalties and interest, the options were to negotiate a settlement or close up shop. The vast majority of HDC board members believed that the Highland Park neighborhood would not be best served by going out of business.

As the financial problems near resolution, I'm sure the entire board hopes that the HDC can begin focusing on its responsibility as an agent for engaging all Highland residents interested in neighborhood issues that affect us all. To do that, the HDC needs to do a better job of reaching out and communicating. And everyone who has a stake in the neighborhood also has a responsibility to get involved in a constructive way. Neighbors need to attend board and committee meetings, get to know their grid representatives, visit the HDC website, subscribe to HDC e-mail updates, follow updates in the *Villager*, volunteer for cleanups and other HDC events, meet HDC's community organizer and ask questions.

Criticism should be welcomed, even in letters to the editor. Criticism that is informed and constructive is even better.

# Inbox

## An upbeat plan for Rock-Tenn

To the editor:

I recently received a one-page leaflet titled "The Energy Independent," which reported on a green-fueled power plant proposal for Rock-Tenn's Midway paper recycling plant. How refreshing to hear a positive approach rather than the constant bleating of the Neighbors Against the Burner.

*Henry Herrmann  
Merriam Park*

## Port Authority propaganda

Dear editor,

The propaganda piece inserted in the March 12 issue of the *Villager* was another in a series of "public outreach" called "The Energy Independent." This one-sided, slick advertisement for a big, polluting incinerator in your neighborhood was bought and paid for with public monies. The St. Paul Port Authority is a public entity that answers to the mayor. You pay its salaries. You pay for its one-sided propaganda.

There is no solid proof that incinerating biomass is carbon neutral. Anders Rydecker has stated repeatedly that there is not enough wood in the entire metropolitan area to fuel more than 60 to 70 percent of his own District Energy plant in downtown St. Paul. So to say that wood waste would be used is another stretch of the truth.

Nowhere does "The Energy Independent" mention the negative health effects of an incinerator located smack dab in the middle of the metropolitan area. Nowhere does it mention that refuse-derived fuel, which is ground-up garbage, has been taken off the table for the proposed incinerator for Rock-Tenn's Midway paper recycling plant. All parties involved have said that this plant cannot work without using at least some garbage. They do mention the pollution of trucks. Thousands of diesel trucks will be going into that plant, adding to the pollution from I-94 just a few blocks from the most polluted intersection in the area—Snelling and University.

Good for our health? No. Green? I think not!

*Nancy Hone  
Merriam Park*

*Editor's note: The writer is coordinator of Neighbors Against the Burner.*

## Median would bring congestion

Dear editor,

Gregory Grinley's letter to the editor in favor of a median on Snelling Avenue (*Villager* Inbox, March 12) exemplifies the wrong-headed thinking of a vocal and influential minority of residents. Do your readers really believe that our highways and interstates are exceeding capacity because people don't walk more? And what facts support Grinley's sweeping assertion that pedestrian traffic reduces crime?

"Traffic calming" is a euphemism for designed congestion. Our widest and busiest thoroughfares, including West 7th Street and Montreal, Marshall and Fairview avenues, have been reduced to two lanes. Snelling Avenue is also Minnesota State Highway 51. It was intended to facilitate the movement of people and goods. We don't need a median on Snelling to discourage those who choose to use their cars.

If the anti-car folks like Mr. Grinley are true to their convictions, they will walk to the corner of Grand and Snelling to cross with the light. Me? I'll drive when I need to.

*Frank E. Villaume III  
Highland Park*

## Deflating dire statistics

Dear editor,

Terry Bushard, in his letter to the editor "Debtor nation" (*Villager* Inbox, March 12), states that we as a nation are \$9.4 trillion in debt, or \$31 million per person. That figure is off by three zeros. The per capita debt should be \$31,000.

I don't see America as anywhere near financial collapse. But then, trillions are tough to comprehend. Here's a way to handle it:

The U.S. has an annual gross domestic product of \$14 trillion. If we divide that number by 100 billion (\$1 billion equals 1 penny), our annual GDP is \$140, the war in Iraq is costing 18 cents a month and the annual federal budget deficit is under \$3.00.

We have the best health care in the world, and our national economy is cooking along. I'd be very wary of change—and cautious with the figures.

*Peter Dodge  
Cedar-Riverside, Minneapolis*

## Taxpayer anger is misplaced

To the editor:

Some of our citizens seem to be angry at the Democratic Party for passing the state transportation bill. I feel they acted in a responsible way in dealing with our crumbling roads and bridges. The tax seems a small burden to pay. If you want to be angry over the cost of gasoline, I suggest you focus on the oil companies and their Republican cronies. These oil companies are making record profits, yet the Republican Party still feels the companies need to receive special tax incentives to offset exploration costs.

*Jim Piga  
Highland Park*

## Support Right to Repair Act

To the editor:

The Service Station Dealers of America and Allied Trades strongly supports the Motor Vehicle Owners' Right to Repair Act (HR 2694) and views it as critical to the long-term survival of neighborhood automobile repair shops throughout the country. The intent of the Right to Repair Act is to make it illegal for vehicle manufacturers to withhold safety and repair information from car owners and their trusted repair shops. In many cases, car manufacturers are making it difficult for neighborhood repair shops to obtain the information and tools needed to keep their customers' vehicles in safe working condition.

We fear the situation will only become worse in the future. Without full access, local repair shops will not be able to compete, thus creating a repair monopoly where the affordable and convenient repairs currently available to car owners are sacrificed to increase profits for the car companies.

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# VILLAGER

Volume 56, Number 2

*Maurice F. Mischke, 1920-1991*

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### Publisher

Michael Mischke  
mmischke@myvillager.com

### Editors

Dale Mischke  
John Wadell  
news@myvillager.com

Letters to the editor:  
letters@myvillager.com

### General Manager

John Rauch  
jrauch@myvillager.com

### Classified Ads

Lisa Corrigan  
Mary Helen Pates  
wantads@myvillager.com

### Advertising Sales

Tim Carroll  
Emmet McCafferty  
Bob Stjern  
displayads@myvillager.com

### Production

John Baichtal  
Craig Schuster

### CONTRIBUTORS

Anne Brandrud, Greg Brick, Nancy Crotti, Kevin Driscoll, Larry Englund, Bob Gilbert, Janet Lunder Hanafin, Lisa Heinrich, Janet Hostetter, Brian Johnson, Frank Jossi, Sue Lee, Jo Marshall, Jane McClure, Steve Michaels, Dave Page, Morgan Smith, Brad Stauffer, Bill Stieger, Bill Wagner, Carolyn Will, Judy Woodward, Dave Wright, Natalie Zett.

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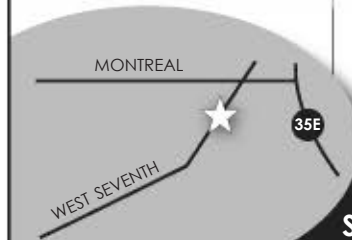
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## Bringing home the wonder

BY DAWN TANNER

My 5-year-old daughter and I wound our way up the forest trail along the railroad tracks near Energy Park Drive. We held hands as the train thundered by. Her eyes glittered like the glass jar of fairy dust that she clutched in her small hand.

"Do you think we'll spot them this time, Mom?" she asked.

I smiled, winked and told her, "You never know when we'll get lucky and find a fairy."

We live in the Snelling-Hamline neighborhood, an urban enclave far removed from the forests and fields where I grew up in rural Minnesota. I have been surprised at the joy my daughter and I experience in the small patches of woodland in the city. We celebrate outdoors together, away from television and pop culture messages. We have time to experience the quiet, look for animal signs in the small patch of trees, identify prairie grasses and flowers, and always keep our eyes out for flitting fairies.

Our fairy quests began on a warm summer day after my daughter and I had spent the morning snuggled up on the couch reading fairy stories. I thought it would be a fun project for us to spend an afternoon building a place for fairies in our woods. We went to the woods, gathered some sticks, got out the glue, and made two tiny benches and a picnic table for the fairies. We also mixed up some fairy dust.

We found a sheltered space at the base of an old oak tree surrounded by ironwood and poplars. We set up the table and benches, sprinkled the site with fairy dust, winked at each other and decided to wander through the trees for a while. My daughter kept watching to see if a glint of sunlight flickering through the leaves was really a fairy. Along the way, we watched red squirrels chase away the gray ones. We found bird feathers and did our best to match them with the birds in the trees. We observed the plants around us and noted where different species grew.

My daughter and I did not have access to a garden plot at the time, so we cleared a very small plot a few feet from the railroad tracks and planted several vegetables. We managed to get more than just carrots, although the rabbits got far more than we did. We brought picnic lunches to our little garden, stopped to visit the fairies, and brought flowers, special rocks and shells as fairy gifts.

Winter fell in our fairyland. The table and benches started decaying in the soggy leaves. It was time to build a new



Creating an outdoor fairyland is child's play.

place for the fairies.

As we gathered sticks, got out the glue and glitter again, I realized this would be a perfect project for my daughter's preschool class. Recently, my daughter and I shared our fairy project with 18 school friends and their families. Each child decorated and brought home a fairy bench with a jar of fairy dust and a note that says:

*Place this little bench in a quiet place where you would like to have fairies visit. Sprinkle the fairy dust saying, "We invite the fairies to this bench. Welcome, fairies." Watch closely; fairies are very fast.*

Readers who would like to share this project are encouraged to find a safe place in a wild or near-wild setting and cultivate mystery while learning the art of nature observation with their children. You will be surprised how much you can learn.

### Fairy Dust Recipe

- ¼ cup white sand
- 2 teaspoons fine, clear glitter
- ¼ teaspoon cinnamon
- ¼ teaspoon cloves
- ¼ teaspoon cardamom

Mix all ingredients together and sprinkle with abandon. Allow your child to make choices about the fairy dust's appearance, such as adding colored glitter.

*Editor's note: The writer is a conservation biologist at the University of Minnesota.*

### 9◀ INBOX

The fact is, American motorists need the more than 200,000 independent repair shops located in towns across the country. There aren't enough new-car dealerships in all the right places to keep every motor vehicle serviced, repaired and operating safely. The Right to Repair Act levels the competitive playing field and ensures that car owners can conveniently and affordably have their vehicle serviced at the repair shop of their choice, whether it's their neighborhood repair shop or a franchised new-car dealer.

We encourage all vehicle owners to visit [www.righttorepair.org](http://www.righttorepair.org) to send a letter to their congressional representatives urging them to support passage of the Right to Repair Act.

*Paul Fiore, Executive Vice President  
Service Station Dealers of America and Allied Trades  
Bowie, Maryland*

### HDC owes Highland an apology

To the editor:

The Highland District Council (HDC) owes the citizens of Highland an apology. At the HDC board meeting on March 6, a member of the community presented a petition signed by 66 people requesting that a special board meeting be held within 30 days to fully inform the community as to the HDC's finances. HDC bylaws state that any 30 community members can request a special board meeting for a specific purpose. Given the total lack of oversight board members exercised over HDC finances up to the spring of 2007, and since there hasn't been a meeting dedicated to informing the public on this matter since last May, 66 citizens must have felt this was important.

Their petition was read out loud and presented to HDC president Bill Klein, who laid it aside and continued speaking of something else. When I asked when the HDC would take up the matter, Mr. Klein responded, "At the end of the meeting, if at all." When I brought the issue up again later in

the meeting, board member Jenny Winkelman motioned to table the petition and bring it up at another time. The motion passed 7-4.

It may be a coincidence that the seven board members who voted to ignore the petition are all up for re-election at the HDC's annual meeting on April 9. When a citizen votes for a candidate for any position, one hopes that at the very least the candidate will respect and listen to his or her viewpoint and questions. The HDC seven have shown that they, evidently, don't care what the people want, and for that the citizens of Highland deserve an apology.

*Georgia Dietz  
Highland Park*

*Editor's note: Georgia Dietz is vice president of the Highland District Council's board of directors.*

Highland District Council president Bill Klein replies: HDC bylaws provide that a special meeting of members may be called by 30 or more members. They also provide that the meeting is to be "called and held no later than (90) days after receipt of the demand," and that such meetings may be called only for the purpose of discussing "issues relating to the common good or general welfare of the Highland area for which Highland area opinion or consensus must be sought in a timely way, and cannot wait for the next annual meeting."

Georgia Dietz's demand that the HDC board drop everything on its agenda and act immediately to set a date for a special meeting was irresponsible and her petition was wisely tabled. The petition was presented to the board as public comment a few moments earlier during a meeting with a full agenda. The board did not have an opportunity to review the details of the petition's requests, verify signatures or check the requirements of HDC's bylaws. The board at the time could determine neither the dates on which a facility might be available for such a meeting nor the availability of persons that the petition requested be present. Had the petition been presented

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sufficiently in advance of the meeting and added to the agenda, it could have been handled differently.

Also, because the HDC's next annual meeting is scheduled for April 9, only 34 days after the petition was presented, a discussion of the HDC's finances can wait until then. In fact, a portion of the annual meeting has been dedicated to HDC financial issues. Moreover, a thorough presentation regarding those issues has been placed on the HDC website at [www.highlanddistrictcouncil.org](http://www.highlanddistrictcouncil.org).

Ms. Dietz, who took the lead in preparing and circulating this petition, was absent from the HDC board's February 7 meeting, at which time these issues were openly and thoroughly discussed. Full documentation was presented to the board. HDC treasurer Tim Puffer and the accountant retained by the HDC to assist in reconciling its expenses and reimbursement claims with the city each made presentations and answered all questions.

**No place for partisan politics**

To the editor:

The March 12 issue of the *Villager* included a letter to the editor that appeared to call into question the leadership of Highland District Council (HDC) member Bill Klein. We the undersigned feel it is important to set the record straight. Bill Klein, along with Tim Puffer, did the hard work of solving the HDC's financial issues. With the help of the IRS and the staff of the city of St. Paul, Mr. Klein and Mr. Puffer developed a plan that will meet the HDC's obligations to the IRS and waive penalties. Ultimately, the council has been able to solve the issue with cash that was in the HDC's bank account.

The HDC voted to remove Bill Poulos as president because Mr. Poulos became an obstacle to the efforts to solve the problem. For a variety of reasons that are well-documented in the minutes of the HDC's special meeting on January 29, the majority of the board voted to remove Mr. Poulos as an officer of the district council. Mr. Klein did not seek to be elected president. We asked him to fill the position because of his leadership ability and because he has always demonstrated that he serves on the council for the good of our neighborhood. It is unfortunate that somebody who does not participate in the council chose to sign a letter that attacks an individual whom he does not know.

The HDC has the potential to do many good things for our community. It can provide a forum for solving traffic problems. It can advocate for sensible zoning. It can provide a forum for neighbors to raise concerns about the design of a playground. It can sponsor important events like the neighborhood cleanup. One thing the HDC cannot do well is serve as a platform for partisan politics. There is just not

much that is political about the neighborhood cleanup or the placement of a basketball hoop. These things are important, but they are not partisan.

*Ted Davis, Bill Mahaffey, David Pinto  
Peter Armstrong, Jenny Winkelman  
Highland Park*

*Editor's note: The letter writers are all members of the Highland District Council's board of directors.*

**Speaking of St. Paul eyesores**

Dear editor,

The letter to the editor on "Pre-convention housecleaning" (*Villager* Inbox, March 12) comments on the "1800s-style telephone poles" on the corner of Old 6th and Main streets in downtown St. Paul and continuing behind St. Joseph's Hospital along 10th Street to St. Peter Street. The utility poles do add flavor to olde St. Paul, reminiscent of late-1800s Abilene.

Another eyesore in Dave Thune Country is that huge, shabby, dirt-streaked billboard with the beer bottle at the historic Schmidt Brewery, greeting locals and visitors passing to and from Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. But the biggest eyesore is the half-century-old unfinished Centennial Building on the state Capitol approach with its three large outhouses on top.

*E.C. Dehmer  
Downtown St. Paul*

**Spring cleaning for watershed**

To the editor:

If you take the Old Wagon Road Trail in Merriam Park from Mississippi River Boulevard down the bluff, you'll come to a railing built around the St. Anthony storm drain outlet. All the rain and snow melt from streets in a 3,400-acre drainage area end up in the gaping 13-foot pipe that empties into the Mississippi River here.

In spring, you'll see something else—the arching curve of a sand bar made of the grit from a season of street sanding. This sand bar is a reminder that everything in the street—all drink cups, cigarette butts, road salt and sand—ends up in the Mississippi River via a vast network of storm drains. The street litter in winter is frozen and forgotten within piles of gray ice until the spring warmup.

Help lakes and rivers by retrieving the trash in coming weeks as those heaps of darkened snow become miniature rivers carrying an influx of street pollutants to surface water. Sweep up the salt from your sidewalk and the grit in the boulevard in front of your property. Every little bit of this

community housekeeping can improve water quality and help the web of plants, animals and people supported by our lakes and rivers.

*Elizabeth Storey  
Education and Outreach Coordinator  
Capitol Region Watershed District*

**'Wright Call' for Mac alum**

To the editor:

I absolutely loved Dave Wright's column on the plight of Macalester athletics ("The Wright Call," *Villager*, March 12). I graduated from Macalester College in 1970 and played football and baseball there for four years. I know how badly the football team felt when coach Glenn Caruso took the new position down the block. I know how Mac athletic director Travis Feezell felt with Caruso leaving.

Wright's thorough treatment of all the teams was a splendid and well-timed read. I do not read his column that much as I do not get the paper in Minnetonka, but I happened to read it at a friend's home in St. Paul. I will read it from now on, however.

Before leaving, Caruso lined up Mac's first game of the 2008 football season with the Tommies, knowing Mac could beat them. Wouldn't that be ironic and fun to write about? Tony Jennison will be a fine coach for Mac. I hope he sticks around for some time.

Thank you for the article and the timely information on Mac's new athletic and recreation center.

*Bob Lueben  
Minnetonka*

**Lights Out around the world**

To the editor:

On Saturday, March 29, another Lights Out event is scheduled, asking people all over the world to turn out their lights between 8:00 and 9:00 p.m. The cities of Sydney, San Francisco and Los Angeles, among others, held such an event last year. During the hour-long event, Sydney conserved 25 tons of carbon dioxide. We certainly need to do more of that!

At present, 25 cities worldwide have signed up, including Chicago, Atlanta, Phoenix, San Francisco, Denver, Miami, Charlotte, Copenhagen, Sydney, Manila, Tel Aviv, Bangkok, Dublin and Toronto. Why aren't the Twin Cities on that list? Contact the mayors and city councils.

Many individuals are signing up, too. Just think, you could go out and see the stars!

For more information, visit [www.earthhour.org](http://www.earthhour.org).

*Wanda S. Ballentine  
Highland Park*

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# The measure of a candidate

## DFL weighs Franken's star power against Nelson-Pallmeyer's passion

BY KEVIN DRISCOLL

Menota Heights attorney Mike Ciresi's withdrawal this month from the race for the Democratic nomination for U.S. Senate in Minnesota has raised the hopes of his two primary opponents—University of St. Thomas Professor Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer and comedian, author and radio host Al Franken.

Nelson-Pallmeyer believes it was his own support among DFL delegates that convinced Ciresi to drop out. "A lot of the uncommitted delegates are starting to pay more attention now and they're coming our way," he said.

However, it looks to be an uphill battle for Nelson-Pallmeyer in the bid to unseat incumbent Republican Senator Norm Coleman in November. Franken said that, by his count, he has more than 50 percent of the convention delegates pledged to date, and as of January 1, Franken had \$3.1 million on hand to Nelson-Pallmeyer's \$131,512.

Franken is hoping Ciresi's withdrawal will lead to his first-ballot endorsement at the DFL state convention in Rochester on June 6-8. However, to win the endorsement he will need the support of 60 percent of the 1,300-plus delegates.

Former St. Paul Mayor George Latimer, who was a Ciresi supporter, said the money Franken has raised "isn't a test by itself, but it does show conviction and an ability to persuade. He's well-organized and he's worked hard for the support he's getting. He's also well-educated on the issues, articulate and seems sensible and well-rounded."

Nelson-Pallmeyer's appeal is "more to the left side of the (DFL)," Latimer said, "but he's highly authentic, speaks with clarity and has integrity. Given the nature of the troubles facing the nation, I'm not so sure his very strong liberal positions won't be supported."

Nelson-Pallmeyer, 57, lives in the Longfellow neighborhood of Minneapolis with his wife Sara. They have three grown children. He

earned a master's of divinity degree at Union Theological Seminary in New York City and has worked at St. Thomas since 1992 as an assistant professor of justice and peace studies. Nelson-Pallmeyer also served for five years as the national program director for the Politics of Food Program of Clergy and Laity Concerned. The author of 10 books on foreign policy related to peace and justice, he served on the late Senator Paul Wellstone's foreign policy advisory team.

Franken, 56, lives in Minneapolis with his wife Franni. They have two grown children. He grew up in St. Louis Park, earned a sociology degree from Harvard University in 1973 and soon after landed an apprentice writing job on a new television show called "Saturday Night Live." Over the next 20 years, Franken earned five Emmy Awards for his work on "SNL." Four years ago, he landed a job as host of a talk show on Air America Radio, broadcasting live five days a week. Two years ago, he moved back to Minnesota to explore a run for the U.S. Senate.

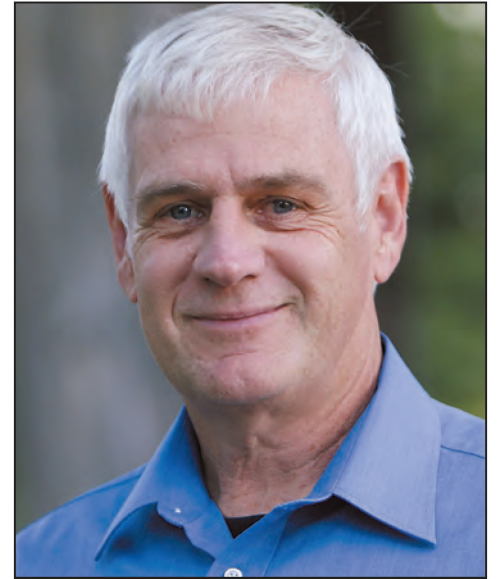
Nelson-Pallmeyer calls this "the most important decade in human history. The important decisions we face will affect all future generations." The three issues he sees needing the most attention are "global warming, ending the Iraq war and reorienting our foreign policy, and achieving economic fairness and government for the common good."

As for the economy, Nelson-Pallmeyer said he would set up "a domestic Marshall Plan to jump-start renewable energy development and rebuild the country's infrastructure." He said those efforts would not only create jobs, but lead to the development of alternative means of transportation and the wider use of environmentally friendly construction methods.

Nelson-Pallmeyer also champions universal health care. "Unlike (Franken), I'm saying it should be a single-payer system and national from the start," he said. "Universal health care just can't be done without single-payer. The



Al Franken



Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer

way to do it is to extend Medicare and veterans' medical care to everyone, focus on preventive care and rewards for staying healthy, and provide parity for dental and mental care. And I'd make drug companies negotiate their prices as they already have to do with the Veterans Administration."

Nelson said he would pay for his domestic programs "by getting out of Iraq and bringing the \$12 billion a month we're spending there home. I will also reduce overall military spending because, right now, we're spending 57 cents of every dollar on war and four cents on education. And I will let the Bush tax cuts for the wealthy expire and create tax incentives for green businesses."

Franken is also advocating universal health care as part of a domestic program that calls for "greening the economy with green jobs." However, his health plan would give states up to a year to develop their own plans for universal coverage. "They can get there any way they can," he said, "but without limits for pre-existing conditions and they'll have to include mental and dental care and assist low-income people who can't afford it."

Franken said he would mandate single-payer coverage for all children, but otherwise let the states act as "50 health care coverage laboratories. After a few years, the federal government could choose the best, most cost-effective system and, if it's workable on a national scale, adopt it."

Franken, who has visited American troops in Iraq several times, said the "only way to place enough leverage on the Iraqi government to make the necessary changes in their structure is to tell them we're leaving on a timetable, hopefully no longer than nine months to a year. We have to pull together the interna-

tional community, including Syria and Iran, to form a regional conference that can help resolve their and Iraq's future security concerns and assist us in actual economic rebuilding."

Also vying for the DFL endorsement in the U.S. Senate candidate are perennial candidates Darryl Staunton and Dick Franson. However, Franken has the upper hand in the race, according to most observers.

"Al Franken has been getting the lion's share of support and delegates in southern Minnesota because he has been traveling extensively throughout rural Minnesota for the past two years meeting with party activists and establishing lots of contacts," said former DFL Congressman Tim Penney.

State Senator Patricia Torres Ray (DFL-District 62), a Nelson-Pallmeyer supporter, conceded Franken's organizational strength, but said "in today's politics it's hard to predict what's going to happen. Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer has lived his whole personal and professional life with passion and integrity. That includes issues of war and peace, bettering the environment and the quality of our children's education."

"(Nelson-Pallmeyer) is more steeped in policy and issues than (Franken)," said Jeff Blodgett, executive director of Wellstone Action. "But I really don't believe there's all that much difference between them on the issues. Nelson-Pallmeyer has clearly built up support, but he may have entered the race too late to succeed."

"Franken has been out there for more than two years," Blodgett said, "and I guess it takes that long these days to build a base in and out of the (DFL). Franken has been out there long enough and has the organization to take on an incumbent."

## Volunteers

**The Minnesota Literacy Council** is seeking adults to tutor immigrants, refugees and life-long Minnesotans in reading, writing and English. Volunteers may tutor one-to-one, in a small group or as a classroom assistant. Training and ongoing support are provided. E-mail Allison at arunchey@theMLC.org or call 651-645-2277, ext. 219.

**Friends of the Parks and Trails** is holding its annual tree sale. Trees and shrubs may be purchased to plant in private yards or to donate

to area parks. Prices range from \$15-\$45. Pre-paid orders will be taken until April 18. Trees will be available for pickup on Saturday, May 3, at the Highland Park Pavilion. Donated trees will be picked up and planted by park personnel. Visit [www.friendsoftheparks.org](http://www.friendsoftheparks.org) or call Peggy Lynch at 651-698-4543.

**The Science Museum of Minnesota** is seeking volunteers to staff its information booth. Volunteers receive tickets to the Omnitheater and exhibit galleries, a discount at the muse-

um store, free parking during their shifts and more. Volunteers must be at least 16 years old and commit to one year of service. Interviews will be held at 6:00 p.m. Thursday, April 10, followed by orientation and training at 6:00 p.m. Thursday, April 17. Call 651-221-4703 or e-mail [volunteer@smm.org](mailto:volunteer@smm.org).

**The Summit Hill Association** is looking for volunteers to help with various office tasks, such as copying, data entry, mailings, etc., as workload dictates. A volunteer also is being

sought to coordinate the "Summit" newsletter ad sales. Call 651-222-1222.

**Resources for Child Caring**, 10 Yorkton Court, administers grant money provided by the state to enhance child care programs in the seven-county metropolitan area. It is seeking volunteers to serve on a committee to review grant proposals and make recommendations. For more information, call 651-287-6919 or visit [www.resourcesforchildcare.org](http://www.resourcesforchildcare.org). The application deadline is April 15.

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# Highland District Council

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CITY GOVERNMENT

1978 Ford Parkway ☎ (651) 695-4005 ☎ highlanddistrictcouncil.org

## You are invited to attend the The Highland District Council Annual Meeting

Wednesday April 9 ~ 6:30 p.m.  
Ford Plant Auditorium

Please enter off Ford Pkwy. across from  
Bakers Square (2239 Ford Pkwy)

✦ **ELECTIONS** ✦

The election of six Board members from even numbered grids (see the map) and two at-large Board members from the area as a whole will begin at 7:30. To elect a grid member there must be three residents or property owners, who are at least 18 years old from the grid.

The program for the evening will include a presentation regarding the Council's financial issues discovered and addressed during the past year, which will begin at 6:30. Presentations also are planned from representatives of the St Paul Police Department, Saint Paul City Councilmember Pat Harris, and Pat Sellner, Saint Paul Long Range Capital Improvement Budget Committee member, regarding the CIB (Capital Improvements Budget) process for 2009.

If you have any questions about the meeting please call us at 695-4005 or e-mail us at [hdc@visi.com](mailto:hdc@visi.com)

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

This past year has been challenging for the Highland District Council. Starting last May, in short order, the HDC's long-time Community Organizer resigned with essentially no notice, the Minnesota Department of Revenue levied on the Council's bank account, and the officers and board learned that the HDC's financial house was woefully out-of-order. The checkbook had not been reconciled in many years, records were unreliable, and the magnitude of the HDC's total unpaid obligations was unknown. Discoveries included federal withholding or employment tax deficiencies and late-filing penalties for four quarters from 1998 through 2000, no federal or state withholding or employment tax filings from 2005 forward, and no IRS Form 990 filings since 2000. Unpaid federal taxes approached \$20,000. With penalties and interest the debt grew to nearly \$70,000.

The Council promptly addressed these matters. Returns were filed for all required periods; Minnesota tax obligations were satisfied; and discussions with the IRS were begun. The Council made partial federal tax payments based on available funds and decided to seek a resolution of the remaining federal liabilities through an "Offer in Compromise" – an IRS sanctioned settlement that would allow the HDC to satisfy its obligations for less than the actual balance if it demonstrated an inability to pay the entire liability and offered an amount consistent with its ability to pay determined under IRS guidelines.

HDC and the City agreed to amend the HDC's 2005 through 2007 contracts to reassign unspent 2007 grant allowances to the 2005 and 2006 contracts, which then could be paid to the HDC to the extent it documented additional reimbursable expenses from those years. This allowed the HDC to offer slightly more than \$8,000 to the IRS, which it did this past February. Local IRS officials have recommended approval of the offer and forwarded it for final review. If accepted as expected, the HDC will pay the offered amount, which will satisfy in full all prior tax liabilities so long as the HDC timely files all its tax returns and pays its taxes for the next 5 years.

These actions addressed the tax problems, but there were also concerns that went beyond taxes. Had HDC funds been misspent? Had the HDC met its obligations to the City? Had there been fraud or misappropriation of funds? The HDC retained the services of Sevenich Butler, a local Highland Park accounting firm, to review and reconcile HDC records and reimbursement requests under the City contract and worked with City personnel to review reimbursed expenses.

A full report on these actions and tax issues has been posted on the

HDC website, <http://www.highlanddistrictcouncil.org>. I urge you to review this information. These matters also will be discussed at the annual meeting on April 9. We found no evidence of fraud or misappropriation of funds, but we concluded the HDC's records were in even worse condition than we first thought.

In the meantime the Council has taken steps to ensure that it does not find itself in this position again. The Community Organizer functions have been separated from financial and bookkeeping functions. An organized chart of accounts has been created, and all records are current. Payroll and payroll tax services have been outsourced. Outside bookkeeping services have been retained to reconcile bank and internal accounts on a monthly basis. We expect to audit the HDC's 2008 financial statements.

This situation was the product of several factors dating back to 1998, including misplaced confidence in the Community Organizer, failures by HDC officers to perform their supervisory and financial duties, and failures on the part of board members, including the undersigned, to exercise proper oversight. Many board members and community volunteers deserve credit for helping to address and resolve this situation in a responsible manner. HDC Treasurer Tim Puffer deserves special thanks for his long hours and diligent work. He did not know what he was getting into when he accepted the job.

Amid all the tumult, it might seem that financial issues consumed the Council's entire attention this past year. That was not the case. The HDC co-sponsored spring and fall clean-ups in 2007. It will co-sponsor the 2008 spring clean-up on May 17. The HDC also co-sponsors an annual Home Improvement Fair, the 2008 edition of which will be held April 17. The HDC and its committees helped foster citizen involvement in zoning issues (such as Trader Joe's), traffic, crime, and other public safety concerns, proposed program changes at Homecroft School, and other matters of importance to our community.

I believe that the HDC now is in a position to focus its energy on its primary missions – fostering citizen involvement in matters of importance to our neighborhood, and providing a neighborhood voice in decisions made by the City of Saint Paul and the State of Minnesota. You can help by becoming involved, and by doing so in a constructive manner. As a first step I encourage you to attend the HDC's annual meeting on April 9.

Bill Klein, President  
Highland District Council

The Highland District Council is an organization providing a neighborhood voice in decisions made by the city of Saint Paul and the State of Minnesota. The HDC is involved in:

Crime Prevention/Block Clubs  
Neighborhood Beautification  
Home Improvement Fair  
Traffic and Parking Issues  
Neighborhood Cleanup  
Recycling  
Land Use  
Residential Street Paving and Design  
Highland Sustainable Garden  
Crime Reports & E-News

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For more information call 651.633.EASY (TTY: 651.649.3005)

## PLANT SHARE

The Sixth Annual Highland Park Plant Exchange is scheduled for **Sunday, May 18 from 11am to 2pm at 1749 Pinehurst**. Over 150 local gardeners benefited from the 2007 exchange. You can either bring plants to exchange or purchase most plants for a \$1 to \$3 donation. Proceeds go to purchase plants for the Highland Community Gardens.

If you are interested in donating plants or want to volunteer call Sue at 651-699-7672



## Calendar of Highland District Council Events

Wed Apr 9	Sat Apr 19	Sat May 17	Tues Aug 5
Annual Elections Ford Plant Auditorium (enter off Ford Pkwy.)	Home Improvement Fair - Cretin-Derham Hall High School, Randolph/Hamline.	Spring Clean-Up Ford Plant Parking Lot, Mississippi River Rd.	National Night Out

### HDC Board Meetings

• **Apr 3, Jun 5, Jul 10, Aug 7, Sept 11 & Oct 2** at the Hillcrest Recreation Center.  
• **May 1, Nov 6 & Dec 4** will be held at the Ford Plant Auditorium.

All Committee Meetings are held at Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy and are open to the public.

- **Community Development Committee** — meets on the third Monday of the month.
- **Transportation** — meets on the last Monday of the month.
- **Community Services Committee** — meets on the second Monday of the month.

## OPPORTUNITIES

- Volunteers are needed for the Home Improvement Fair and Spring Clean-up.



- Sign up to receive the Crime Report and other District Council News.
- Participate in Council meetings
- Find out how to become a Board Member.
- Sign up to be a Block Club Leader or join a Block Club:
  - get to know your neighbors
  - keep informed about events in the area
  - have a block party during the summer

If any of these opportunities interest you, E-mail Kathy at [hdc@visi.com](mailto:hdc@visi.com)

## Spring Clean-up

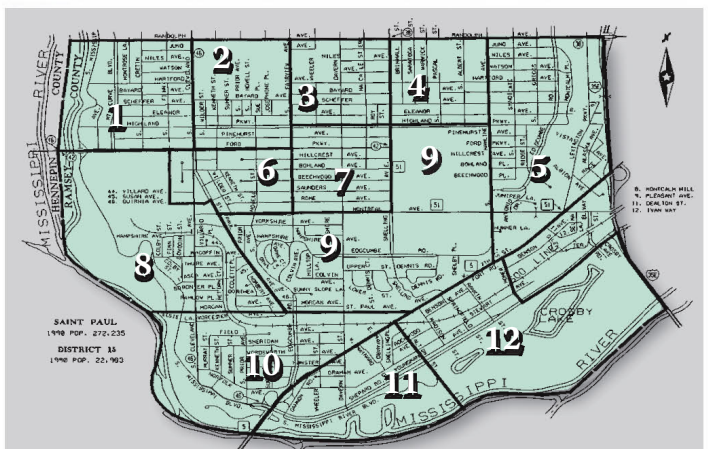
Highland/Mac-Groveland District Spring Clean-up

Saturday, May 17, 2005, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

St. Paul Ford Assembly Plant Parking Lot,

Enter off Mississippi River Boulevard

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2007-2008



1 Brent Van Tassel	7 Tim Puffer
2 Bill Driver*	8 Gary Marx*
3 Joseph McCabe	9 Steven Lentsch
4 Dave Pinto*	10 Bill Mahaffey*
5 Bill Klein	11 Will Jefferson
6 Peter Armstrong*	12 John Morrison*

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Shawn Bartsh

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W7BA Rep  
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\*up for re-election

# Following her lessons to the letter

Longtime educator opens Learn to Learn in Mac-Grove to help kids with dyslexia become better readers

BY SUE LEE

At the corner of Randolph and Cleveland, across the street from the gated entrance to the College of St. Catherine, smiling children sit in the sunny window area at Learn to Learn reading books. Seeing happy children reading may be not such an unusual sight, but these are children with dyslexia, and for them reading used to be a struggle.

Jane Conlin, owner of Learn to Learn, Solutions for Dyslexia, understands the struggle because she is also dyslexic, as is her daughter Amanda. Conlin had been helping dyslexic children improve their spelling and reading skills out of her Macalester-Groveland home for the past three years. But the program needed more room, so when the commercial space at 2057 Randolph Ave. recently became available, Conlin and her business partners, Carla Anderson and Deb O'Halloran, jumped at it.

"I wanted to make this learning program available to more people," said Conlin, who also teaches 8th grade at nearby Nativity School. "It just all came together. I've hired another teacher, Connie Knowles, who also teaches at Nativity, and I plan to hire two more teachers by the end of the year."

Conlin holds licenses in deaf education and social studies and has a master's degree in counseling from the University of Wisconsin-

sin-River Falls. She taught deaf children for 12 years, has been a middle school counselor and has taught at Nativity for the past 11 years.

Conlin explained that people with dyslexia have an auditory processing problem that prevents them from hearing all of the individual sounds in a word. A child with the disorder may also get mixed up telling time, tying their shoes, and processing the difference between up and down, and left and right. When reading, they can't remember which direction the "b" goes versus the "p," for example.

Dyslexic people are not stupid and in fact may be gifted in other areas. People with the disorder have included Thomas Edison, Albert Einstein, Steven Spielberg, Walt Disney, John F. Kennedy, Steve Jobs and Whoopi Goldberg.

According to the latest research from the National Institutes of Health, one of every five children has some degree of dyslexia. Children whose parents have dyslexia have a 50 percent chance of having it themselves. Conlin comes from a family of five children and two of her siblings have dyslexia. Her daughter was diagnosed with the disorder when she was in the 2nd grade.

"I knew we needed an Orton-Gillingham-based program (which uses a multisensory, phonic approach)," Conlin said. "There were a number of other programs in the area that were available, but they weren't working for Amanda. So I did some research and found

Susan Barton, who is an internationally renowned expert on dyslexia. I went to California and trained to learn the Barton Reading and Spelling System and then started working with my daughter."

Conlin also tutored her dyslexic nieces and nephews, some of whom were already in special education programs. "What was amazing is the progress they made in just five months," she said. "They went from getting failing grades in school to A's and B's, from fighting about doing their homework to doing it without being asked to."

Three years ago Conlin went back to get certified in the Barton system and began working with other students beyond her family.

There are 10 levels in the Barton system, with each one tackling a different part of the English language that is difficult for people with dyslexia. Level 1 teaches phonemic awareness—individual letter sounds—which students progress through quickly.

"It's just getting the sounds down, learning what the vowel sounds say, breaking each sound apart and teaching the student to hear them," Conlin said.

Level 2 introduces letters and the student begins making basic words. Color-coded letter tiles are used, which enable students to build words by touching the letters, moving them, pronouncing and hearing the sounds.

Conlin said that after about 3 months, stu-

dents reach the middle of the 3rd level "and all of a sudden things start clicking. It's so exciting to see their eyes light up. They're sounding out words that are 9, 10 or 11 letters long.

"One thing about this program is that there is an end in sight," she said. "If you choose to go through the entire program, it takes about 3 years, with tutoring two or three times a week."

Conlin currently has students from 2nd grade through junior high school in her program. Most tutoring is done one-to-one, though Conlin said she has tutored two or three children at the same time who were from the same family and at the same learning level.

Learn to Learn also serves children who have general problems with reading and spelling. The cost is \$50 per 50-minute session and Conlin requires students to attend at least twice a week. She meets with the parents and child for the screening.

"If I feel pretty strongly that the child is dyslexic, I'll move ahead and do a diagnosis," Conlin said. The diagnosis consists of two four-hour sessions with the child, followed by a one- to two-hour meeting with the parents.

While enrolled in Learn to Learn, students are tested and given a certificate when they finish each level of the Barton system. "But the real reward," Conlin said, "is that they know that they can do it and school isn't scary anymore."



Learn to Learn founder Jane Conlin works through a reading and spelling tutorial with Andrew Richmond, 15, of Eagan at her new center on Randolph Avenue. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

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Open Evenings

# School Notes

**Gene Scapanski**, a Macalester-Groveland resident and vice president at the University of St. Thomas, has received the Harlan Copeland Award for Excellence in Adult Education Programming from the Minnesota Association of Continuing Adult Education. Scapanski was recognized for his work in developing a master's in religious education while he was dean of pastoral studies at the St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity.

**Benjamin Mayhew**, a junior at Highland Park Senior High School, was one of only three college-bound students in Minnesota to achieve a perfect score of 36 on the 2007 national test administration of the ACT. He is the son of Wanda and Joseph Mayhew.

**Horace Mann Elementary School**, 2001 Eleanor Ave., has received a \$2,000 Teach Award from Best Buy for integrating interactive technology into its curriculum. The 5th- and 6th-grade students at Mann are now using digital technology to develop their own land-use proposals for the Ford plant and the Mississippi River.

**The University of St. Thomas** honored three local faculty members for outstanding service during its annual faculty and staff awards celebration this month. The university bestowed John Ireland Awards for Outstanding Achievement as Teacher-Scholar on Stephen Brookfield of Summit Hill, who teaches in the school of education; Mary Reichardt of Summit Hill, who teaches Catholic studies; and Thomas Sullivan of Macalester-Groveland, who teaches philosophy. Each winner receives \$2,500 in professional development funds.

**Madeline Cieslak** has been named director of school programs at St. Joseph School of Music, 1550 Summit Ave. She will begin her new job by directing the 2008 summer term of classes, camps and workshops. Cieslak will also resume teaching voice lessons, as she did while she was a member of the faculty from 1999-2005. Cieslak has returned to her native St. Paul after performing with opera and theater companies in San Francisco and Boston. She graduated from Central High School and Wellesley College, has a master's degree in vocal performance from the University of Minnesota and recently received her postgraduate diploma in vocal performance from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. St. Joseph's School of Music will hold an open house at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, April 12, with tours and faculty performances. A catalog of summer program offerings will be available in mid-March at [www.stjoseph-schoolofmusic.net](http://www.stjoseph-schoolofmusic.net).



**Macalester College** has received a \$13.5 million gift from philanthropist Shelby Moore Cullom Davis that will be used to support scholarships for international students. It is the largest donation for that purpose in the college's history. Davis is the founder of Davis Advisors, a mutual fund and money management firm. He is making the gift through the Davis United World College Scholars Program in support of graduates of the United World Colleges (UWC), a network of 12 secondary schools around the world. Since 1986, 258 UWC graduates have enrolled at Macalester. Macalester has 239 international students and 93 Davis Scholars, including 33 who will graduate this spring.

A **U.S. Service Academy** information night will be hosted by U.S. Congresswoman Betty McCollum from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 8, at Mounds View High School, 900 Lake Valentine Road, Arden Hills. McCollum is currently accepting applications from interested students for the U.S. Air Force (Colorado Springs), Military (West Point), Naval (Annapolis) and the Merchant Marine (Kings Point) academies. Guest speakers from the academies will be present. The application deadline is November 7. Application forms are available at [www.mccollum.house.gov/academy](http://www.mccollum.house.gov/academy). For information, call Connie Haddeland at 651-224-9191.

**Highland Catholic School**, 2017 Bohland Ave., had 10 teams competing in the regional Destination Imagination tournament on March 1. Four of the teams took first place in their challenges and one team won the Renaissance Award for outstanding skill in engineering. The state tournament will be held on April 19 at Chaska High School.

**Admission Possible**, a nonprofit organization that provides free college preparatory programming to low-income high school students, is recruiting from now through mid-April. Applications are being accepted from eligible high school sophomores at each of 16 partner high schools, which include Central, Highland Park and Higher Ground Academy in St. Paul and Roosevelt in Minneapolis. Students who attend other



St. Thomas Academy's rifle team won the Minnesota State Championship in the American Legion Junior Shooter Competition. Team members, from left, include freshman Nick Boerboon, sophomore David Zimmermann and junior captains Will Sullivan and Blake Bowersox.

high schools may contact Admission Possible headquarters to apply at 651-917-3525 or [info@admissionpossible.org](mailto:info@admissionpossible.org).

**Central High School's Mock Trial** team won the Region 8 championship for the second year in a row and competed in the state competition on March 11-12 in St. Paul. Central finished seventh overall in the state's final standings. Sarah Ludwig and Abe Schwabacher were named as all-state witnesses. Margaret Peterson was the teacher coach and Stacey Sorenson and Peter Knapp were the attorney coaches. The program is administered by the Minnesota State Bar Association.

**St. Thomas Academy** will hold its annual military inspection from 8:00 a.m. to noon Tuesday, April 8. The morning will include a drill squad performance. Call 651-454-4570.

**St. Paul Academy and Summit School** presented its 2007 distinguished alumni/ae awards to Edith Nye MacMullen (class of 1947) and Mary Ann Barrows Wark ('65) at a dinner ceremony last month. MacMullen taught at various levels and was head of the teacher preparation program at Yale University for nearly 30 years. Wark is a longtime volunteer for SPA and teaches preschool at the Jean Lyle Children's Center in Merriam Park.

**Randolph Heights Elementary School** 6th-graders Mai Vang Lee, Merin McDivitt, Claire Nusbaum, Noah Oviedo-Bormett and Julia Vicic placed third out of the 24 teams that competed in the recent Minnesota Math Masters regional competition. Placing fourth in the competition was the team from Cyber Village Academy composed of 6th-graders Henry Petersen, Erik Sandberg, Brienne Francis, Will Preble and Heather Stone. Kameron LeVoir and McDivitt from Randolph Heights also placed in the top 12 of the 120 students participating in the individual competition.

**St. Joseph's School of Music**, 450 N. Syndicate St., will introduce its new children's program "Footprints and First Steps" during open houses at 6:00 p.m. Thursday, March 27, and at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, March 29. Demonstration classes and school tours will be offered, along with informational sessions about the Suzuki method for young children. Call 651-690-4364 to register.

**Nova Classical Academy**, which is located at 1668 Montreal Ave. in Highland Park, will host an admissions event for the parents of students who will be entering grades 6-8 next fall at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 10. Nova is a college-preparatory school that offers an academically accelerated classical curriculum. The school will be expanding to offer grade 9 in 2009. Visit [www.novaclassical.org](http://www.novaclassical.org) or call 651-227-8622.

## District 197 to turn 150

The District 197 School Board is making plans to celebrate its 150th anniversary next year. The district was established on March 12, 1859, as District 3, one of Minnesota's first official school districts.

The original schoolhouse was located near the northeast corner of Somerset golf course. Debi McConnell of Mendota Heights will chair the anniversary planning committee. The year-long project will showcase all eight district schools over several weeks in the spring of 2009.

McConnell invites residents to share information and volunteer to help. She is specifically seeking early information about the district that might be in private hands and encourages alumni to get involved. To share stories or documents or for general information on volunteer opportunities and sponsorships, e-mail [macbach@comcast.net](mailto:macbach@comcast.net) or call Mary DeYoung at 651-681-2307.

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# Through the mill

## Mpls. reviews \$50 million redevelopment of old Purina site on Hiawatha

BY KEVIN DRISCOLL

It has been three years since Dale Joel of Capital Growth Realty began working on a plan to redevelop the old Purina Mills site on Hiawatha Avenue in South Minneapolis as a mix of residential and commercial uses. But he isn't complaining.

"You usually have to figure about three years for planning, design and lining up the financing and two more years to build," Joel said. In fact, for all the governmental hoops his \$50 million project has had to jump through, three years could be considered pretty quick.

Joel hopes to break ground on his Longfellow Station development by the end of the summer. Situated on 22 acres southeast of the intersection of Hiawatha and 38th Street, Joel's project as proposed includes 198 apartments and 40,000 square feet of retail space in two five-story buildings with a central courtyard and surface and underground parking for 400 vehicles.

"Sixty percent of the apartments will be affordable housing," Joel said. That is three times as much as the city of Minneapolis' minimum requirement of 20 percent.

Longfellow Station's site is just a stone's throw from the Hiawatha light-rail line's 38th Street Station.

Joel is seeking federal assistance for the affordable housing portion of the project. He has already been granted \$2.3 million in city funding, including \$400,000 from the Community Planning and Economic Development Affordable Housing Trust Fund. Hennepin County has also awarded the project \$100,000 in transit-oriented development funding. His application for local tax-increment financing is now under preliminary review.

In seeking federal assistance to redevelop the old Purina Mills site, Joel's project must undergo a review under the National Historic Preservation Act. "While the Purina buildings themselves don't have any historical significance, the area around them for a few blocks in each direction has been recommended for the National Register of Historic Places," said historical consultant Charlene Roise at a March 12 public hearing conducted by the Minneapolis Planning Department and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

"It doesn't make any difference what they decide," Joel said. "I'm treating it as though it's of historical significance and will do all the suggested mitigation."

According to Roise, any historical mitigation required for the project will likely include a review of the



A drawing of the \$50 million Longfellow Station that has been proposed by developer Dale Joel for the old Purina Mills site at Hiawatha Avenue and 38th Street in South Minneapolis.

final architectural design by the SHPO and the city's Historic Planning Commission, documentation of the Purina Mills for the Minnesota Historical Property Record, and providing space for a historical display in the buildings' main lobbies or outdoor courtyard.

"We've tried, successfully I think, to maintain the historical industrial feel of the area and of the old Purina buildings by incorporating metal walkways and other features on and between the two buildings," said David Miller of Urban Works Architects, which designed Longfellow Station. "There will be solar panels on top of each building for water heating. The courtyard will be well-landscaped, and more landscaping will be added in appropriate spaces around the perimeter of the buildings. And outdoor areas near the retail spaces, such as restaurants and coffee shops, will have public benches."

However, the most historic aspect of the project may be Joel's signing of a legally binding Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) with the Longfellow Community Council.

Work on the CBA began in October 2006 and the CBA was signed in February 2008, according to Ralph Wyman, chief negotiator for the Longfellow council.

In the CBA, Joel has agreed to provide affordable housing; use "environmentally sensitive" demolition, construction and design methods; and provide notice and complaint processes above and beyond what the city typically requires.

The CBA sets goals for living-wage jobs in construction and for long-term commercial tenants, according to Wyman. No "big box" retail stores will be permitted, and no single business may occupy more than 30,000 square feet, he said. No more than 70 percent of the retail space may be occupied by national chain or franchise stores, and at least 10 percent of the retail space must be set aside for small, neighborhood-based businesses.

To promote the use of mass transit, Wyman said, Joel has agreed to provide a free one-month transit pass for each apartment rented, offer a way for tenants and visitors to buy transit passes on site, and work

with Metro Transit on some sort of ongoing tenant discount for transit passes.

The CBA also establishes an architectural advisory committee that will work with the developer to ensure the project hews to the provisions of the CBA. Among those provisions is a design that is "urban, not suburban, in feel and function" and that includes "exterior finishes and materials reflective of the development as a gateway to the Longfellow neighborhood."

"It's a complicated project with complicated financing," Joel said. "But it's all been easy on me because I grew up in the Nokomis neighborhood and I know how people feel about the area."

Joel's requests for conditional use permits and a zoning change are now being reviewed by the Minneapolis Planning Commission. Joel expects that a final decision on the zoning will be made by the City Council sometime in May.

For more information on the project, visit [www.capitalgrowthre.com/longfellow.htm](http://www.capitalgrowthre.com/longfellow.htm).

## Business Briefs

**Langford Chiropractic Clinic**, 730 S. Cleveland Ave., will celebrate the opening of its newly remodeled clinic from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Friday, March 28. Call 651-699-8610.

**Christopher Taykalo** of Summit Hill has been named marketing and development manager of the Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus. Taykalo has more than 11 years of experience working in the nonprofit sector for such organizations as Twin Cities Public Television, the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts and the Civic Center of Greater Des Moines. He previously led the community relations efforts of radio stations KQRS, 93X, Drive 105 and Radio Disney.

**E's Cheese** in the Village at Mendota Heights on Highway 110 and Dodd Road is offering complimentary cheese classes and tastings every Thursday from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m.

**Molly Grove** of Highland Park has been named vice president of public affairs for the St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce. Grove has more than 15 years of experience in government relations, policy development and strategic planning. She previously worked as director of municipal affairs for the Minnesota Multi-Housing Association, community outreach coordinator for Metro Transit and district director for former Congressman Bruce Vento.

**Dr. Jessika Bell** has been named the newest member of the veterinary team at the Animal Medical Clinic, 234 S. Snelling Ave. Bell earned her degree in veterinary medicine at the University of Minnesota in 2005.

**Coldwell Banker Burnet** recognized sales associates Tom Edelstein of the Highland Park office and Jim Seabold and Sarah Kinney of the Crocus Hill office for outstanding real estate performance in 2007 at the company's annual awards ceremony in Minneapolis. They were ranked among the top 50 out of more than 2,600 sales associates in Minnesota and western Wisconsin, with Tom Edelstein being ranked number four in the company. Sales associates Gary Fabel and John

Hayes from the Crocus Hill office were honored for their 30 years of service with the company.

**Rebel Ink Baby** has opened at 1593 Selby Ave. Owner Todd Turfler is selling a line of baby clothing that features black-and-white snap suits and long-sleeve tees that make a statement with catchy slogans like "Insomniac," "Pink & Blue Make Me Spew," "Daddy's Little Tax Deduction" and "I Live in a Gated Community." Turfler said the idea for the store came after his wife, Lisa, gave birth to a boy three years ago and they discovered a lack of inspiration in baby clothing. "I got so tired of all the blue outfits," he said, "so I made a few cool black threads with phrases that made me laugh. It turned out, everyone was asking where we found these. Next thing you know we put a whole line together."

**Seoul Salon**, 274 S. Snelling Ave., a new hair salon owned by Nicole Pottebaum-Johnson, celebrated its grand opening on March 14.

**Evla Pottery** has outgrown its original space at 844 Grand Ave. and has moved down the street to a new gallery space at 42 S. Dale St., next to La Cucaracha. The shop, which is now in its 13th year, features the pottery of Mike Coon and the large, abstract oil paintings of his wife, Kim Christenson, who has a studio/loft in downtown St. Paul. The grand opening is scheduled from noon to 7:00 p.m. Saturday, April 19. Both of their works also will be featured in the St. Paul Art Crawl on April 25-26 ([www.stpaulartcrawl.org](http://www.stpaulartcrawl.org)).

"Should my child be vaccinated?" will be discussed in a free program at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, April 5, at Aspire Chiropractic, 333 Grand Ave. Dr. Brenda Kress will speak on the consequences of immunizing children. Call 651-294-2332.

**A seminar for those going into business** will be presented by SCORE small business counselors from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 2, at the new Anchor Bank, 1570 Concordia Ave. The \$59 fee includes materials. SCORE will offer a seminar

on developing a business plan from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thursday, April 10, at Anchor Bank. The cost is \$39, which includes materials. A seminar on business marketing will be presented by SCORE from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 16, at Anchor Bank. The cost is \$39, which includes materials. Call 651-632-8937.

**Fort Snelling Federal Credit Union**, 5025 54th St. E., Minneapolis, celebrated 60 years in business at its annual meeting on February 23. The meeting included the election of David Milne, Chuck Hiivala, George Hawkins, Eric Bauer and Justin Charpenter to two-year terms on the board. The credit union is open to employees of the VA Medical Center and Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building, military members and civilian employees at Fort Snelling, and residents, businesses, churches and schools in parts of South Minneapolis, Richfield and Bloomington.

**Dr. C. John Baumgartner**, a recognized leader in diabetes, obesity and weight management treatment, has joined Medical Weight Management Centers Inc. as medical director. MWMC specializes in the treatment of overweight patients at three clinics, including one at 385 N. Lexington Pkwy.

**The Highland Business Association** will hold a membership luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Thursday, March 27, at the St. Paul Pool and Yacht Club, 1600 Lilydale Road. St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman will be the guest speaker. He will discuss this year's budget and the Republican National Convention. The cost is \$15-\$20. Call 651-699-9042.

**Attorney Michael W. Unger** of Macalester-Groveland was recently appointed by the Minnesota Supreme Court to the Minnesota Lawyers Professional Responsibility Board. Unger also was recently recertified by the Minnesota State Bar Association as a civil trial specialist. He represents personal injury and medical malpractice victims and has offices in downtown Minneapolis.

# St. Paul continues to address equal access to city contracts

## Latest proposals would create new city department, expand Human Rights Commission

By JANE McCLURE

St. Paul's long-standing debate over equal access to city contracts and vendor opportunities could be one step closer to resolution. Several ideas outlined by City Attorney John Choi at a public meeting on March 17 could help address concerns raised by women and minorities that they have been shut out of city bid processes for years.

The March 17 meeting was the second one in two months to address the issue. At least one more meeting is likely to be held in April.

Ideas brought forward this month included expanding the city's Human Rights Commission from seven to 21 members and creating a new department to oversee city contracting. Currently those operations are handled in several departments.

The ideas are preliminary and the costs of implementing them are unknown. Any

changes would have to be approved by Mayor Chris Coleman and the City Council.

A 120-page study that was released by the council and mayor last November indicated that St. Paul had to do more to ensure that women, minorities and disabled people have equal access to city contracts and service agreements. Poor communication, the lack of coordination, and the need for more resources and monitoring were among the issues raised by the report, which was prepared by a Milwaukee consulting firm. The report made a total of 44 recommendations for changes.

The report focused on the city's Vendor Outreach Program. A key finding was that in 2006 the city awarded \$220 million in contracts, less than 7 percent of which went to firms owned by women, minorities and disabled people. The city's goal for such contracting is 10 percent.

Last year, Coleman directed Choi to examine the report, work with the public and recommend changes. The intent was for Choi to complete his review in February, but most people involved agreed that more time is needed.

*"It's the law already," said real estate agent Mike Thomas. "Put some money behind it and put some wheels on it."*

Choi has met with numerous groups and individuals over the past several months, including the city's Human Rights Commission, the NAACP, religious organizations and contractors' associations.

Choi said accountability is a big issue. Several city departments are involved in awarding and monitoring contracts and looking into discrimination complaints. He described the system as "divided and fragmented."

Choi is suggesting a new city department to oversee enforcement of contractors' affirmative action plans, which is currently handled by the city's Human Rights Department. The new department would also take over new contractor recruiting duties handled by the Department of Planning and Economic De-

velopment, the contract analysis work done by the city's Office of Financial Services, and the policing of unlicensed contractors handled by the Department of Safety and Inspections.

One suggested name for the new body is the Department of Human Rights and Economic (or Equal) Opportunities. Its director would have the final say over contracting issues and would be insulated from retribution by elected officials by having a term of office. In 2003, Ed McDonald, the city's highest-ranking staff member working on minority business retention, was fired by then-Mayor Randy Kelly after he wrote a report stating that the city was failing to meet its minority contracting goals.

Choi's recommendations have been getting a mixed reaction. Some people are concerned that they would weaken the Human Rights Department, while others are pleased to see that the city is finally acting on the report and addressing long-standing issues.

"It's the law already," said real estate agent Mike Thomas, who sued the city when his firm was unable to get contracts under Mayor Kelly's Housing 5000 program. "Put some money behind it and put some wheels on it."

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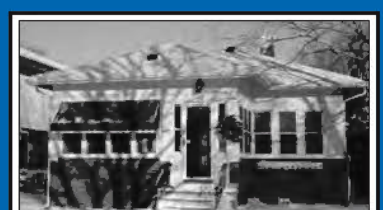
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The Dew Drop Pond at the College of St. Catherine was originally believed to be fed by springs, as depicted in a 1909 postcard at left that showed it before an island was added. Warmer groundwater from the campus now drains into the pond, keeping it partially ice-free in the winter as shown at right.



# Going with the flow

## Natural spring water can still be found bubbling up throughout St. Paul

BY GREG BRICK

Back in Minnesota's pioneer days, natural springs were valuable assets and among the chief sources of potable drinking water. Today, unless they have scenic value, springs are often regarded as a nuisance by city dwellers.

Highland Spring, located near the corner of Randolph Avenue and Lexington Parkway, illustrates the point. That natural spring gave rise in 1900 to the Highland Spring Company, whose water was delivered across the city by wagon, making it the first and only commercial spring in St. Paul. The company closed in 1965, but the spring that gave it birth still flows, its water now routed into a storm drain behind the Montcalm Estates apartments.

Highland Spring is just one of dozens of springs in St. Paul that I mapped in 1993. Rainfall had been greater than normal that year, saturating the ground and bringing many otherwise dormant springs out of hiding.

During the mapping process, it became apparent that the springs in St. Paul were not randomly distributed, but tended to occur along distinct geologic lines. Ascending from the Mississippi River to higher elevations, there are seven belts of springs.

At Pleasant and St. Clair avenues, springs were found gushing from the Summit Hill slope. One local resident said that his parents used to drink the water from these springs, which were listed by the city in 1895 as the Street Fountains. However, by 1901 a city engineer's report described "the success that has been achieved in doing away with numerous springs in various parts of the city that in the past have been a considerable source of annoyance, danger and expense."

Natural springs remain troublesome along the Ramsey Hill bluff, where they continue to be responsible for wet basements, landslides and slick pavement. Water can periodically be found pouring from a crack in a driveway off of Irvine Avenue, flowing downhill along the switchbacks before vanishing into a storm drain. Where the spring line crosses Grand Avenue, water can be found gushing from the bases of ornate lamp-posts. At Sunny Slope Lane in Highland Park, a rivulet flowing in the street could be traced back to a private residence. The owner of the home said there was a trapdoor in the basement



The flow from Highland Spring can still be seen from a storm drain behind Montcalm Estates.

that could be lifted to view the spring.

Several small, unmarked city parks in Highland Park also contain springs. Historian Donald Empson, author of *The Street Where You Live: A Guide to the Place Names of St. Paul*, refers to these as "ghost parks." The association between springs and ghost parks is hardly accidental, since these rugged plots were useless for building purposes—exactly the sort of topography in which springs lurk. One example is Fountain Park on Lexington Parkway.

The location of Dew Drop Pond on the College of St. Catherine campus suggested that it too was fed by springs. A 1909 postcard depicts the spring itself. The artistic rendering shows Dew Drop in the background, before it was landscaped in the 1920s with the addition of an island. However, the spring is no longer visible. Years ago, during a major construction project, it was decided to deal with the shallow water table on that part of the campus by laying down a concrete pipe that drains into Dew Drop at the rate of 18 gallons a minute.

On the grounds of the St. Paul Seminary there is a ravine where the water flow during dry weather is entirely from the seepage of a natural spring. Several other similar spring-cut ravines are found along the river. Even nearby Shadow Falls at the foot of Summit Avenue may be of this character. The waterfall was identified as Spring Leap on an 1839 map.

Farther north at the Town & Country Club on Marshall Avenue there is a spring on the golf course where the ground is so waterlogged it's like walking on a bog. Surrounded by giant willow trees, the scenery here probably best represents the appearance of this type of spring in the early days of St. Paul.

*Editor's note: The writer is an environmental consultant who grew up in Highland Park.*

## Senior News

**An Aging Splendidly seminar** will be held at noon Thursday, April 10, at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 104 S. Snelling Ave. Gary Gorman of the Minnesota Department of Human Rights will speak on age discrimination, how to file a charge and what can be expected in terms of process and results. The cost is \$6.00. A health check will be offered at 11:30 a.m. Call 651-699-5560.

**A senior driver refresher course** will be held by the AARP from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. Monday, April 7, at St. Paul College, 317 Marshall Ave. The eight-hour basic course will be held from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. Mondays, April 21 and 28. The fee for either course is \$14. Those 55 and older who complete

the full course may qualify for a 10 percent discount on their auto insurance premiums. The refresher is required every three years to continue the discount. Call 651-846-1800 to register.

**West 7th Community Center**, 265 Oneida St., is offering the following activities for seniors: "Pathways to Better Health: Managing Ongoing Health Conditions" from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, April 1-May 6 (\$10, which includes all six sessions a healthy snack and reference book); "What is Reiki?" at 4:00 p.m. Thursday, April 3 (\$3.00 donation); and "Shopping on a Budget at the Co-op" at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 9. Call 651-298-5493.

# 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](http://www.co.ramsey.mn.us/sheriff/communitywatch.htm).

## Highland Park

**Robbery**—Two men robbed a 54-year-old woman outside her home on the 1600 block of Ford Parkway at about 10:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 5. The suspects knocked the woman to the ground and took \$800 in cash from her wallet.

**Theft**—The ATM machine was broken into and cash was taken at Highgrove Community Federal Credit Union, 680 S. Cleveland Ave., at about 3:00 a.m. Saturday, March 1.

**Burglary**—Someone tried to break into a home on the 900 block of South Fairview Avenue at about 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 5.

**Assault**—Police were called after a fight broke out at the Starting Gate Bar, 2516 W. 7th St., at about 2:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 4. All the parties were gone when the police arrived.

## Lexington-Hamline

**Burglary**—A home on Griggs Street near Portland Avenue was burglarized between 4:30 and 11:45 p.m. Thursday, February 28.

**Sex crimes**—A 20-year-old Lexington-Hamline man was arrested on the 200 block of Dayton Avenue for criminal sexual conduct at about 4:30 a.m. Sunday, February 24.

## Macalester-Groveland

**Burglary**—SuperAmerica, 232 S. Fairview Ave., was burglarized at about 3:00 a.m. Sunday, March 2. Forced entry was gained through the front door. A small amount of

merchandise was taken.

—A 44-year-old Summit-University man was arrested for burglary at about 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 5, at Shish, 1668 Grand Ave.

**Theft**—Textbooks were stolen from the Macalester bookstore, 36 S. Snelling Ave., at about 1:30 p.m. Thursday, February 21.

—A theft from auto occurred at Mississippi River Boulevard and Summit Avenue between 2:30 and 3:30 p.m. Saturday, February 23.

**Sex crimes**—An 18-year-old Macalester-Groveland man was arrested for criminal sexual conduct on the 1600 block of Grand Avenue at about 7:00 a.m. Sunday, March 2.

**Miscellaneous**—A 49-year-old St. Paul man was arrested for methamphetamine possession after police investigated a disturbance at Rosemark Bakery, 258 S. Snelling Ave., at about 7:00 a.m. Friday, February 29. The man was threatening his co-workers. While searching the man, police found a syringe of liquid meth.

—Child abuse was investigated at a house on Sargent Avenue when a 6-month-old boy was found with broken ribs at about 7:00 p.m. Friday, February 22.

## Merriam Park

**Robbery**—Two men in their 20s robbed a 45-year-old man of his cell phone and \$25 in cash at Aldine Street and Hague Avenue at about 8:30 p.m. Monday, February 25. One suspect hit the victim in the eye with a handgun, knocking him to the ground. The victim sustained a substantial injuries. The suspects fled on foot.

**Burglary**—A dorm room at the University of St. Thomas was burglarized between 10:00 p.m. Friday and 8:30 a.m. Saturday, Febru-

ary 22-23. Forced entry was gained through a window.

—Cash and miscellaneous items were taken from a home while the residents slept between midnight and 9:00 a.m. Monday, February 25, on the 1600 block of Marshall Avenue.

**Theft**—A wallet was stolen from a woman at the University of St. Thomas between 8:30 and 9:30 p.m. Saturday, March 1.

**Miscellaneous**—Tires on two vehicles were slashed on the 400 block of Roy Street between 7:00 and 10:00 p.m. Thursday, February 21.

## Snelling-Hamline

**Robbery**—A man was robbed at gunpoint in the parking lot of Rainbow Foods at about 2:30 p.m. Saturday, February 23. The two male suspects got into a green Dodge Stratus and fled east on University Avenue.

## Summit Hill

**Theft**—A former employee reportedly embezzled \$70,000 from Grand Ole Creamery, 750 Grand Ave. The theft was reported on February 23.

**Burglary**—An attempted burglary occurred on the 900 block of Osceola Avenue between 4:00 and 7:00 p.m. Thursday, February 28.

—A home on the 100 block of South Chatsworth Street was burglarized at about 10:45 p.m. Thursday, February 28.

## Summit-University

**Burglary**—An ATM machine was taken from Mississippi Market, 622 Selby Ave., between 4:15 and 5:00 a.m. Sunday, March 2.

**Miscellaneous**—Two pit bulls jumped on a 17-year-old female in the front of her house on

the 1000 block of Concordia Avenue at about 2:00 p.m. Saturday, February 23. The female waited across the street until police arrived. The dogs charged the police, too, but Animal Control officers were able to impound the animals, which came from a nearby yard. The dogs' owner was not home at the time.

—Someone threw a potted plant through the front window of a house on the 900 block of Hague Avenue at about 1:00 a.m. Friday, February 29.

## West End

**Robbery**—A man was robbed of his wallet at Milton Street and Otto Avenue at about 11:30 a.m. Sunday, February 24. The suspect is a male in his early 20s.

**Weapons**—Police responded to a report of shots fired at about 10:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 5, on the 500 block of Harrison Avenue. Police arrested a 35-year-old male suspect for possession of a sawed-off shotgun, reckless discharge of a firearm, possession of a firearm by a felon and on warrants for burglary and driving a car after license revocation.

**Miscellaneous**—The Ramsey County Sheriff Department's Narcotics Unit executed a search warrant on the 400 block of St. Clair Avenue at about 7:00 a.m. Wednesday, March 5, and arrested a 22-year-old female resident for drug possession.

## Lilydale

**Burglary**—Two men, ages 49 and 59, were arrested at about 8:00 a.m. Tuesday, March 4, for trying to burglarize the bait shop at 350 Water St. The suspects were also booked for possession of burglary tools, auto theft and possession of methamphetamine.

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# District Council News

## Highland Park

[www.highlanddistrictcouncil.org](http://www.highlanddistrictcouncil.org) • 651-695-4005

**Annual meeting and elections**—The Highland District Council will hold its annual meeting and elections from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 9, in the auditorium of Ford Motor Company's Twin Cities Assembly Plant (enter off Ford Parkway across from Bakers Square). The meeting will include a financial recap for 2007, a chance to meet St. Paul City Council member Pat Harris and St. Paul Police Commander Colleen Luna, and a presentation by committee member Pat Sellner on the city's Capital Improvement Budget process for 2009. An election will also be held to fill all seats from even-numbered grids plus two at-large seats. To view the grid map and election procedures, visit the HDC website. For more information, call the HDC office or e-mail [hdc@visi.com](mailto:hdc@visi.com).

**Town hall meeting**—St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman will host a town hall meeting from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Thursday, March 27, in Weyerhaeuser Hall at Macalester College. It is one of five neighborhood meetings the mayor has scheduled to share his mid-term accomplishments and hear from residents about their issues and concerns.

**Spring parks cleanup**—The St. Paul Division of Parks and Recreation will hold a spring parks cleanup from 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. Saturday, April 12. After picking up supplies and breakfast at a kickoff celebration, volunteers will head out to the park or recreation center of their choice to pick up trash. For information, call 651-632-2459, visit [www.stpaul.gov/parks/environment/parkscleanup](http://www.stpaul.gov/parks/environment/parkscleanup) or e-mail [environment@stpaul.gov](mailto:environment@stpaul.gov).

**Home Improvement Fair**—The 16th annual Highland Park and Macalester-Groveland Home Improvement Fair will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Saturday, April 19, at Cretin-Derham Hall, 550 S. Albert St. This year's fair will once again emphasize "green" home improvements.

**Electronic newsletter**—Highland residents may sign up to receive an electronic newsletter on the 15th of every month by visiting the council's website and clicking on newsletter registration. Make sure to check the box for e-news.

**Volunteers needed**—The HDC needs volunteers to help out with the Home Improvement Fair on April 19 and its spring neighborhood cleanup on May 17. Those who are interested in helping may send an e-mail to [hdc@visi.com](mailto:hdc@visi.com).

**Upcoming meetings**—Executive Committee, 7:00 p.m. Thursday, March 27; Transportation Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 31; board of directors, 7:00 p.m. Thursday, April 3. All meetings will be held at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. The public is invited to attend.

## Macalester-Groveland

[www.macgrove.org](http://www.macgrove.org) • 651-695-4000

**Town hall meeting**—St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman will host a town hall meeting for the Macalester-Groveland, Highland Park and Summit Hill neighborhoods from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Thursday, March 27, in Weyerhaeuser Hall at Macalester College. It is one in a series of neighborhood meetings the mayor has scheduled to share his mid-term accomplishments and hear from residents about their issues and concerns.

**Annual meeting**—The Macalester-Groveland Community Council will hold its annual meeting and board elections from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, April 10, at a location still to be determined. Those who attend will be able to sample desserts, elect board representatives, hear from journalist Jane McClure and find out what the community council has been up to. For information on running for a board seat, call executive director Melissa Martinez-Sones at the council office or e-mail her at [melissa@macgrove.org](mailto:melissa@macgrove.org).

**Home Improvement Fair**—The 16th annual Highland Park and Macalester-Groveland Home Improvement Fair will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Saturday, April 19, at Cretin-Derham Hall, 550 S. Albert St. This year's fair will once again emphasize "green" home improvements, with more than 75 exhibitors and 15 workshops. For more information, contact Andy Hamerlinck at the council's office.

**Block club open house**—A joint block club open house will be held by the Macalester-Groveland and District 13 community councils from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 26, in Room 100 of the University of St. Thomas' McNeely Hall on Cleveland and Summit avenues. Ward 4 St. Paul City Council member Russ Stark will deliver the keynote address on "The Importance of Starting and Growing Block Clubs." There will also be an opportunity to meet with city, district council and college officials. Coffee and dessert will be served. For more information, call Marie Nelson at the council office or e-mail her at [marie@macgrove.org](mailto:marie@macgrove.org).

**Spring parks cleanup**—The St. Paul Division of Parks and Recreation will hold a spring parks cleanup from 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. Saturday, April 12. Supplies and breakfast will be provided

at kickoff celebrations throughout the city. Volunteers will then head out to the park or recreation center of their choice to pick up trash. For information, call 651-632-2459, visit [www.stpaul.gov/parks/environment/parkscleanup](http://www.stpaul.gov/parks/environment/parkscleanup) or e-mail [environment@stpaul.gov](mailto:environment@stpaul.gov).

**Central Corridor open house**—The city of St. Paul will host an open house on Central Corridor light-rail transit station area planning from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Saturday, March 29, at the Central Corridor Resource Center, 1080 University Ave. Comments will be sought on the seven station area plans for University Avenue. A city staff member will be there to answer questions about each station area. For information, visit [www.stpaul.gov/centralcorridor](http://www.stpaul.gov/centralcorridor).

**Police department study**—Berkshire Advisors is conducting a study for the St. Paul Police Department and has scheduled three public forums to give residents a chance to comment on police services. The forums will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Monday, April 7, at the Paul Wellstone Community Center, 179 E. Robie St.; Tuesday, April 8, at the Martin Luther King Center, 271 Mackubin St.; and Wednesday, April 9, at Metropolitan State University, 700 E. 7th St. Residents may drop in at any time during the forums to share their ideas and perspectives with the consultants.

**Mark your calendar**—Block club open house, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 26, University of St. Thomas; town hall meeting with Mayor Chris Coleman, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Thursday, March 27, Macalester College; Transportation Committee meeting, 7:00 p.m. Monday, March 31, Edgumbe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St.

## Summit Hill

[www.summithillassociation.org](http://www.summithillassociation.org) • 651-222-1222

**SHA board meetings**—The Summit Hill Association's board of directors will meet at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, April 10, at the Linwood Recreation Center, 860 St. Clair Ave. Board meetings offer an opportunity for residents to voice their views on issues of local interest. For information, call the SHA office.

**Green thumbs wanted**—The SHA Environmental Issues Committee is looking for gardeners to help water, mulch and maintain the upper gardens and Sam Morgan prairie at the Linwood Recreation Center. Those who are able to lend a hand are asked to call or stop by the SHA office for details.

**Get connected electronically**—Regularly updated information on neighborhood activities and programs and SHA House Tour tickets are now available by consulting the SHA's website. Residents may also sign up on the website to receive electronic news updates about important events, meetings and other neighborhood issues.

**Dates to remember**—Communications Committee meeting, 7:00 p.m. Monday, March 24, at the Linwood Recreation Center, 860 St. Clair Ave.; board of directors meeting, 7:00 p.m. Thursday, April 10, at Linwood; spring progressive supper on Saturday, April 26; neighborhood garage sale on Saturday, May 3; neighborhood cleanup on Saturday, May 10; and Grand Old Day on Sunday, June 1. For details, call the SHA office.

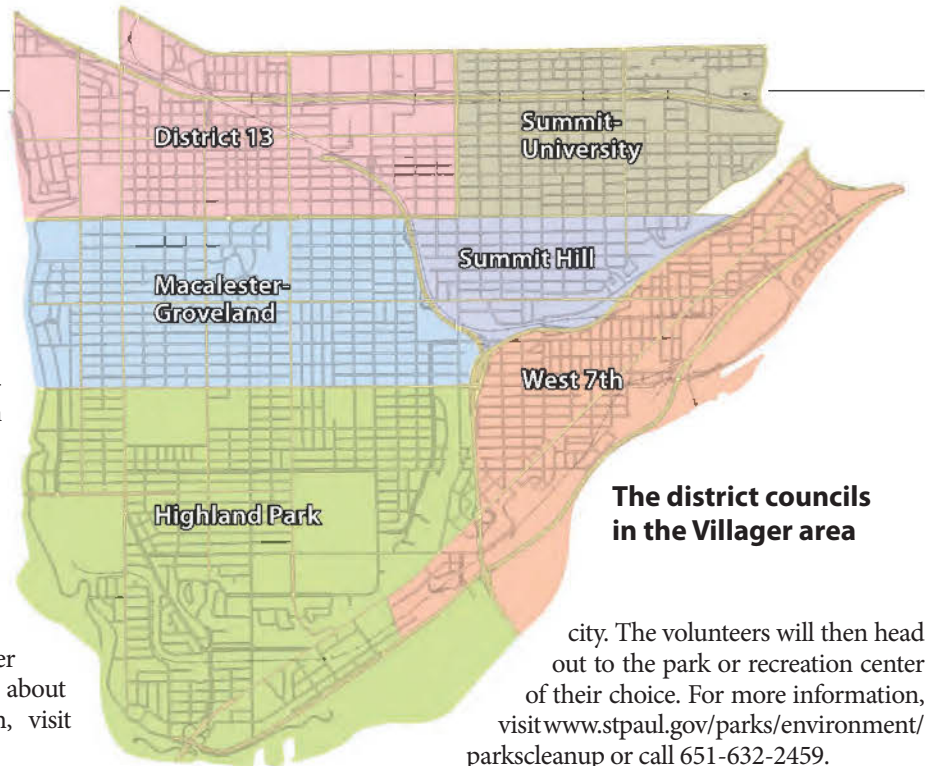
## Summit-University

[www.Summit-U.com](http://www.Summit-U.com) • 651-228-1855

**Annual elections**—The Summit-University Planning Council will hold its annual elections on May 17. Board members are elected by residents of each neighborhood subdistrict. Ballots are due by May 7 and may be found on the council's website or picked up at the office, 627 Selby Ave. For information, contact executive director Irna Landrum by calling the council office or e-mailing [info@summit-u.com](mailto:info@summit-u.com).

**Light-rail stations**—The city of St. Paul will host an open house on planning for the areas around the proposed Central Corridor light-rail transit stations from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Saturday, March 29, at the Central Corridor Resource Center, 1080 University Ave. Residents will be able to learn more about the plans for the seven light-rail stations proposed for University Avenue and give their reaction. For information, visit [www.stpaul.gov/centralcorridor](http://www.stpaul.gov/centralcorridor).

**Parks and litter cleanup**—The city of St. Paul will hold its annual spring parks cleanup from 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. Saturday, April 12. Residents are invited to get a group of neighbors together and help clean up a nearby park. Supplies and breakfast will be provided at kickoff celebrations throughout the



The district councils in the Villager area

city. The volunteers will then head out to the park or recreation center of their choice. For more information, visit [www.stpaul.gov/parks/environment/parkscleanup](http://www.stpaul.gov/parks/environment/parkscleanup) or call 651-632-2459.

**Police department study**—St. Paul residents will have an opportunity next month to discuss their experiences with and expectations for the St. Paul Police Department. Consultants will use the comments gathered at three public forums to develop recommendations to enhance the department's ability to protect and serve citizens. The forums will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Monday, April 7, at the Paul Wellstone Community Center, 179 E. Robie St.; Tuesday, April 8, at the Martin Luther King Center, 271 Mackubin St.; and Wednesday, April 9, at Metropolitan State University, 700 E. 7th St. Residents may stop in at those locations at any time during the forums.

**Upcoming meetings**—Community Improvement and Safety Committee, 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 15; Neighborhood Issues, 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 15; board of directors, 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 22. All meetings will be held at the St. Albans Community Room, 665 Selby Ave. Those with issues they would like to discuss at the meetings are asked to call the SUPC office.

## District 13

[www.district13stpaul.blogspot.com](http://www.district13stpaul.blogspot.com) • 651-645-6887

**Block club fair**—The District 13 and Macalester-Groveland community councils will host a block club leadership fair from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 26, in Room 100 of the University of St. Thomas' McNeely Hall at Cleveland and Summit avenues. St. Paul City Council member Russ Stark will speak at 7:00 p.m. on the importance of block clubs. Information will be provided for those who are interested in starting a block club, dessert will be served, and there will be an opportunity to discuss issues with city and local officials. For information, call Julie Oney at the District 13 office.

**1000 Benches**—The District 13 Neighborhood Issues Committee will discuss the 1,000 Benches project at 7:00 p.m. Monday, April 7, at the Dunning Recreation Center, 1221 Marshall Ave. Active Living Ramsey County (ALRC) wants to place 1,000 benches in the county by the end of 2010 in order to promote walking. A route with 10-12 benches is being proposed in District 13. Donations of \$600 per bench are being sought and include a memorial plaque, with ALRC paying the other half of the cost. For information on making a donation, call the office or e-mail Julie Oney at [julie@d13stpaul.org](mailto:julie@d13stpaul.org).

**Central Corridor open house**—The city of St. Paul will hold an open house on Central Corridor light-rail transit station area planning from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Saturday, March 29, at the Central Corridor Resource Center, 1080 University Ave. Information will be provided on the plans for seven station areas on University Avenue. A city staff member will be there to answer questions about each station area.

**Rock-Tenn meeting**—The Rock-Tenn Community Advisory Panel will meet at 7:00 p.m. Monday, March 31, at the Wilder Center, 451 Lexington Pkwy. A presentation will be given on refuse-derived fuel.

**Stay connected**—Residents of District 13 may sign up to receive monthly electronic newsletters about neighborhood issues, meetings and activities by e-mailing [theresa@d13stpaul.org](mailto:theresa@d13stpaul.org). To receive District 13 crime statistics, e-mail [julie@d13stpaul.org](mailto:julie@d13stpaul.org).

**Mark your calendar**—District 13 board meeting, 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 2, Merriam Park Community Center, 2000 St. Anthony Ave.; Neighborhood Issues Committee meeting, 7:00 p.m. Monday, April 7, Dunning Recreation Center, 1221 Marshall Ave.; Parks and Recreation Committee meeting, 7:00 p.m. Monday, April 7, Merriam Park Community Center; and Land Use Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 16 (call for location).



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# A church reborn

## Husband-and-wife co-pastors breathe new life into Edgcumbe Presbyterian

By Tom Conlon

Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church has always had a lot of room to grow. Its 5-acre tract at 2149 Edgcumbe Road is the largest of any stand-alone church in St. Paul. The problem is, the 54-year-old congregation hasn't been growing. In fact, its average Sunday attendance fell below 30 worshippers last summer. That's when Edgcumbe hired husband and wife Phil and Julie GebbenGreen as co-pastors. Sharing what is just a part-time position, the co-pastors are breathing new life into what long-time church members feared was a dying congregation.

"Pastor Phil is an excellent preacher," said Chuck Neve, a member of the Edgcumbe Church session and its Pastoral Search Committee. "And Pastor Julie has special gifts in gerontology, which is a real plus given our predominately older membership. Both share preaching and liturgical duties in an interactive style while preserving the richness of the faith. And their three young children, along with four new children in the congregation, have helped reinvigorate our children's program."

The Edgcumbe Presbyterian congregation first met in 1954 in a duplex near Montreal and Cleveland avenues and moved shortly thereafter into the present building. The sunny sanctuary can seat more than 150, though it was never intended to be the congregation's main sanctuary for the long term.

"The congregation envisioned building a Gloria Dei Lutheran-type building to accommodate the growth in the neighborhood," said Sid Nelson, a deacon and charter member of Edgcumbe Presbyterian. "We had 150 or more members through the 1960s. Highland Park High School opened up next door in 1964. The future looked bright."

Edgcumbe saw some growth following the merger of Macalester Presbyterian into

Macalester-Plymouth United Church in the 1960s. Among Edgcumbe's early members were David Fesler, president of the former Liberty State Bank; Macalester College political science professor Yahya Armajani; and Eleanor Adams, mother-in-law of U.S. Senator and Vice President Walter Mondale. The Mondales' daughter Eleanor was baptized at the church following her birth in 1960.

However, the church never needed a larger sanctuary. The birth rate began dropping, here and across the U.S., in the latter half of the 1960s along with St. Paul's population as more and more families sought the greener pastures of suburbia. "Our low point was last year when we rarely had more than 30 people attending Sunday morning services," said Dave York, another original church member. "We'd been in discussions with St. Paul's United Church of Christ on Summit Avenue on a possible merger, but they voted it down."

*"Julie and I ... believed we could bring a blending of our spiritual gifts for the benefit of the congregation as well as different perspectives to the pulpit, administration, counseling and teaching."*

Of the top candidates identified by the Pastoral Search Committee, Phil GebbenGreen was the youngest, according to Neve. "(He) had excellent preaching and Biblical knowledge," Neve said. "We thought he'd also appeal to people beyond our own comfort level and church make-up."

"When they extended the call to me, Julie and I both came to the conclusion that we wanted to work together," Phil said. "We believed we could bring a blending of our spiritual gifts for the benefit of the congregation as well as different perspectives to the pulpit, administration, counseling and teaching. I told the session I'd accept the call on the condition that we serve as co-pastors."

Brian Manwarren, 50, joined Edgcumbe Presbyterian this past winter. "I'm one of those who considered myself spiritual but not religious, and who disliked the politics of churches," he said. "But when I visited here and met the pastors, I saw down-to-earth hu-



The Reverend Phil and Julie GebbenGreen in the sanctuary of Edgcumbe Presbyterian.

PHOTO BY TOM CONLON

man beings who gave me a message to mull over. I didn't know I was looking for a church home, but they made me feel welcome."

Phil, 38, and Julie, 41, met in 1998 as students at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley. She was enrolled in the Lutheran seminary, and he in the Presbyterian seminary. They married, and upon graduation, Julie took an assistant pastorate at Trinity Lutheran Church in Gresham, Oregon. Phil continued his studies, and in 2003 the couple moved to the Twin Cities where Phil had been hired as an associate pastor at Shoreview's Presbyterian Church of the Way.

Then, one weekend in February 2007, Phil lost his job in Shoreview to budget cuts, Julie's sister-in-law died and the couple's then 2-year-old daughter Lydia was diagnosed with a

brain tumor. "It was a very trying time for our faith and for our family," Phil said.

"Having survived that experience, we felt we had a special empathy and connection to Edgcumbe Presbyterian, as it too was experiencing dying, death and resurrection," Phil said. "We were excited about this challenge and the opportunity to serve."

The GebbenGreens live in St. Paul's Hamline-Midway neighborhood with their children Lydia, 3, Micah, 5, and Isaac, 7. Over the past six months, the co-pastors have turned the focus of the church less to outreach and programming and more to spirituality. They invited the congregation to break up into prayer groups of three who agree to meet 10

EDGCUMBE PRESBYTERIAN ► 23

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# Religious Notes

**The Temple of Aaron Synagogue**, 616 S. Mississippi River Blvd., will offer the following programs in the coming weeks: "Impact of Caucuses and Primaries" with reporter Rachel Stassen-Berger at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 27 (\$8.00, includes light supper, call 651-688-3030); a Men's Club Shabbat Weekend, including an Erev Shabbat Live service followed by dinner at 6:00 p.m. Friday, March 28 (\$5.00-\$6.50), and a 9:00 a.m. Shabbat service on Saturday, March 29; "Judaism and the Business World" with Steven Baldinger of Baldinger Bakeries following Shabbat services on Saturday, March 29 (free); "Home Sweet Home Again: An Exhibit of Art and Poetry" that focuses on ending homelessness is on display through May 31 (free). Call 651-698-8874.

**The Gregorian Singers** will present a candlelight liturgy, Great Paschal Vespers, at 8:00 p.m. Sunday, March 30, at St. Paul's Church on the Hill, 1524 Summit Ave. The service celebrates Christ's resurrection with music, flowers, candlelight, incense and a reflective liturgy. Donations will be taken.

**Groveland Unitarian Universalist Fellowship**, 1671 Summit Ave., will offer the following talks at 10:15 a.m. on Sundays: "The Folly of Thinking in Absolute Terms" by Virginia Bergman on March 30, "Renewable Energy" by Larry Herbison on April 6, "The Wisdom of the Non-Rational: Symbol, Myth and Legend" by Bergman on April 13, "Sustainability" by Maisie Wolszon and Trescia Dunn on April 20, and "Twin Cities Unitarian Universalist History" by the Reverend Charles Buckmann Ellis on April 27. Call 651-699-4440.

**Wisdom Ways Center for Spirituality** is offering the following programs at the Carondelet Center, 1890 Randolph Ave.: "Ecology of Hope: The Poet and the Woodsman," 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, March 28 (donation); "Men and Their Spirits: Servitude, Freedom and Service" with professor Earl Schwartz, 7:15 to 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, April 2 (\$25-\$30, includes breakfast); "Planning Your Spring Labyrinth" with Lisa Moriarty, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, April 3 (\$25); "Make Your Own Healing Drum" with Sister Roseann Giguere, 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Saturday, April 12 (\$125, register by March 28); Sister Rosalind Gefre speaking from her life story from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Thursday, April 17 (\$25-\$30, includes dinner, register by April 12); and "Eco Spirituality: The Great Story," movie and discussion, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Friday April 18 (donation). Call 651-696-2788.

**The Loyola Spirituality Center**, 389 N. Oxford St., is offering a new workshop, "The Bible Goes to the Movies," from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Monday, March 31, to help participants find God on the silver screen. The cost is \$25. To register, call 651-641-0008.

**"The First Jewish Family:** What We Can Learn from Abraham and Sarah" will be the topic for the 12:30 Torah classes being offered from 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. on Wednesdays, April 2 and 16, at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. The classes are free and open to the public. Call 651-255-4739.

**Gloria Dei Lutheran Church**, 700 S. Snelling Ave., will celebrate its centennial with Bishop Mark Hanson of the Evangelical Lutheran

Church in America leading worship services at 8:15 and 11:00 a.m. Sunday, April 6. A Scandinavian reception will be held between the services. Call 651-789-2233.

**The St. Paul Interfaith Network** will hold an Interfaith Passover Seder from 4:30 to 8:00 p.m. Sunday, April 6, at Beth Jacob Congregation, 1179 Victoria Curve, Mendota Heights. The seder is sponsored by 30 Twin Cities faith communities. The suggested donation is \$5.00-\$15 and includes a vegetarian dinner. To register, visit [www.spacc.org/seder](http://www.spacc.org/seder) or call Marc Blakesley at 651-789-3877.

**Bernard and Delores Hofschulte** of Lakeville have donated \$250,000 to the St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity of the University of St. Thomas to endow scholarships in the memory of Bishop Paul Dudley, who died a year ago at the age of 79. Their gift was made to the seminary's \$23 million "I Will Give You Shepherds" campaign, whose biggest priority is \$12 million for seminary scholarships. The annual cost to educate and house a seminarian is \$50,000. Tuition and fees cover half the cost, with the rest coming from charitable giving. There are 62 seminarians enrolled this year. For information about the scholarship program, call Tom Ryan at 651-962-5056.

A **"Passover 101"** class will be offered at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 8, at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. The class is free and open to those both Jewish and non-Jewish who want to learn about the origins and customs of Passover. To register, call 651-255-4739.

**Divorcing and recently divorced** individuals will meet in a support group at 5:30 p.m. on eight Thursdays, beginning April 10, at House of Hope Presbyterian Church, 797 Summit Ave. Call Darlene Auger Stensby at 651-223-7544 or Kay Crawford at 651-227-5919 for information or to register.

A **Three Instincts Enneagram Workshop** will be offered with Katy Taylor and Dave Hall from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. Thursdays, April 10 to May 15, at Unity Unitarian Church, 732 Holly Ave. (no class on May 8). At the workshop, participants will explore their instinctual nature and how it influences their daily lives and relationships with others. The cost is \$150. Contact Taylor at [katysong@earthlink.net](mailto:katysong@earthlink.net) or 651-291-8551 to register.

**Wild Honey and the Locusts** will perform at 4:00 Sunday, April 20, as part of the Compline and Concerts series at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 285 N. Dale St. The group performs classic hymns, gospel favorites and spirituals in swing, blues, boogie-woogie, Dixieland, salsa and jazz. Donations will be accepted. Refreshments will follow the concert. Call 651-227-8295.

**St. Paul's United Church of Christ**, 900 Summit Ave., will offer an "Integrity of Creation" worship service at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, April 20. St. Paul's invites everyone to join in a celebration of God's creation at 6:30 p.m. on Earth Day, Tuesday, April 22. Gentle drumming, singing, simple prayers and a blessing of the animals will be featured on the lawn or inside in case of rain. Domestic pets and stuffed animals are welcome. Organic, homemade cookies will be served afterward. Call 651-224-5809.

## 22◀ EDGCUMBE PRESBYTERIAN

times in 100 days for 100 minutes per session. The goal of the prayer groups is to deepen the members' spirituality and strengthen the connections within the congregation.

"We encountered some anxiety with the idea at first," Phil said. "But fear leads us to the place of faith that we need to be in."

"We are the Body of Christ and must all be

participants," Julie said. "Our culture wants saviors, but we as pastors can't do it all. We wanted our members to understand there is a difference between believing in God and believing God. We shouldn't seek to re-create the church with a one-size-fits-all solution, so much as to listen to answers within our own prayers."

For more information on Edgumbe Presbyterian, visit [www.epchurch.org/index.htm](http://www.epchurch.org/index.htm).

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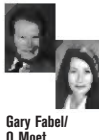

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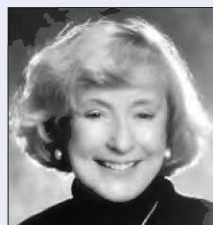

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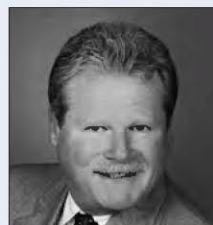
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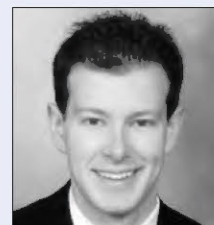
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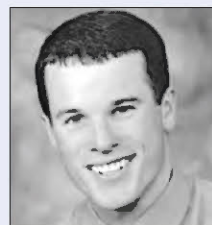
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# Home Improvement



## Better late than never

Two-story addition gives Selby couple the home they've always wanted

BY DAVE PAGE

Dave Kovacs described the Selby Avenue house he purchased in 1985 with partner Patty Halverson as having a "postage-stamp footprint." At 590 square feet, the foundation was so restrictive that until recently the couple was still using a wringer washer in the basement because a more modern electric washer wouldn't fit down the basement steps.

The 1½-story home was built in 1910 with a living room and kitchen on the first floor and a bedroom and bathroom on the second floor. A 1930s addition provided a second bedroom upstairs and a back room on the first floor where the couple kept a dryer.

Their plan, from the moment they moved in, was to renovate the house. However, business came before pleasure and the first project they tackled was replacing an old shack in the backyard with a combination garage and workshop where they restore pianos. It's a business they have operated for more than three decades.

The years passed, and Kovacs and Halverson were still wishing they had more living space. They said the only reason they didn't move into a larger house was because of the O'Garas.

"Tim O'Gara was our landlord when we first opened the piano renovation business a few blocks away on Selby," Kovacs said. "Patty would bake him peanut butter cookies for

clearing the snow from our drive. (Tim's son) Dan O'Gara still brings over his Bobcat to clear our drive, but he does it for M & M cookies. Dan and his wife Chris are great neighbors. They help out the whole neighborhood."

Kovacs and Halverson admitted they did not really get serious about remodeling their home until about five years ago. "We contacted one of those home-makeover television shows," Kovacs said, "but they passed us up."

Then last year they roughed out a plan to replace the 1930s addition with a new two-story addition above an expanded basement. "We figured with the downturn in the construction industry, we could find some builders willing to work with us," Halverson said.

Halverson had done wood restoration work for Peter Martin of Martin Renovation Group, so she asked him to draw up plans for the 12-by-20-foot addition. Last August, Halverson and Kovacs, as the general contractors, secured a building permit and began demolition work. They then hired an excavator to dig a basement, something the old addition never had.

Once the foundation block was set, Martin got to work. He and his crew did the framing, including new stairways to the basement and second floor, the exterior siding and the finish work. They were able to match the original trim in the main part of the house. They also installed new windows throughout the house.

To handle the drywall, electrical, plumbing



Acting as their own general contractor, Patty Halverson and Dave Kovacs have doubled the space in their Selby Avenue home with an expanded basement and two-story addition above. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER



and heating work, Halverson hired tradespeople she had met while working for Martin or found friends to lend a hand. "It's not easy being a general contractor," Halverson said. "But because of our experience running a small business, we knew what kinds of things we were looking for, like people who understand time frames."

That becomes especially crucial when water and heat have to be disconnected. "We probably went three weeks without heat while we repoured the floor in the original basement," Halverson said. "But it wasn't in the dead of winter. At the most, we went one or two days

without water."

Martin agreed that the project went smoothly. "It was a pretty straightforward tie-in," he said. "The hardest part was making sure the new floors lined up with the original floors."

Although the project is not yet complete, the couple have a new washer and dryer in the basement for which Halverson is most grateful. The new energy-efficient water heater and forced-air furnace in the basement vent out the wall, which has allowed the couple to tear out their old chimney.

"We had put insulation in the old part of the house already," Kovacs said, "so we're set as far as conserving energy."

Kovacs said he will soon be ready to hang cabinets in the new first-floor kitchen. The old kitchen will be replaced with a dining area, and the second floor of the addition will become the master bedroom once Halverson finishes the woodwork upstairs.

Kovacs and Halverson cannot say enough good things about the people they worked with. "The subcontractors were wonderful," Halverson said, "making sure everything was always clean and putting up zippered plastic barriers. And the city inspectors were very helpful."

Halverson is now anxious to begin landscaping this spring. "We always had a beautiful back yard," she said.

"But we didn't have a house before," Kovacs said. "Now we do."

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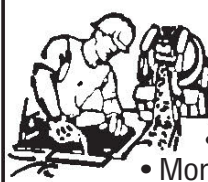
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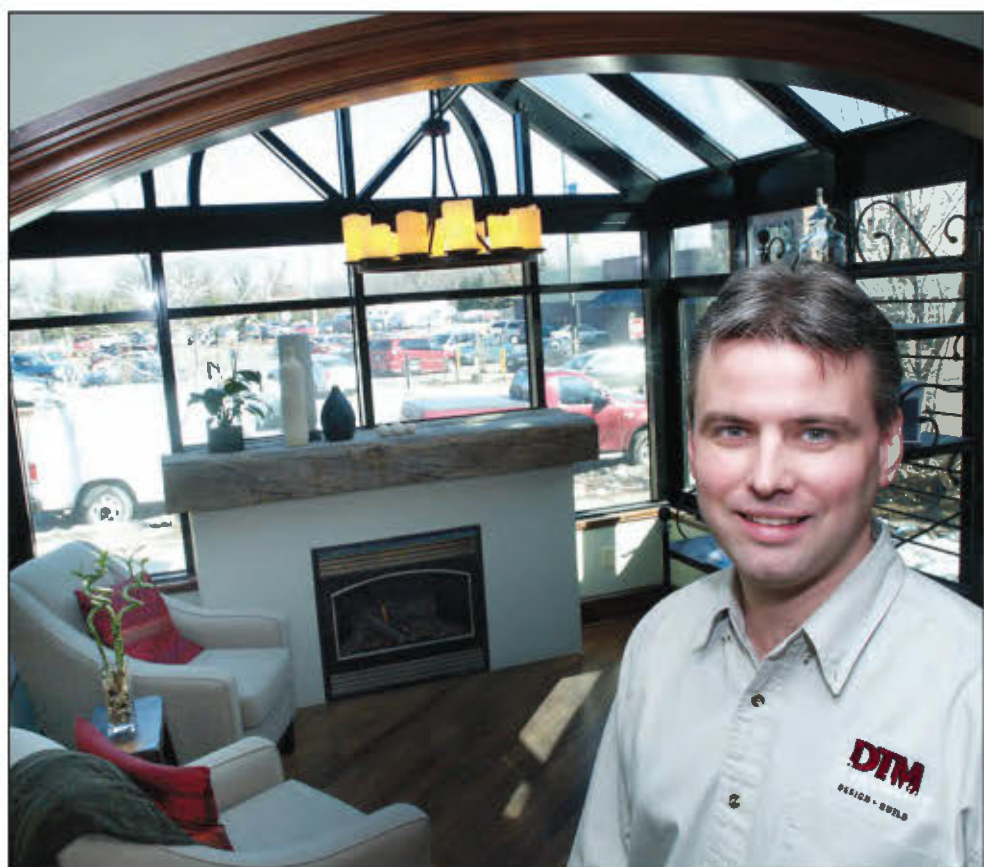
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Dan Tousignant, president of DTM Remodeling, shows off the company's rehabbed office at 1272 Grand Ave. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

# Seeing is believing

## Firm turns 1912 home on Grand into showcase of energy-efficient design

BY LARRY ENGLUND

Remodeling is the only business where we come into your house and destroy it to make it look better," said Dan Tousignant as he showed off the new offices of DTM Remodeling at 1272 Grand Ave.

The building is a 1912 home that Tousignant and his team completely remodeled as a showcase for potential customers. It is one of 69 remodeled homes that will be open to the public as part of the Parade of Homes Remodelers Showcase on March 28-30.

Tousignant, who started DTM Remodeling in Minneapolis five years ago, moved the business to Grand Avenue last fall. Before moving in, however, he gutted the building. "I didn't want just a showroom," he said. "I wanted to show the actual installation of products so a homeowner could see and feel how the products work in a home setting."

Tousignant used in-house architects and interior designers to create a plan that matched his vision. Once they settled on a design, he and his crews stripped the building down to the studs. "Basically, we started loading up dumpsters," Tousignant said.

After framing in new walls and replacing old headers, they sprayed polyurethane foam 3 inches thick on the outside walls and 6 inches thick on the ceiling. Using the high R-value foam insulation paid off this winter when the monthly cost of heating the 1,900-square-foot house never exceeded \$150, Tousignant said.

The building's plumbing, electrical and heating were all updated. The kitchen is now much larger and features a central work island and knotty alder custom cabinetry. The two new bathrooms feature products that not only look good, but are easy to maintain—from low-flow toilets and glass-tile backsplashes to a curved-glass shower enclosure.

Casement, double-hung and awning windows are used in the sales office to show customers how they operate when installed, while oak, maple and alder trim are used throughout the house. Tousignant noted that by installing a curved wall in the sales office he was able to meet Americans with Disabilities Act standards in the next door bathroom by creating a 5-foot turnaround.

The original maple flooring in the house

was re-installed upstairs. New bamboo flooring was used in the entryway. The kitchen and bathroom counters are from Cambria, a Le Sueur company that uses natural quartz to create nonporous surfaces. It is certified for use in food preparation and as a low-emitting product for indoor air quality. "It's nonabsorbent and easy to clean," Tousignant said. "We even used it in our shower stall."

The fireplace mantel in the sunroom is made from reclaimed lumber. Compact fluorescent lights illuminate the sidewalk alongside the house. The primarily brick exterior also features cement fiber siding that only has to be painted every 20 years or so.

*Once they settled on a design, he and his crews stripped the building down to the studs. "Basically, we started loading up dumpsters," Tousignant said.*

One of the most striking features of the house is a Solar Innovation folding-glass wall, which is much more energy-efficient than a patio door. The L-shaped wall lines the kitchen and short hallway and looks out over a deck. Double-paned glass and thermal breaks in the frame limit heat loss through the wall.

Though the energy efficiency is impressive, the real drama occurs when the wall is folded into its open position, providing 12 feet of unobstructed access to the deck and blurring the distinction between the indoors and outdoors.

Tousignant said a folding glass wall can run \$12,000-\$15,000 installed, while a 6-foot patio door can run from \$4,000 to \$5,000 installed.

Though not everyone wants to pay the additional expense of using green products, Tousignant said he tries to adhere to the principles of reusing and recycling whenever he can on his remodeling projects.

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# St. Paul tries to nail down rules for repairing vacant homes

By Jane McClure

A proposal that would require property owners to bring officially vacant buildings in St. Paul up to code before they are sold still needs a little fixing up. The St. Paul City Council was set to vote on the ordinance on March 19, but laid it over until May.

Lenders and real estate professionals said they appreciated the layover so they can continue discussing the vacant property issues and possible solutions with city officials and bring in suggestions of their own. Patrick Ruble of the St. Paul Area Association of Realtors has suggested that the city set up a working group of lenders, real estate professionals, contractors, city staff and nonprofit developers.

"There are people out there who want to invest in properties in St. Paul and we don't want to make that more difficult," he said.

The ordinance, brought forward by Ward 6 City Council member Dan Bostrom, is an attempt to address the problems associated with the growing number of vacant houses in the city. St. Paul today has more than 1,600 registered vacant buildings, most of them single-family homes and rental properties.

The proposed ordinance has support from neighborhoods where vacant and deteriorated buildings dominate some blocks. "It really can bring a whole neighborhood down," said

Bostrom, whose ward has 362 vacant buildings, the highest number in the city.

Real estate professionals, contractors, historic preservationists and lenders contend that the ordinance would only lead to more homes facing the wrecking ball or sitting vacant for even longer periods. "I don't think we want to discourage people who want to come in and put their own money and sweat equity into fixing up their homes," said Ward 2 council member Dave Thune.

Most council members said that though they understand Bostrom's intent and appreciate a serious discussion of the vacant housing issue, his proposed ordinance may not be the best way to address the problems. For his part, Bostrom said he is glad that the ordinance has started a dialogue.

All of the city's wards have properties on the registered vacant building list. Many have been abandoned due to the mortgage foreclo-



A worn notice could be seen on the front door of this vacant house in Merriam Park. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

sure crisis. In addition to those in Ward 6, the number of registered vacant buildings in the city include 357 in Ward 5, 311 in Ward 1, 292 in Ward 7, 195 in Ward 2, 87 in Ward 4 and 32 in Ward 3.

City staff estimate that as many as 1,300 of those buildings need repairs to bring them up to code. They also note that the actual number of vacant buildings could be much higher, because not all of them are registered with the city.

One issue that will be studied in the weeks ahead is how the city classifies vacant buildings. The city currently has three classes: one for buildings that could be reoccupied with little or no work, a second for buildings that need only minor repairs and a third for buildings that need major rehabilitation. About 85 percent of the buildings are in the second class, but Bostrom said that category may need to be subdivided. Class two buildings may need anything from \$5,000 to \$40,000 in repairs. "There's really a big spread," he said.

The proposed ordinance calls for stricter housing examinations before a vacant building can be sold. The city's Truth In Sale of Housing (TISH) inspections currently are conducted by private individuals. One criticism of some TISH reports is that they do not reflect all the corrections a property needs to meet city codes.

The ordinance would also strengthen criteria calling for potential remodelers to provide detailed work and financial plans before they fix up a home.

Ruble said real estate professionals and those who want to buy and rehabilitate properties could benefit if more information about vacant properties were posted on the city's website. He said contractors and investors become frustrated if they complete the work they thought the city wanted done, only to find that more work is needed.

## Midway Home & Garden Show set

The annual Greater Midway Home & Garden Show will be held this year from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Saturday,

March 29, at Crossroads Elementary School, 543 Front Ave.

The 17th annual show is being presented by Sparc, a nonprofit community development corporation, and will feature workshops on landscaping, choosing a contractor and more, along with an exhibit hall filled with local contractors, financial advisors, gardening experts and others. A free chil-

dren's birdfeeder-building project sponsored by Elpis Enterprises will return for the second year.

The workshops will include the following:

- 9:00 a.m.—Eco-friendly gardens.
- 9:00 a.m.—Choosing a contractor.
- 10:30 a.m.—Landscaping spaces.
- 11:00 a.m.—Reducing carbon footprints.

Noon—Resources for seniors living in their homes.

1:00 p.m.—Project EcoHouse at Macalester College.

1:30 p.m.—Container gardening.

Admission is free. For more information, call 651-488-1039.

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An upstairs bedroom in the newly remodeled Pinehurst Avenue home of husband and wife Kevin Flynn and Roxanne Nelson is equipped with sliding glass doors that open onto a balcony. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

# Down to the studs

## A green remodeling on Pinehurst

BY FRANK JOSSI

A 1940s Cape Cod house in Highland Park that is now undergoing a major addition and renovation may be one of the most ambitious attempts in the region to create a “green” home.

Much of the Pinehurst Avenue house has been stripped to the studs to incorporate new energy-efficient windows and insulation. Fourteen-hundred square feet is being added to the 1,500-square-foot home, which has been given a new flat roof covered with a white membrane to reflect the sun’s heat and reduce cooling costs in the summer. The roof will also be equipped with solar panels to provide electricity and power the home’s hot water heater, as well as a garden of native plants to manage stormwater, absorb carbon dioxide and improve air quality. Energy Star appliances will be installed throughout the home.

The mastermind behind the project is architect Kevin Flynn, 46, a resident of St. Paul’s West Side who plans to move into the house with his wife and fellow architect Roxanne Nelson and their three children when the project is completed early this summer.

Though the house will be twice the size of the original, it will use only half the energy, according to Flynn. It could have been even more energy-efficient if Flynn had had a bigger budget. “We could’ve spent a lot more on the appliances,” he said. “I’ve seen a lot of remodels where refrigerator alone is \$6,000. That was our entire kitchen appliance budget.”

Flynn is calling his new home the EcoDeep Haus, after EcoDeep, the business he founded as a consultant in green construction.

Jimmie Sparks, residential program manager for the St. Paul Neighborhood Energy Connection, said he has seen five or six homes in the Twin Cities that are being remodeled in a fashion similar



This 1940s Cape Cod in Highland Park is being transformed into what architect and homeowner Kevin Flynn has dubbed EcoDeep Haus, after his own business, which specializes in environmentally friendly design.

to the EcoDeep Haus. “We’re seeing a lot more green remodels today,” he said. “There are a couple of reasons why. The locations are good, there are good transportation and shopping options close by, and less of a commute than if they lived in the suburbs.”

Flynn will not even have a commute. His office will be in his new home, which will double as a company showcase for sustainable construction.

Flynn, who is currently vice president of the Mississippi Headwaters Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council, invites people to follow the progress of his new home at <http://ecodeephaus.blogspot.com>. Though such green approaches to construction have been around for years, he believes the current interest is due to heightened concerns about global warming and the greater availability of high-performance products.

Flynn and Nelson spent a year searching for a suitable house for their project in green living. They were drawn to the 1½-story Cape Cod because it needed updating and could easily be modified. They are adding a two-story addition on the west side of the house and expand-

ing the second floor on the other sides. For the addition, Flynn is using particle-board studs and other framing pieces from wood grown in forests certified by the Forest Stewardship Council.

Insulation and windows can make a huge difference in energy use in any house, according to Flynn. His EcoDeep Haus is equipped with triple-pane Inline Fiberglass windows that Flynn said “out-perform wood, metal or vinyl frame” windows in reducing heat loss and promoting solar heat gain in winter.

The home is being insulated with a closed-cell sprayed foam that fills gaps and does not require a plastic vapor barrier. According to Flynn, closed-cell insulation provides a more air-tight seal and is more environmentally friendly than other sprayed foam insulation.

Additional sealants are being used throughout the house to close any gaps. With tight homes comes the risk of mold, Flynn said, and because of that, the EcoDEEP Haus will be equipped with an air exchanger that constantly refreshes the interior with outdoor air.

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**27◀ DTM REMODELING**

St. Croix Energy Solutions to offer homeowners energy audits before they begin the remodeling process. "That way, it's easier and less expensive to incorporate energy-efficient improvements into the remodeling," Tousignant said.

Remodeling St. Paul's older homes presents interesting challenges, according to Tousignant. "You never know what you'll find," he said.

Homes on the Remodelers Showcase will be open for viewing from 1:00 to

7:00 p.m. Friday, March 28, and from noon to 6:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, March 29-30. Admission is free, except for two Dream Homes. For more information, call 651-697-1954 or visit [www.paradeofhomes.org](http://www.paradeofhomes.org).

**29◀ ECODEEP HAUS**

Flynn is reusing the home's original wood floors. The new carpeting that will be laid in a few rooms has a high recycled content. To reduce water consumption, Flynn is installing low-flow toilets and adding aerators to all faucets

and shower heads.

According to Flynn, builders and architects who have tried to promote green construction have met only moderate success to date. However, he believes that with rising energy prices and growing concern about global warming, green remodeling is moving into the

mainstream.

"For years and years, I was the eco-guy," he said. "But now we're seeing more and more architects getting interested in this. It's in the newspapers, in the magazines, and there's a lot of attention being paid by corporations to sustainability. It's here to stay."

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# Food



## Hot Dish By Morgan Smith

### Meritage's is a menu for refined tastes, though its wild game doesn't quite measure up to Mom's

Chef Russell Klein migrated last October from the kitchen of W.A. Frost in Ramsey Hill to the kitchen of his own new restaurant in downtown St. Paul. Meritage is located in the Hamm Building space that was formerly occupied by A Rebours. Klein oversees the back of the house while his wife, Desta, manages the rest of the operation. The place is cozy, with lots of woodwork and large windows overlooking St. Peter Street.

Named after an American wine that is made in the French tradition, Meritage features wild game—Klein's specialty at W.A. Frost—served in the style of a traditional French brasserie.

Having grown up eating rabbit, pheasant, venison, squirrel, sunfish and the occasional duck that my family either shot or caught or received from neighbors, I find it difficult not to compare the preparation of any wild game to the dishes that came out of my mother's and grandmother's kitchens. After dining at Meritage earlier this month, I can say that what my mother's cooking lacked in presentation, it more than made up for in taste.

And Mom's service might have been a little better, too.

We stopped in at Meritage on a Sunday night when high school hockey fans were crowding downtown St. Paul. Still, the maitre d' was able to change our reservation from two to four diners with just a few hours' notice. Considering Meritage has just a couple dozen tables, I was pleasantly surprised. When we arrived, the management offered to take our coats. That, along with the valet parking that's available on Tuesday through Saturday evenings, was a nice touch.

As for the dinner, it had its ups and downs.

The French onion soup (\$8.00) was the best I can remember—and I order French onion soup whenever it's on the menu. Loaded with sweet onions and topped with tasty Gruyere, the bowl alone was large enough to satisfy most lunch appetites.

The crispy rabbit schnitzel (\$11) topped with greens and a quail egg and surrounded by dollops of sweet and sour squash was a bit on the greasy side, but good nonetheless. It, too, could have been a meal in itself, although it is listed on the menu under "Introductions" along with such French staples as frog legs Provençal (\$10) and pommes frites (\$6.00). I'm sure it's heresy to suggest it, but a cold sandwich of this rabbit schnitzel, spread with a little Grey Poupon, would be terrific.

The roasted baby beet salad (\$8.00) with caraway, walnuts, goat cheese and beets of various colors and textures was both tasty and lovely to look at.

As an entrée, the black trumpet mushroom crusted veni-



Cut flowers and ample natural lighting add to the dining experience at Meritage, where once can order roasted baby beet salad with caraway, walnuts and goat cheese fondant (right). PHOTOS BY JANET HOSTETTER

son loin (\$32) was tender, perfectly cooked and beautifully presented with a whole poached pear and butternut squash-potato gratin. My dining partners raved about the potato gratin, and the meat eaters among us all enjoyed the venison, though I'd have preferred more seasoning.

The duck breast (\$26) with braised red cabbage, spaetzle and duck sausage was also beautifully presented. The breast wasn't the least bit greasy, but the flavorful sausage was the highlight of this selection. The roasted striped bass (\$26) with cauliflower in a rock shrimp and lobster scotch sauce with harissa was flaky and, though it sounds spicy, was actually mild to the point of boring. The cassoulet (\$24), served in the Toulouse style with pork, duck confit, garlic sausage and white beans, was more like soup. The duck confit would have tasted better on its own than in the bland and overly cooked mixture in which it was presented.

One of the more interesting sections of Meritage's menu is "Amusements." For \$3.00 each, diners may order an oyster-Bloody Mary shooter, marinated olives or duck liver mousse. We tried the tiny tuna tartar taco, the braised beef strudel and the mushroom ganache.

As might be expected, the taco and strudel were a bit too small to share and neither was all that amusing. The mushroom ganache was another matter. Ganache is usually a glaze or filling made from chocolate; Meritage's mushroom ganache was drizzled with beet sauce. Truly amusing. One of my dining partners described it as the mushroom version of Nutella, and said he'd be happy to spread it on toast for breakfast.

Meritage's dessert menu offers "Amusements" for \$3.00 each



as well. We ordered a chocolate truffle (one piece of chocolate sans the typical soft ganache center) and the teeny tiny tiramisu, which was about the size of a thimble and "just OK," according to one of my dining companions. I ordered the chocolate torte (\$7.00) with blood orange curd. About half the size of a hockey puck, the torte was, unfortunately, almost of the same consistency. I needed a steak knife to cut it. It was tasty, but hardly worth the effort.

Meritage's service on this evening was spotty. One energetic young man kept putting slices of yummy bread on our plates, and a young woman regularly stopped by to top off our water glasses. Our primary server was pleasant, but a bit slow in taking our orders. The food, too, was slow coming out of the kitchen, though it was always piping hot. We ordered a lot, of course, but 2½ hours is a long time to have to sit. No dining room chair is that comfortable, even when the conversation is good.

## Tidbits

**Five-star Israeli chefs** Ilan Roberg, Avi Moses and Tammy Flenner from Sovev Kinneret will lead two cooking classes next month at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. "Israeli Fusion Cooking" will be offered at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 1, and "Nu Israeli Passover Cooking" will be offered at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, April 3. The cost is \$25 to \$35 per person for the first class and \$20 to \$30 per person and \$30 to \$40 per family for the second class. To register for either or both classes, call 651-698-0751.

**Lynne Rossetto Kasper**, host of "The Splendid Table" on Minnesota Public Radio, will

present a whimsical staging of her radio show on Thursday, April 3, to mark the publication of her latest book, *The Splendid Table's How to Eat Supper*. The program will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Fitzgerald Theater, 10 E. Exchange St. Tickets are \$15. Call 651-290-1221.

**Empty Bowls**, a fundraiser to increase awareness of hunger, will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (lunch) and 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. (dinner) on Wednesday, April 9, at Cretin-Derham Hall, 550 S. Albert St. Guests will be invited to make a donation, select a ceramic bowl made by local artisans and art students, and enjoy a simple meal of soup and bread

donated by area restaurants, including the Cherokee Sirloin Room, Coffee News Cafe, Gabe's by the Park, Goby's, Great Harvest, the Lexington, O'Garra's, Plum's, Quiznos, Ristorante Luci, St. Martin's Table, the Starting Gate, Tinucci's and the Wabasha Deli Cafe. Proceeds from the event will benefit Heifer International, which provides livestock and seed to families in developing countries. Call 651-690-2443.

**Roosevelt Community Education** is offering a class this spring to help people learn to eat in a more self-sustaining, local and environmentally friendly manner. Participants

will learn about higher-yield foods to grow in their gardens and how to shop for locally grown produce and meat. They will also receive and taste whole food recipes. The program will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on three consecutive Wednesdays, starting April 30, at Roosevelt Community Education, 4029 28th Ave. S., Minneapolis. From 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, May 17, the class will go shopping to buy whole, fresh and organic foods at a farmers' market and a food co-op. The cost is \$45, which includes bus transportation for the tour. To register, call 612-668-4828 or visit [www.mplscommunityed.com](http://www.mplscommunityed.com).

# Names in the News

**William Prouty** of Merriam Park and **Eli Ljung** of Hamline-Midway, members of the St. Paul production team **Three Volts**, are the creative force behind "Enter the Pepto," a 60-second kung-fu parody that was named a top 10 finalist in Pepto-Bismol's "Pepto-Star" video contest. The video depicts a pink-garbed kung-fu master fighting the symptoms treated by Pepto-Bismol and features break dancers from the Twin Cities Collective Dance Company.



"Enter the Pepto" cast and crew members, from left, include Eric Ziebarth, Eli Ljung, Lisa Berman, Larry Sisterman, William Prouty, Charlie Thorstad and Bryce Davidson. PHOTO BY WILLIAM PROUTY

**Ron Bennett** of Highland Park has received the first Community Champion Award at the 2007 Tekne Awards presentation. The Tekne Awards honor individuals, companies and innovations that benefit Minnesota's technology-based economy. Bennett is the founding dean of the University of St. Thomas School of Engineering.

**Jill Harmon** of Summit Hill has been named to the board of Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity. She is a director and senior search consultant at Schall, Lyman & Company Inc., where she performs many nonprofit management searches. She is an active volunteer and plays cello for the St. Paul Civic Symphony.

**Dale Warland**, a Macalester-Groveland resident and Minnesota choral music icon, has agreed to assemble a special chorale in honor of the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra's 50th anniversary season. Warland will audition and prepare a professional chorus that will be known as the SPCO 50th Anniversary Chorale for three concert weeks during the orchestra's 2008-09 season.

**Heidi Gesell**, a Summit Hill resident and president and CEO of BankCherokee, has been elected to the board of the F. R. Bigelow Foundation. She also serves on the board of the Friends of the St. Paul Public Library.

**Air Force 1st Lieutenant William Boland** has been deployed overseas to a forward operating base in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. He is an aerial port operations officer and is normally assigned to the 509th Bomb Wing at White-

man Air Force Base, Missouri. The son of Jim and Laurie Boland of Mendota Heights, he is a 2001 graduate of St. Thomas Academy and a 2005 graduate of Creighton University.

**Paul Langenfeld** of Highland Park was awarded the 2008 Humanitarian Award on March 1 by the University of St. Thomas. Langenfeld graduated from the university in 1989 and from the St. Paul Seminary in 1993. He was nominated by Mike Hanson, an attorney and St. Thomas graduate. Hanson, who has been blind from infancy, participated in a firearms safety class for the disabled and an elk hunt, both sponsored by the Langenfeld Foundation. Other opportunities created by the foundation include a wild turkey hunt with former Viking's coach Bud Grant and an African safari, both for men with disabilities.

**Kerry D'Amato** of Summit Hill has been appointed to the board of the Animal Humane Society. D'Amato has worked with many organizations, including the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Her experiences include facilitating the opening of an animal shelter, establishing an animal food bank and initiating a spay/neuter program with veterinarians. She was instrumental in producing Animal Humane Society's September event, Whisker Whirl.

**Randi Ilyse Roth** of Summit Hill has been named executive director of the Otto Bremer Foundation, effective May 1. Roth will succeed John Kostishack, who retired at the end of 2007 after 28 years with the organization. Roth currently serves as the independent, court-appointed monitor in a civil rights lawsuit brought by African American farmers against the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Prior to that, she spent 17 years at the Farm-

ers' Legal Action Group as a staff attorney and then as executive director. She also has served as an adjunct professor of agricultural law at William Mitchell College of Law, and worked as a staff attorney at the Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago.

**Public Art St. Paul** has been awarded a \$50,000 grant from the Joyce Foundation to support the commission of University Avenue USA, a 6-mile outdoor photography installation by photographer Wing Young Huie. He plans to spend 28 months photographing the everyday lives of citizens in neighborhoods along University Avenue. In 2010, the photographs will be part of a six-month exhibition, with images projected on store windows along University Avenue. During the exhibition, Huie will host outdoor events with photographs projected on portable screens set up in open spaces. Public Art Saint Paul will also establish an interactive Web site for the project, including a blog for comments.



Wing Young Huie

**Friends of the Mississippi River** recently donated \$10,000 to the city of St. Paul to improve park and recreation facilities. The funds will be used to re-establish 3 acres of native prairie at Crosby Farm Regional Park, to complete erosion stabilization at Watergate Marina and to burn up to 2½ acres of land along the Mississippi River bluffs to eradicate buckthorn and other invasive plants.

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# The Kiosk

## Wednesday/March 26

**BABYSITTER'S TRAINING** for boys and girls ages 11-15 will be offered from 9:00 to 4:00 p.m. today at the St. Paul Red Cross office, 176 S. Robert St. The cost is \$59, which includes a handbook and safety bag. Additional sessions will be held through April. Call 612-871-7676.

**"JEWISH GENETICS: Should I be Tested for the Cancer Gene?"** will be presented from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. today at the United Jewish Fund and Council, 790 S. Cleveland Ave., Suite 227. Speakers will include Shari Baldinger, a genetic counselor at Abbott Northwestern Hospital, and St. Paul resident Marilyn Smith, a carrier of the gene that is linked with hereditary breast and ovarian cancer. The cost is \$8.00, which includes lunch. Register at [www.jewishminnesota.org](http://www.jewishminnesota.org) or call Sharyn Effress Pesses at 651-695-3186.

**MACALESTER-GROVELAND CHIP** (Coronary Health Improvement Project) aims to help individuals learn how to reverse or normalize heart disease, high blood pressure, adult onset diabetes, high cholesterol and obesity. The next session will begin April 7. One-hour informational sessions will be held at 6:30 this evening at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1974 Ford Pkwy.; 6:30 p.m. tomorrow at the Hamline-Midway Library 1558 W. Minnehaha Ave.; and 2:30 p.m. Saturday, March 29, at the Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave. Call 651-730-4447 or e-mail [MacalesterCHIP@hotmail.com](mailto:MacalesterCHIP@hotmail.com).

**KATHY EVESLAGE** from Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services and Fran Conklin from Hospice Minnesota will explain healthcare directives and the end-of-life process in a presentation at 4:00 this afternoon in Room 225 of William Mitchell College of Law, 875 Summit Ave. This presentation is free and open to the public.

## Thursday/March 27

**THE "MACALESTER CIVIC FORUM: Citizenship, Science and the Environment"** will be held today and tomorrow in the Weyerhaeuser Chapel at Macalester College. Donald Worster of the University of Kansas will speak at 7:00 this evening. The forum will continue all day beginning at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow with panels and papers by Macalester students and faculty. Admission is free. Call 651-696-6332.

**ISRAEL CONNECTIONS**, a monthly program to discuss events in Israel and the world, will meet at 7:00 this evening at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave.. The program is free and open to the public. To register, call 651-698-0751.

**ST. PAUL MAYOR CHRIS COLEMAN** will hold the last of five town hall meetings to discuss the city's progress with residents from 5:30 to 7:00 this evening in the John B. Davis Lecture Hall at Macalester College. Call 651-266-8510.

**DONALD EMPSON**, author of *The Street Where You Live: A Guide to the Place Names of St. Paul*, will conduct a workshop on how to research local history, using the University Avenue corridor as a case study, at 7:00 this evening at the U-Plan Community Planning Studio, 1956 University Ave. The class is being offered by the new University Avenue History Group, a program of University



Intrepid jogger Rob Cullen of Minneapolis' Longfellow neighborhood passes near Summit Avenue and Mississippi River Boulevard on a chilly Saturday afternoon in March. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

United, which is encouraging residents to help write the history of the corridor. Contact Brian McMahon at [bcmahon@universityunited.com](mailto:bcmahon@universityunited.com) or 651-647-6711.

## Saturday/March 29

**A SPRING HOLIDAY PARTY** will be held by the St. Paul Division of Parks and Recreation for families in the southwest area of the city from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. today at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. There will be carnival games, a jump castle, crafts, \$3.00 meal deals and more. Call 651-472-3932.

**A BOOK SALE** will be held by the Lumen Christi Women's Guild from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. today and from 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. tomorrow in the Community Room at Lumen Christi Church, 2055 Bohland Ave. Books, CDs, DVDs, videos, games and puzzles will be sold, with proceeds to benefit the Highland Catholic School library.

**DOG ADOPTIONS** will be offered by Second Chance Animal Rescue from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. today at Petco in Highland, 2277 Ford Pkwy. All of the dogs are current on vaccinations and have been spayed or neutered.

**AN OPEN HOUSE** on station area plans for the Central Corridor light-rail line on University Avenue will be held by the city of St. Paul from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. today at the Central Corridor Resource Center, 1080 University Ave. Visit [www.stpaul.gov/centralcorridor](http://www.stpaul.gov/centralcorridor) or call Donna Drummond in the city's planning office at 651-266-6556.

**THE TWIN CITIES SOCIETY** for Teaching Astrology, Research and Study will celebrate International Astrology Day from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. today at Friends Meeting House, 1725 Grand Ave. The day will include free lectures, astrology, psychic and tarot readings, children's activities, a hula hoop artist, jewelry and wearable art makers, massages, and new and used metaphysical books for sale. Visitors are invited to bring their birth data (time, place

and date) and learn what the stars can tell them. Admission is free. Call 651-698-1691.

**STATE REP. MICHAEL PAYMAR** (District 64B) will hold a constituent meeting from 10:00 a.m. to noon today at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. Call 651-296-5999.

## Sunday/March 30

**A WEDDING SHOWCASE** will be held from 5:00 to 8:00 this evening at the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory at Como Zoo. Couples will be able to meet with photographers, musicians and others, and take an evening tour of the gardens. Admission is free. Call 651-487-8200.

**SOKOL MINNESOTA** will hold its Flavors of Slovakia Dinner at 12:30 this afternoon at the CSPS Sokol Hall, 383 Michigan Ave. The dinner will include holupky (cabbage roll), halusky kapusta (dumplings and cabbage), pirohy (large ravioli with a fruit filling), pickled beets, green beans, caraway rye bread, dessert and coffee. Takeouts are available. The cost is \$5.00-\$12. Visit [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org).

**COME TO THE CABARET**, the History Theatre's 30th anniversary celebration, will be held from 6:00 to 9:00 this evening at the downtown University Club, 340 Cedar Ave. The celebration will feature vignettes from popular History Theatre productions, live and silent auctions, hors d'oeuvres, dessert and a cash bar. The hosts include "A Prairie Home Companion's" Sue Scott and sound effects man Tom Keith. Tickets are \$75. Call 651-292-4323.

## Tuesday/April 1

**SIBSHOPS**, a social program for children who have a sibling with a disability or special need, will meet from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays through May at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. Children ages 5-8 will meet this evening and children ages 9-12 will meet on April 8. The cost is free for JCC or ARC members

and \$10 for others. Call Ann Hoffer at 651-255-4759 to register.

**DANIEL DENNETT** of Tufts University will give a free lecture on "Darwin, Reason and Creativity" at 8:00 this evening in the campus center at Macalester College. Call 696-6141.

**THE MAD HATTER'S TEA HOUSE**, 943 W. 7th St., will hold a conversational salon from 6:30 to 8:30 this evening. The salon is free, but donations are encouraged for the program and treats. Call 651-227-3228.

**"MY KIDS WON'T EAT THAT,"** a free nutrition workshop for parents and child-care providers, will be offered by Providers Choice from 6:30 to 8:30 this evening at the Ronco Library, 461 N. Dale St. Call Robin Hanson at 651-458-0265 to register.

## Wednesday/April 2

**A RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE** will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. today at Pinehurst Bank, 757 S. Cleveland Ave. The first 25 blood donors will receive Chipotle burritos. To register, call 651-698-8100.

**A DEPRESSION, BIPOLAR** support group will meet from 7:00 to 8:30 this evening, and on April 16 and 30, at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. This group is free and open to the public. Call Marjorie Sigel at 651-698-0767.

**"WHY A WORLD STATE is Inevitable"** is the title of the 27th annual G. Theodore Mitau endowed lecture that will be presented by Alex Wendt of Ohio State University at 8:00 this evening in Weyerhaeuser Chapel at Macalester College. Admission is free. Call 651-696-6290.

## Friday/April 4


**"EXPLORING ADOPTION,"** a training program for anyone interested in adopting an older child, will be offered from 9:00



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a.m. to 5:00 p.m. today and tomorrow at Downey Side Adoptions, 450 N. Syndicate St. The seminar meets Minnesota's training requirements for families pursuing special needs adoption. Call 651-228-0117.

**A LUNCH-TIME TOUR** of the art and artists of the state Capitol will be offered at noon today. The free, 30-minute tour will highlight selected artwork and the artists who painted them. Call 651-296-2881.

**A FREE SYMPOSIUM** on "The Victorian Home" will be presented from 1:00 to 7:30 this evening in the O'Shaughnessy Educational Center at the University of St. Thomas. The afternoon will include an opening address on the art of the Victorian home, panel discussions on topics ranging from Victorian designs to household management, and presentations on the influence of tarot cards on Victorian life and how Victorian corsets affected women's health. A reception for the exhibit "Life Through the Magic Lantern: The Victorian Home" will be held from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Call 651-962-5560.

**Saturday/April 5**

**CELEBRATE BIRDS** from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. today and tomorrow at the Como Park Zoo and Conservatory. Visitors will learn more about wild birds, how to take action to conserve their habitat and make their backyards more bird friendly. Visit [www.comozooconservatory.org](http://www.comozooconservatory.org).

**A SEASONED WOMEN WORKSHOP** for those pursuing passion in the second half of life will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. today at 560 Otis Ave. The workshop will explore issues of passion in relationships and work, sexuality, spirituality, revitalizing marriages and exploring new dreams. Participants will learn body/mind exercises, meditation and guided imagery. The cost is \$65, which includes lunch. Call Kate at 651-644-9433.

**Sunday/April 6**

**FAMILY DAY** will be celebrated from 1:00 to 5:00 this afternoon at the Cathedral of St. Paul. The day will include tours by guides dressed in period costumes and art projects with Minnesota Children's Museum staff. Visitors will be invited to climb up into the Cathedral gallery, normally closed to the public, to watch resident musicians demonstrate the workings of the massive Skinner pipe organ. Every 100th person in the door will receive a pass for a visit to the bell tower, which offers one of the best views of the Capital City. The free event marks the on-going celebration of the Cathedral's cornerstone centennial year. Visit [www.cathedralsaintpaul.org](http://www.cathedralsaintpaul.org) or call 651-228-1766.

**MIKE JACOBS**, Minnesota's only Jewish organic farmer, will talk at 1:00 this afternoon at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. Jacobs is from the Easy Bean Farm and will talk about the opportunity to join his community supported agriculture project this summer. The talk is free and open to the public. Call Penny Schumacher at 651-255-4732.

**A SPRING OPEN HOUSE** will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. today at the College of Veterinary Medicine on Gortner Avenue and the Raptor Center on Fitch Avenue on the University of Minnesota's St. Paul campus. Visitors will be able to see raptors, tour the animal hospitals and new Leatherdale Equine Center, visit more than 40 animal and veterinary-related booths, and enjoy hands-on activities, demonstrations and exhibits. Admission is free. Visit [www.cvm.umn.edu](http://www.cvm.umn.edu).

**Sokol Minnesota to mark 125th anniversary April 6**

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota will celebrate 125 years of fellowship, educational and cultural programming from 2:00 to 7:00 p.m. Sunday, April 6, in the second-floor theater of the historic CSPS Hall, 383 Michigan St. The hall is the oldest national hall in Minnesota, as well as longest-serving Czech and Slovak hall in the nation. The theater is also the oldest in the state and features restored backdrops of hand-painted scenes of the Czech Republic.

A program will run from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. and will include music and literary performances interwoven with a historical narrative by Sokol president Joe Landsberger. The event also will include a display of Sokol photos and artifacts, food samples by Czech and Slovak cooks and a cash bar.

Tickets are \$25. For information, call 651-297-9000, e-mail [jfl@studygs.net](mailto:jfl@studygs.net) or visit [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org).

**THE ST. PAUL HIKING CLUB** will meet at 2:30 this afternoon on Mississippi River Boulevard and Summit Avenue for a hike that will cross two bridges and the West River Road. Call 651-646-6421.

**Monday/April 7**

**A FREE SEMINAR** on "How to Change your Life - and Pant Size - through Healthy Lifestyle Choices" will be presented at 6:00 this evening at the BodyMind Chiropractic Center, 1650 Iglehart Ave. Call 651-293-1497 to register.

**Tuesday/April 8**

**THE COMO-MIDWAY LA LECHE** League will meet at 7:00 tonight to discuss nutrition and weaning. Current and expectant mothers may attend with their infants and toddlers. Call 651-659-9527.

**THE MAD HATTER'S TEA HOUSE**, 943 W. 7th St., will hold a conversational salon from 6:30 to 8:30 this evening. Poet Morgan Grace Willow will read her poems, including her *cinquains*—five-line poetry. The salon is free, but donations are encouraged for the program and treats. Call 651-227-3228.

**LINDA SHULTE-SAASE**, a DeWitt Wallace professor of German and Russian studies, will speak on "If Only to Nest with the Eagle: Love Letters to Adolf Hitler" at 11:30 this morning in the campus center at Macalester College. Admission is free. Call 651-696-6374.

**THE RAMSEY COUNTY CHARTER** Commission will hold a public hearing on a potential charter amendment at 6:00 this evening at the Court House, 15 W. Kellogg Blvd. The commission is looking at whether to make the Ramsey County sheriff an appointed rather than elected position. Those who would like to address the commission are asked to call Bonnie Jackelen at 651-266-8014. Comments also may be sent to [sheriffcharteramendment@co.ramsey.mn.us](mailto:sheriffcharteramendment@co.ramsey.mn.us) or mailed to the commission at 250 Court House, 15 W. Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55102.

**Wednesday/April 9**

**THE LONGFELLOW GARDEN CLUB** will meet from 7:00 to 9:00 this evening at Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37th Ave. S., Minneapolis. Susan and Paul Damon will speak on "Bungalows and Native Gardens: A Long-term View." The club also will hold its annual silent auction during the meeting. Admission is free.

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# On the Town

## Bakken Experience gives voice to music inspired by the divine

BY JANET LUNDER HANAFIN

A chamber ensemble, more so than a full orchestra, has the capacity to “shine a narrow spotlight on the art of creating music,” according to Mina Fisher, a cellist with the Bakken Experience. One of the Twin Cities’ oldest and most respected chamber ensembles, Bakken will shine a narrow spotlight this month on music that was inspired by the composer’s relationship with the divine.

The motif, program and performers for the March 30 concert were selected by Bakken violinist Stephanie Arado, who is also the assistant concertmaster of the Minnesota Orchestra. Arado said she dubbed the program “Ekstasis,” after the Greek word for moving beyond the ordinary. The concert will include Heinrich von Biber’s *Mystery Sonatas*; Messaien’s *Theme and Variations*; two *Ave Marias*, one by Fauré and another by Schubert; and Beethoven’s *String Quartet No. 15 in A minor*.

Arado, who lives in the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood, said she was particularly drawn by the Beethoven quartet’s third movement, which he titled “*Heiliger Dankesang*” or “*Song of Thanks to the Divine Being*.”

The quartet was written when Beethoven was very ill, according to Korey Konkol, a Highland Park violist who will be performing with Bakken on March 30. Beethoven “thought he was a goner” at the time and made notes in the composition thanking God for sparing him, according to Konkol.

The Bakken Experience was founded three decades ago as the Bakken Quartet under the sponsorship of the Bakken Library and Museum in Minneapolis. Pianist Judy Lin is the only founding member still with the ensemble. The quartet eventually became a trio with Arado and a cellist who has since moved away. Fisher joined several years ago. Then last year the ensemble moved its concerts to the Huss Music Room in St. Paul’s Hamm Building and changed its name to the Bakken Experience, “so as not to limit (the

audience’s) expectations,” Arado said.

“We’re evolving, becoming a more mission-based trio,” said Fisher, who is also Bakken’s manager.

Joining Lin, Arado and Fisher on March 30 will be Konkol, soprano Maria Jette, violinist Celine Leathead and organist Dean Billmeyer. Jette is the common thread running through all three concerts in Bakken’s 2007-08 season, which is dedicated to “*Music With a Voice*.” The soprano curated the opening concert last November and will also perform in the finale on May 11.

“The energy and emotional quality of the human voice adds an exciting dimension to chamber music,” said Konkol, the curator for the May 11 concert.

For the May 11 program, titled “*La Bonne Chanson*” or “*The Good Song*,” Konkol dug through the library of the Chicago Symphony and unearthed some rarely performed French-inspired vocal chamber music by Fauré and Jean Berger. Fauré’s *La Bonne Chanson* for voice and piano quartet is “extraordinary,” Konkol said. “I can assure you that this has never been performed in the Twin Cities.”

Joining Konkol, Arado, Fisher and Jette on May 11 will be Leathead and pianist Timothy Lovelace. The program will emphasize the way the composers set text to music. “I’m going to be playing some pieces without a singer,” Konkol said, “and then we’ll add the singer to the same music.”

Konkol and Arado relish the opportunity to play together. “It’s like playing with family,” Arado said. The two met as undergraduates at the University of Western Illinois, where they studied under the same teacher and played together in student ensembles. After earning graduate degrees at the New England Conservatory of Music and the Juilliard School, respectively, they both moved to the Twin Cities.

“The beauty of chamber music is that it is more conversational,” Konkol said. “The repertoire really keeps you in check. In chamber music, there is nowhere to hide



The Bakken Experience’s Stephanie Arado (top left), Korey Konkol and Mina Fisher rehearse for their March 30 “*Ekstasis*” concert. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

because your voice is your voice. In a string trio, you’re all equal.”

“You have personal skills that you can explore much more fully when you’re playing in the chamber music realm,” Arado said. “It keeps my interpretive skills honed. It’s highly, highly satisfying in that way—and emotional. Even though it demands more of me, it rewards me greatly.”

“Since we’re all in music to begin with, we’re very passionate about these programs

that we actually pick to play as chamber music,” Konkol said. “It’s not just a gig for us. This is something we really want to do.”

The Bakken Experience will present “*Ekstasis*” at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, March 30, in the Huss Music Room of the Hamm Building, 408 St. Peter Street. “*La Bonne Chanson*” will be presented at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, May 11, in the same locale. Tickets to either program are \$25, \$15 for seniors and students. Call 651-291-1144.



Sister Joanne Emmer and her acrylic wash painting, “*Down in the Iris*.” PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

## Joanne of art: A life’s work on canvas

BY BILL STIEGER

Sister Joanne Emmer, a retired art teacher at the College of St. Catherine and St. Mary’s Junior College, recalls how, as a young girl living in Minneapolis during the Great Depression, her mother refused to give her good drawing paper until she could “draw something nice.” Emmer accepted the challenge, again and again, and this April the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet will present a retrospective of her paintings at the Carondelet Center, 1890 Randolph Ave.

Following high school, Emmer attended the Walker Art School and then joined the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. She received bachelor’s and master’s degrees in art from the College of St. Catherine and the California College of Arts and Crafts in Oakland, respectively. She then taught art and theology for 10 years at St. Catherine, before moving on to St. Mary’s Junior College in Minneapolis, where for three decades she taught art to women, many

of whom were preparing to work in the medical profession.

“I became a member of a Catholic religious order that was historically committed to both education and hospital work,” Emmer said. “It made it possible for me to become both a teacher and an artist.”

Emmer’s early paintings were oil on canvas. She also became a skilled printmaker, using both silk screen and wood cuts. Then in the late 1980s, she began to explore the techniques of acrylic wash painting.

Wash painting is executed on a horizontal canvas. The artist wets the canvas, drains off the water and lets the canvas dry until damp. A color wash is then applied.

“You can pour it, spatter it, tilt the canvas around to create shapes,” Emmer said. “The important thing is to get one color down so that it begins to make suggestions about what to do next.”

Emmer used the acrylic wash technique to create her *Jubilee Series* in 1999 in preparation for the jubilee

year of 2000 declared by Pope John Paul II and to help mark the 150th anniversary of the Sisters of St. Joseph in 2001. “I wanted to ponder the great jubilee themes of our spiritual forebears as preserved in the Hebrew Book of Leviticus, the Christian Scriptures and the community lore on which (the Sisters of St. Joseph’s) celebration would be based,” she said.

The paintings in Emmer’s *Earth Series* are among the upcoming exhibit’s most recent works. Using acrylic wash, Emmer rendered Twin Cities area landscapes between 2002 and 2006. The wash technique created hauntingly beautiful, dream-like effects.

The Emmer retrospective will open with a public reception from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, April 3, at the Carondelet Center. The exhibit will remain on view through April. Limited edition prints of Emmer’s *Earth Series* will also be for sale as a benefit for the Sisters of St. Joseph’s charities.

For more information and viewing hours, call 651-690-7026.

# On the Town *Briefly*

## Theater

**The Drowsy Chaperone** is being performed through March 30 at the Ordway. It tells of a modern-day theater lover and his favorite old piece about a pampered Broadway starlet who wants to give up show business to get married and the producer who sets out to sabotage the nuptials. Show times are 8:00 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, 2:00 and 8:00 p.m. Saturday and 2:00 and 7:30 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$48-\$70. Call 651-224-4222.

A **psychological thriller** about a tattooed serial killer, a grieving mother and a psychiatrist specializing in the criminal mind, **Frozen** is playing through March 30 at Park Square Theatre, 20 W. 7th Place. The curtain rises at 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday. Call 651-291-7005.

**The Piano Lesson** by August Wilson, the story of an African-American family of the 1930s still haunted by the slavery in its past, is playing through March 30 at Penumbra Theatre, 270 N. Kent St. The Pulitzer Prize winner is the first of 10 plays by Wilson that Penumbra will produce in the next five years. Show times are 10:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, 8:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2:00 and 7:30 p.m. Sunday. Call 651-224-3180.

**The Old Maid**, Zoe Akins' Pulitzer Prize-winning play from 1935, will be read by all comers on Friday, March 28, in a free program sponsored by the Lex-Ham Community Theater. A potluck supper opens the affair at 6:30 p.m. at 1184 Portland Ave. The reading follows at 7:00. Registration is not required. Just bring some food to share, a copy of the play if possible, and a love of great American drama.

**Sabrina Fair**, Samuel Taylor's romantic comedy of 1953 about a young woman who returns home to reignite her love for a wealthy playboy only to run head-long into his cynical older brother, is playing through April 6 at Theatre in the Round, 245 Cedar Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Show times are 8:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$20. Call 612-333-3010.

**Puntilla & His Hired Man Mattie**, Bertold Brecht's raucous tale of a wealthy landowner and his chauffeur that plays on the gap between the haves and the have-nots, is



James Sewell Ballet will present six shows April 4-13 in O'Shaughnessy Auditorium at the College of St. Catherine. The ballets "Social Movements," "By the Gypsy River Banks" (left), "Table Waltz" and "If This Then What" will be performed at 8:00 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 2:00 p.m. Sunday, April 13. A shorter, 60-minute program will be offered for children at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, April 12. For ticket information, call 651-690-6700.

being performed through April 13 by Frank Theatre. Show times are 8:00 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday in the Bridge Building, 1901 E. 27th St. in Minneapolis. Call 612-724-3760.

**Blues in the Night**, the story of three women and one snake of a man framed by their performance of 26 torchy blues songs, is being presented through May 18 in the Ordway's McKnight Theatre. The soulful songs of Bessie Smith, Ida Cox, Harold Arlen, Duke Ellington and Benny Goodman take center stage in the show, which stars Jemecia Bennett, Debbie Duncan, Regina Marie Williams and Julius Collins. Show times are

8:00 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, 2:00 and 8:00 p.m. Saturday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$32-\$45. Call 651-224-4222.

**Other**, playwright Heidi Hunter Batz's multimedia examination of cultural identity in a diverse world, will be performed March 28 through April 5 by Breaking Ice. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2:00 p.m. on March 31 and April 5 at Pillsbury House Theatre, 3501 Chicago Ave. S. in Minneapolis. A discussion follows each show. For tickets, call 612-825-0459.

"**The North Star Soliloquies**," 12 moving, funny, dark and surprising monologues by

four Twin Cities playwrights who drew their inspiration from the Minnesota Historical Society's vast collection of artifacts, will be performed at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 1, at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. Featured is the work of Carson Kreitzer, Laura Schellardt, Allison Moore and Carlyle Brown. Tickets are \$8.00, \$6.00 for seniors and students. Call 651-259-3015.

**Lady Bird, Pat and Betty: Tea for Three:** Emmy Award-winning actress Elaine Bromka's will perform her one-woman play about First Ladies Johnson, Nixon and Ford at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, April 6, in O'Shaughnessy Auditorium at the College of St. Catherine. Tickets are \$26, \$15 for students. Call 651-690-6700.

## Music

An **all-star quintet** will take the stage on Thursday, March 27, in a musical fundraiser for the 10-day Minnesota sur Seine festival, in May. Jamming on the stage of the Black Dog Cafe at 4th and Broadway streets will be Francois Corneloup on saxophones; Dominique Pifarely, violin; Dean Magraw, guitar; Chico Huff, bass; and J.T. Bates, drums. A silent auction will also be held. Admission is \$15. Call 651-228-9274.

**Guitarist Manuel Barrueco** will join the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra in three concerts March 27-29 under the baton of Paul Goodwin of the Academy of Ancient Music. The program includes Telemann's Overture in C, Vivaldi's Concerto in D for Guitar and Orchestra, Sierra's Folias for Guitar and Orchestra, Bedford's Like a Strand of Scarlet and Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 1 in F. The music begins at 8:00 p.m. Thursday at Trinity Lutheran Church in Stillwater; 8:00 p.m. Friday at Wooddale Church in Eden Prairie; and 8:00 p.m. Saturday in St. Paul's United Church of Christ, 900 Summit Ave. Tickets are \$10 and \$25, or \$5.00 for children. Call 651-291-1144.

**The Bach Society of Minnesota** concludes its 76th season with a concert of songs, cantatas and sonatas by Bach and Buxtehude on Friday, March 28. Bass Bradley Greenwald and soprano Carrie Henneman Shaw will join the ensemble in the light-hearted fare beginning at 8:00 p.m. in Assembly Hall at House of Hope Presbyterian Church, 797

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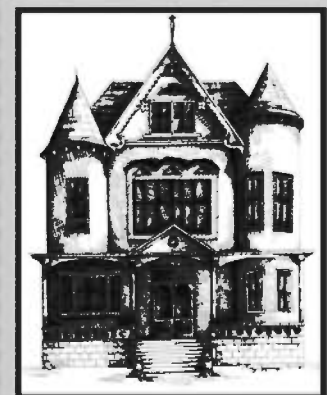
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**Local lutenist Richard Griffith** will present an evening of Renaissance music and a bit of Renaissance verse from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Friday, March 28, at the Mad Hatter's Tea House, 943 W. 7th St. Admission is free, but donations are welcome. Call 651-227-2511.

**Greil Marcus**, author, cultural critic and former columnist for *Rolling Stone*, *Creem* and the *Village Voice*, will join Mary Lucia in the next installment of "The Current Fakebook" beginning at 8:00 p.m. Friday, March 28, at the Fitzgerald Theater, 10 E. Exchange St. Musical guests are the Mekons, an early punk rock group and one of the founders of the alt-country movement. Tickets are \$20. Call 651-290-1221.

**Pat Donohue**, champion finger-picking guitarist from Macalester-Groveland, will roll out his Roots and Blues Review on Saturday, March 29, with such guest performers as Suzy Bogguss, Jearlyn Steele, Andy Stein, Joe Savage, Gary Raynor and Peter Johnson. The music begins at 8:00 p.m. at the Fitzgerald Theater, 10 E. Exchange St. Tickets are \$29. Call 651-290-1221.

**Music by Rebecca Clarke**, Louise Farrenc and Asako Hirabayashi will be played by the ensemble womenperformers at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 29, at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 S. Snelling Ave. Admission is \$10. Call 651-698-3161.

**The Schubert Club's** Early Music Series continues on Saturday, March 29, with a performance by the Piffaro Renaissance Band. The program, "Flemish Masters: A Celebration of Musical Genius from the North," will begin at 8:00 p.m. in Sundin Music Hall, 1531 Hewitt Ave. Tickets are \$20, \$17 for seniors, \$12 for students with I.D. Call 651-292-3268.

**The College of St. Catherine** Women's Choir will perform sacred and inspirational works for the Lenten season in a free concert at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, March 30, in Our Lady of Victory Chapel on campus.

**Robert Mann**, founding first violinist of the Juilliard Quartet, will join five musicians from the Chamber Music Society of Minnesota in concert on Sunday, March 30, at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. The 4:00 p.m. program will feature compositions by Mann, Mozart's String Quintet in C major and the screening of a new documentary about Mann. Tickets are \$15-\$25. Call 651-450-0527.

**Merriam Park vocalists** John Wensstrom and Robin Murie and their daughter Jess will be featured in a Traditional Singers Club concert at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, March 30, at the St. Paul Conservatory of Music, 29 E. Exchange St. The trio have been wowing Singers Club audiences for years with their gorgeous harmonies on dark traditional folk songs. Admission is \$10.

**The Cypress String Quartet** will play works by Mozart, Dvorak and Benjamin Lees at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, April 6, at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. Admission is free, but tickets are required. Call 651-698-0751.

**Tiptoe through the tulips** with singer Maureen McGovern and the Vocal-Essence Chorus and Ensemble Singers. Their "Joy of Spring" concert begins at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, April 6, at the Fitzgerald Theater, 10 E. Exchange St. Philip Brunelle will conduct a program



Cathleen Fuller stars in *The Lady with All the Answers*, David Rambo's one-woman show about the late advice columnist Ann Landers. Set on a night in 1975 when Landers struggles to complete a column about her own heartbreak, the play will be performed April 3-27 at the History Theatre, 30 E. 10th St. For ticket information, call 651-292-4323.

of romantic and classical compositions, popular music, the choral version of the Blue Danube Waltz and a new work by Carleton College professor and pipa player Gao Hong. Tickets are \$20-\$35 for adults, half that for students. Call 612-673-0404.

## Exhibits

**"Paradise Lost,"** an exhibit on the effect that global warming could have on the north woods of Minnesota, is being displayed through April 11 at the Bell Museum of Natural History, 17th and University avenues in Southeast Minneapolis. Call 612-624-9050.

**"Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race,"** a 5,000-square-foot exhibit from the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., is on view through May 4 at the Science Museum of Minnesota. Through artifacts, photos, eyewitness accounts and video footage, it tells the story of the eugenics movement in Germany in the first half of the 20th century and how Nazi officials used science to legitimize persecution, murder and ultimately genocide. Lectures on the topic will be presented from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. on Thursdays. The schedule includes German university instructor Hans Walter-Schmuhl on euthanasia in the Third Reich on March 27; survivor Eva Kor on "Forgiving Dr. Mengele," April 10; and Empire State College instructor Mark Soderstrom on "Race and Eugenics and the University of Minnesota," April 17. Tickets to the lectures are \$12, which includes Science Museum admission. Call 651-221-9444.

**"Eco Art,"** sculpture and paintings by Jeanine Kindlien, Chris Williams, Carolyn Halliday and Brent Houzenga made of recycled, repurposed and found objects, are being displayed through April 27 at Evoke Gallery, 355 N. Wabasha St. Call 651-224-6388.

**"Symbols, Myths and Fairy Tales,"** a collection of traditional Scandinavian weaving, is on view through April 18 at the Textile Center, 3000 University Ave. SE. in Minneapolis. Call 612-436-0463.

**Dip your eyes in a sea of tulips**, hydrangeas, hyacinths, daffodils and lilies awash in salmon pink, yellow, purple, blue and white during the Spring Flower Show now through April 27 in the Sunken Garden of the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory at Como Park.

**"Art at Highland,"** a juried show and sale by 45 artists and craftspeople working in basketry, clay, fiber, glass, jewelry, leather, paper, pottery and wood as well as painting, photography, sculpture and mixed media, will be presented from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday, March 29, in the field house at Highland Park High School, 1015 S.

Snelling Ave. The eighth annual event is sponsored by the local Community Education program. Local youths will also be selling their creative work, including drawings, collages, origami, beaded jewelry, cards and jewelry.

**"The Birth of Coffee,"** 40 photographs and text by husband and wife Daniel and Linda Rice Lorenzetti focusing on the diversity of people who pick, plant and produce coffee around the world, are on view through May 7 in the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory at Como Park. Admission is free.

**"Life Through the Magic Lantern,"** an exhibit of more than 50 household objects, photographs and prints from the Victorian Era in the U.S. (1837-1901), will open with a reception from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Friday, April 4, in the Lobby Gallery of the O'Shaughnessy Educational Center at the University of St. Thomas. A wedding dress, christening dress, mourning dress and other clothing, hair art, books, magazines and medical equipment are among the items that will be on view through May 17. Admission is free. For gallery hours, call 651-962-5560.

**"On the Verge: Stepping Into Change,"** recent art by Pamela Belding and Kate Van Cleve, will open with a public reception from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. Saturday, April 5, at Rosalux Gallery, 1011 Washington Ave. S. in Minneapolis. The collage, paintings, sculpture and installations will remain on view through April 27. Admission is free.

**Traces Center's traveling exhibit** on World War II prisoners of war will be open to the public between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 8, in the theater parking lot at Concordia University, Marshall and Hamline avenues. Eberhard Fuhr, a German immigrant who was interned in U.S. camps for four years along with his parents and two brothers, will speak at noon in Concordia's Buetow Auditorium. Admission is free.

## Film

**There Ought to be a Law**, a documentary about a Maine woman who fought to change her state's gun laws after her 18-year-old son bought a shotgun and killed himself days later, will be shown at 6:00 p.m. Thursday, March 27, at the Nokomis Library, 5100 34th Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Admission is free.

**Secret Courage: The Walter Suskind Story**, a documentary about the German Jew who as the head of deportation in Nazi-occupied Amsterdam orchestrated the escape of nearly 1,000 Dutch children, will be

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shown at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, April 2, at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. A discussion with Karen Morse, the film's writer, producer and codirector, will follow. Admission is free, but reservations are required. Call 651-698-0751.

**The Unapologetic Life of Margaret Randall** (2004), a documentary about the 71-year-old writer, photographer and activist whose U.S. citizenship was restored in 1989 following a four-year battle in the courts, will be shown at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 8, in the Ballroom of Kagin Commons at Macalester College. Randall will answer questions from the audience following the screening. She will also give a talk at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 10, in the Smail Gallery of Mac's Olin-Rice Science Center. Both programs are free. Call 651-696-6410.

## Family

**Heartbeat of the Drum**, a Japanese love story about a young girl's courage and the power of taiko drumming, is being performed through March 30 by SteppingStone Theatre. Show times are 10:00 a.m. and noon Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday; 7:00 p.m. Friday; and 2:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday on the stage at 55 N. Victoria St. Tickets are \$11 for adults, \$9.00 for seniors and children ages 2-17. Call 651-225-9265.

**"Mysteries in the Mud: Climate Change in the Big Woods,"** an interactive exhibit that shows how climate change helped form Minnesota's Big Woods and what effect it could have in the future, is being displayed through August 31 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, and free to children under age 3 and to everyone on Sundays. Call 612-624-7083.

**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 "Books Alive" with the WonderWeavers storytellers at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, March 29; Catherine Clark and her new young-adult novel *Wish You Were Here*, 7:00 p.m. Friday, April 4; Baby Storytime, 10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 5; Stephanie Watson and *Elvis & Olive*, her book for readers ages 9-12, 2:00 p.m. Saturday, April 5; Kathleen Moriarty and her new bilingual book *Wiil Waal: A Somali Folktale*, 10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 12. For information, call 651-224-8320.

**Lap-Sit Storytime**, a free 20-minute program of stories, flannel boards, songs and puppet and finger plays for young listeners infant to 18 months of age, is offered at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesdays at the Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy. Call 651-266-7029.

**Classic children's stories** from the turn of the 20th century, including "Peter Rabbit" and Mother Goose, will be told by puppeteer Becki Kvitrud at 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 1, at the James J. Hill House, 240 Summit Ave. A short tour of the 117-year-old mansion will follow the 45-minute program. The cost is \$8.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children. For reservations, call 651-297-2555.

**The candy-colored song-and-dance trio** Deedee, Rooney, and Moe Doodle from "Playhouse Disney" will be featured in Doodlebops Live at 3:00 and 6:30 p.m. Friday, April 4, at the Xcel Energy Center. Tickets are available for \$42, \$26, \$22 and \$16 at the Xcel or by calling 651-989-5151.

**"Feet Are Neat,"** a close look at the feet of mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians and how they have helped those creatures survive, will be offered between 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. Thursday, April 3, at the Bell Museum of Natural History, 17th and University avenues in Southeast Minneapolis. The program is free with museum

admission, which is \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for seniors and children ages 3-16. To register, call 612-624-9050.

## Books

**Common Good Books**, 165 N. Western Ave., will present readings by the following authors: Laura Lippman from her detective novel, *Another Thing to Fall*, at 7:00 p.m. Friday, March 28; LeAnne Howe from her historical fiction, *Miko Kings: An Indian Baseball Story*, at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, March 29; Warren Read from his memoir, *The Lyncher in Me*, at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, March 30, at the Virginia Street Swedenborgian Church, Selby Avenue and Virginia Street; Ruth F. Brin from *The Most Beautiful Monday in 1961* at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, April 5; Stuart Fail from *Pause* at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, April 12. Call 651-225-8989.

**The Lyncher in Me**, a memoir by Warren Read that reflects on this great-grandfather's role in inciting the Duluth riot that resulted in the lynching of three African-American circus workers, will be discussed by Read on Tuesday, April 1. The free program will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave. Call 651-222-3242

**Annelee Woodstrom**, author of two books about her experiences as a child in Nazi Germany and her marriage to an American soldier, will speak at noon and 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 3, at the Traces Center for History and Culture in Landmark Center. Call 651-292-8700.

**Lynne Rossetto Kasper**, host of "The Splendid Table" on Minnesota Public Radio, will present a whimsical staging of her radio show on Thursday, April 3, to mark the publication of her latest book, *The Splendid Table's How to Eat Supper: Recipes, Stories and Opinions*. The program begins at 7:00 p.m. at the Fitzgerald Theater, 10 E. Exchange St. Tickets are \$15. Call 651-290-1221.

**Atlanta spoken-word artist** Shannon Leigh will be the guest performer at Soap Boxing's monthly poetry slam on Monday, April 7, at the Artists' Quarter, 408 St. Peter St. Poetry-slammers age 18 and older are invited to enter the usual competition or the fast-paced "Trite and Trivia" side event as well. The doors open at 7:00 p.m. and the slam follows at 8:00. Admission is \$5.00, or free if you compete. Call 612-207-7991.

**Acclaimed poets** Pat Boran of Dublin and Jim Moore of St. Paul's Lexington-Hamline neighborhood, will discuss "The Poet at Home: Finding the Universal in the Local" at 7:00 p.m. Monday, April 7, at the Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy. Boran, 45, the recipient of the 12th annual Lawrence O'Shaughnessy Award for Poetry given by the University of St. Thomas Center for Irish Studies, will read from his own work in a free program at 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 11, in the John Roach Center at St. Thomas.

**Margaret Randall** will read from *Stones Witness*, her provocative new collection of poetry, prose and photographs, on Monday, April 7. The free program will begin at 7:00 p.m. at Amazon Bookstore, 4755 Chicago Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Randall will also give a free talk at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 10, in the Smail Gallery of Macalester College's Olin-Rice Science Center. For information, call 651-696-6410.

## Etc.

**Wild Yam Cabaret** will return on Saturday, March 29, with Sephardic songs by Stefanie Levi, poems by Hope Abrams, stories by Carla Vogel, songs by DeeDee Boulter, a tale by Eve Blackwell and a performance by InnerVoice. The show begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Black Forest Inn, Nicollet Avenue and 26th Street in Minneapolis. Tickets are \$7.00, \$6.00 in advance by calling 651-293-9072.



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# Sports



## The Wright Call By Dave Wright

### Sibley's long wait comes to an end

With seven and a half minutes remaining in the Section 4AAAA boys' basketball championship game on March 18 at Concordia University, coach Tom Dasovich glanced up at the scoreboard. Sure enough, it confirmed what he thought. His Henry Sibley Warriors were leading top-seeded Cretin-Derham Hall 52-40.

"We had a nice lead, but I knew CDH was going to make a run at us," he said. "As long as *he* is on the floor, they always have a chance."

"He" was senior guard Michael Floyd, who when not outrunning people on the gridiron and track is also one tough competitor on the hard court. Although Floyd was struggling with a sore back, he was still a force to be reckoned with in the championship game.

The Warriors, however, brought a lot of weapons of their own. Junior forward Mike Bruesewitz, who scored 19 points, and junior guard Maurice Hernandez, who added 15, eventually wore out Floyd and Company for a 60-57 victory in front of a full house at Gangelhoff Center. As a result, Sibley is headed to this week's state boys' basketball tournament for the first time in school history.

"We're pretty battle-tested," Dasovich said. "We played about as tough a schedule (the nonconference slate included Osseo, Hopkins, Minnetonka and Mounds View) as anybody around this year. I think that may have helped us tonight."

The Warriors (24-5) needed all the toughness they could

muster against the Raiders (23-4). After sprinting to a quick nine-point first half, they watched as Floyd (who finished with 19 points) and senior guard John Nance (10) brought CDH back to a 31-30 halftime lead. "I felt that we hadn't played that well, but we were only behind by one point," Dasovich said.

At intermission, Dasovich reminded his troops that offense is great, but it's defense that wins games. The Warriors paid attention to both in the second stanza en route to a 12-point lead. Then, just as Sibley fans like retired athletic director Dean Verdoes began dreaming of watching the gold and red play at Target Center, Floyd scored nine of the Raiders' next 13 points. Just like that, Sibley's lead was cut to 56-55 with 2:05 to play.

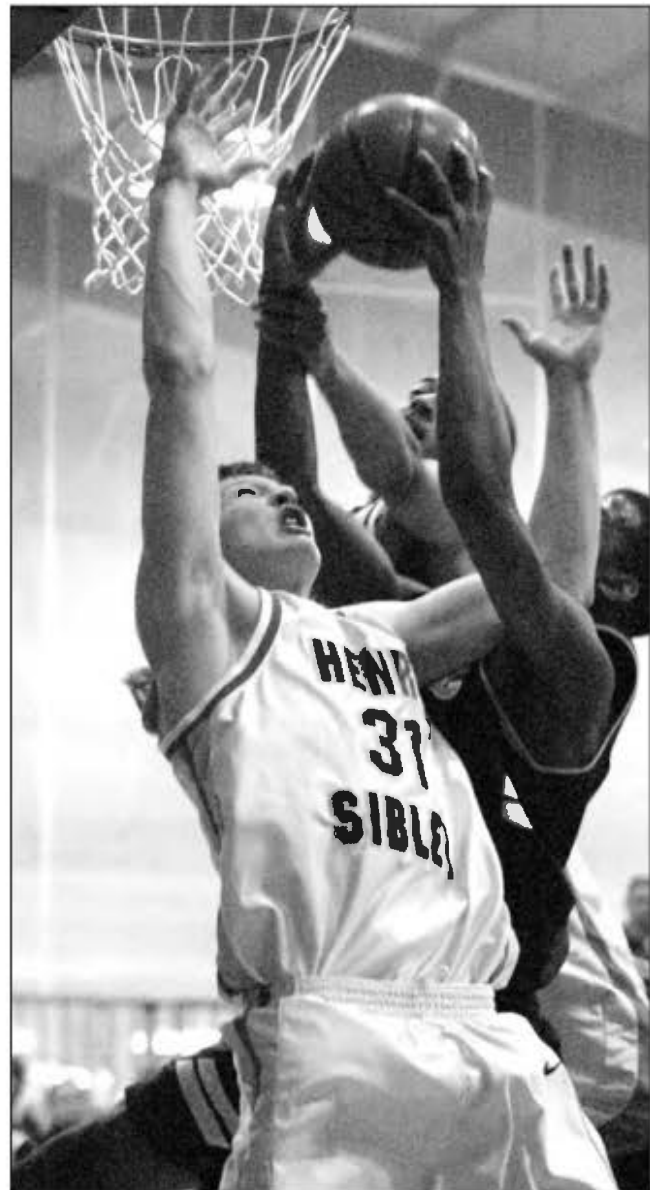
The Warriors, who had worked their way into the lead with an aggressive passing attack, had suddenly become tentative on offense. "We may have pulled the ball out a bit too early," Dasovich said. "We stopped doing what got us the lead. But good teams can force you into a lot of mistakes."

In past years, that might have been enough for the Warriors to fold. But this year's team, which won its first conference title in 35 years, is made of sterner stuff. After a 72-69 loss to St. Thomas Academy late in the season, the Warriors responded with two victories by margins of nearly 40 points. "That was when I knew this team had what it takes to win," Dasovich said.

Still, there was that little matter of playing a team that was also battle-tested, and had a history of winning big games to boot. The Raiders were game, but the Warriors—who have a deep, tall bench—were wearing them out. Not many coaches can look down the bench and see 6-foot-9 and 6-foot-6 centers.

That combination, plus the capability to go toe-to-toe with Floyd and CDH's 6-foot-7 sophomore forward Seantrel Henderson, ended up being the difference. Sibley forward Chris Halvorsen, a skinny 6-foot-8 junior, kept up a running battle with Floyd that may have worn out the Raiders' star in the end.

The Warriors, who had not even made it to a section final in anybody's memory, will be more than just showing



Sibley's Mike Bruesewitz and Kavon Martin tangle with a Raider during the Warriors' 60-57 win in the Section 4AAAA final on March 18. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

WRIGHT CALL ▶ 41



Central's Georgie Jones controls the ball while shadowed by South's Taquoa Hammick in the state Class AAAA girls' basketball final on March 15. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

## Sweet repeat

### Central girls rally to win second state hoops title

BY BILL WAGNER

The Central High School girls' basketball team was on the ropes when it trailed by nine points to Minneapolis South with just over 13 minutes to play in the state Class AAAA championship game at Target Center on March 15. South, which entered the game with a 29-1 record, was the top seed in the tournament and appeared to be on the verge of polishing off a team that it had defeated twice this season.

But the third-seeded Minutemen rallied in the final minutes to claim a 49-44 victory and their second consecutive state title.

Central (28-4) was not as dominating

a team as the one that raced through the season undefeated a year ago. However, the Minutemen showed they had every bit as much heart in getting back in the title game. Junior guard Theairra Taylor hit two big three-pointers for the Minutemen to tie the game at 34-34. The score was tied again at 44-44 with just over a minute to go when junior guard Kyana Johnson drove to the basket for a field goal that gave Central a lead it never gave up. They were Johnson's only two points of the game, but mighty big ones.

South turned the ball over on its next possession. Central senior forward Kiara Buford was fouled and calmly hit two free throws to make it 48-44 with 22 seconds left. Another free throw by Tay-

lor and the Minutemen had earned the state title for a second year in a row over the Tigers.

"That was a great game, wasn't it?" said grinning Central coach Willie Taylor. "The last five minutes seemed to go in slow motion."

Taylor conceded that he was more than a little concerned when South went up by nine. "At that point we had to take Buford out because she had four fouls," he said, "but then Theairra took it upon herself to make some big plays."

Buford, who will play for the Gophers next season, came back in for the final six minutes. Taylor said he had no wor-

CENTRAL GIRLS ▶ 40

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Megan Howard drives the baseline past a pair of Tigers during Central's 49-44 victory over South to win its second straight state title.



39◀ CENTRAL GIRLS

ries about her playing tentatively because of foul trouble. "Kiara isn't that type of player," he said.

The Minutemen benefited from both timely and well-balanced offense. Taylor had a team-high 13 points, senior center Georgie Jones added 12 to go with Buford's 11 and senior forward Megan Howard's eight. Taylor, Buford and Jones were all named to the all-tournament team.

Coach Taylor also singled out senior guard Cyonna West for her play on the other end of the court. "She might not have scored four points in the tournament," Taylor said, "but she's the kind of player who helps you win because of the way she plays defense."

Central's diamond-and-one defense limited South's outstanding junior forward, Tayler Hill, to 11 points. Hill was averaging 22 points a game going in. "We wanted to get after her," said coach Taylor. "We knew that she's a great player."

"It was just meant to be," Jones said of the title game. "When we got down by nine in the second half, it was a question of how much we really wanted it. I'm just speechless right now."

Buford said the two state titles were both great, "but this year was a little more satisfying to me personally because it's my last year here. It's also great because we were the No. 3 seed and we blew out the No. 2 seed (Eastview) in the semifinals."

Howard said she and her teammates like



Central's Kiara Buford dribbles down court with South's Tyisha Smith in close pursuit during state Class AAAA girls' championship play. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

playing for Taylor because he maintains the proper balance between team discipline and keeping the game fun for players. "He's a winning coach who expects a lot from us," she said, "but he's also very approachable."

In many ways, Taylor said this year's title was more rewarding than last year's. The Minutemen had four returning starters this season, but they didn't have the same depth of talent off the bench.

Many people thought that Central had shown its vulnerability in its section semifi-

nal game against White Bear Lake when the Minutemen won by only six points. However, Central roared back in the section final to thrash Woodbury 60-30.

Central also made short work of St. Cloud Tech in the first round of state with a 74-47 win and then knocked off Eastview 75-59 in the semifinals.

"We had to come up with some more strategies to win this year," coach Taylor said. "If we hadn't won the state championship last year, I'd have been an idiot."

# State takes its toll on Redhawk girls

BY BILL WAGNER

The Minnehaha Academy girls' basketball team entered last week's Class AAA state tournament with a 26-3 record and high hopes. In the first round, those expectations looked more than justified when the Redhawks came back from an early 21-5 deficit to defeat Fergus Falls 49-44 in overtime.

However, in the process Minnehaha lost star sophomore guard Rachel Hansen to injury. With the Hawks trailing early, Hansen broke away for what looked like a routine layup. However, just as she was about to go

airborne, she sank to the floor.

"She said she felt something pop," said coach Josh Thurow.

Hansen, who had been averaging more than 14 points and four assists a game, suffered three torn ligaments, including the anterior cruciate ligament in her knee, and was out for the rest of the tournament. Hansen's absence meant that senior Brittany Norby had to be moved from forward to guard and freshman forward Katelyn Adams was rotated in as a starter.

The new configuration worked for a while. Minnehaha enjoyed outstanding performances from seniors Megan Erlandson (16 points) and Ani Johnson (12) to overtake Fergus Falls. The Otters could not hold their early lead despite the play of forward Hannah Draxton, a University of Iowa recruit who had 23 points and 13 rebounds.

"The girls played great," Thurow said, "but

when you lose your best player like that, it becomes tough."

The Redhawks then had to face DeLaSalle, a Tri-Metro Conference rival that had already beaten Minnehaha twice during the regular season. Minnehaha got an outstanding game from Norby, who had 15 points, and kept the score close for a while. However, the Islanders' big front line of senior forwards Anna Kovalchuk and Aaryn Booker eventually took over. The Red hawks came up on the short end of a 54-44 game.

"DeLaSalle had more energy at the end," Thurow said. "They rotated in 10 kids, and that made a difference."

The injury bug was not finished biting the Redhawks, either. In their 65-52 third-place loss to Rogers, Minnehaha junior ace Sarah Peterson went after a loose ball. "She took an elbow and it broke her nose," said Thurow about his team's leading rebounder. "And

she'd just come out of the DeLaSalle game with what looked like one big bruise all over her body."

Erlandson completed an outstanding year for the Hawks and was named to the all-tournament team. She led the club with more than 15 points a game and made more than 55 percent of her field goal attempts.

Unfortunately for Hansen, her recovery will take considerable time. Thurow said she will miss track this spring and soccer next fall. "We just hope we'll have her back (to play basketball) next season," he said.

Despite the setbacks, Thurow considered this season a great success. It was the Redhawks' second trip to state in the past four years.

"We thought at the start of the year that we could get to state," he said. "And we had a blast doing it."

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# STA returns to state hoops tournament

## Defending champs roll past New Prague in section final

By BILL WAGNER

St. Thomas Academy earned its third straight trip to the state boys' basketball tournament on March 19 with a decisive 47-29 victory over top-seeded New Prague in the Section IAAA final.

The Cadets led from start to finish against the Trojans. Senior guard Fritz Waldvogel scored 16 points, and senior center Alex Schneider had 15. But STA coach Mike Sjoberg, a stickler for defense, particularly liked what he saw of his team's ability to keep the opposition's score down.

"They play in a pretty tough league," said Sjoberg about New Prague, "but I'm not sure they've ever seen a man-to-man defense like ours."

The Cadets got to the section final by defeating Waseca 73-48 in the first round of the playoffs and then beating Red Wing 65-48 in the semifinals.

At first glance, it might have been easy to overlook this year's Cadets, even though they are the defending state champions and are making their ninth tournament appearance. The team had

a few more losses than it did last year, but those were to some pretty powerful teams, including Henry Sibley, Tartan, Cretin-Derham Hall and Hopkins. Sjoberg thinks the strong competition STA faced this year makes for a battle-tested team headed into state.

This year's club is a little different from a year ago. STA's big three returning starters—seniors Waldvogel and Schneider and junior guard Michael Fitzgerald—form a nice base of talent. However, the Cadets also had to integrate junior guards Jake Szymanski and Michael Ratelle into the starting five this year.

"It's been a work in progress," said Sjoberg about his two new starters, "but they have some experience under their belts now and they've been playing well."

Waldvogel has been averaging 10 points and just under seven assists per game. The 5-foot-7 guard will attend the University of St. Thomas next year to play both football and basketball. "We wish we had him for eight more years," Sjoberg said.

Schneider, who will be attending Holy

Cross in Massachusetts next year, has been a bulwark on the front line with 19 points and nine rebounds per outing. Sjoberg said Schneider's defense has been especially outstanding against tough competition. In fact, Schneider outscored Sibley's 6-foot-8 star junior forward Mike Bruesewitz 48-16 in two meetings this year.

Fitzgerald has contributed 16 points a game and was singled out by Sjoberg as the team's best perimeter defender.

Schneider is looking forward to defending the team's AAA crown this week. "We might not have the same depth that we had last year, but we still have ways we can win as a team," he said.

The Cadets (22-6) will face Little Falls (14-14) in the first round of the Class AAA state tournament at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 26, at Mariucci Arena. The winner will advance to the semifinals at 8:00 p.m. Thursday at Target Center, with the championship game set for 6:00 p.m. Saturday.

STA is the No. 2 seed in the tournament behind Benilde-St. Margaret. The Cadets defeated the Red Knights 56-40 to win last year's state tourney title.

### 39◀ WRIGHT CALL

up for this week's state tournament. They find themselves in the role as one of the favorites. While accepting congratulations from well-wishers after the game, Dasovich was informed that Osseo and later Hopkins were defeated in section title games. Suddenly, the Warriors were not only competing in the tournament, they were a lock for the No. 2 seed.

"I've only been here four years, so it's hard for me to put it all in perspective," Dasovich said.

Verdoes, who has been involved in Warrior athletics for nearly four decades, was standing in the middle of the mad scene on the floor after the game. "A lot of guys are getting their first trip to a state," he said. "I hope they enjoy themselves."

Sibley will face Rochester Mayo (24-4) in the first round of the Class AAA state tournament at 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 26, at Target Center. The winner will advance to the semifinals at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, with the championship game set for 8:00 p.m. on Saturday.

### Winter of discontent ends for U

For the most part, the men's on-ice and on-court action at the University of Minnesota has been almost as dreary as the weather. But a little spark late in their respective seasons gave fans hope where little previously existed.

The Gopher men's hockey team struggled offensively all winter, finishing a dispiriting sixth in the WCHA. But memories of all those ties and one-goal games were wiped out after a dramatic series that saw the Gophers edge out Minnesota State University-Mankato by winning two of three overtime games.

It was a series filled with breathtaking goaltending and marred only by the usual debatable WCHA officiating. An absurd too-many-men-on-the-ice call in overtime during the first game seemed like a gift that could give the Gophers the game. But the Mavs gave the home folks one for the memory book when they scored a shorthanded game winner.

In the third game, referee Derek Shepherd, who had ejected MSU's Jason Willey for the hit that sent Tom Pohl to the hospital, put his whistle away in the second half and let the teams play. Eventually, the stronger team wins such a game. So the Gophers triumphed. No matter what they would do the following weekend in St. Paul, they salvaged their season in the eyes of most supporters and will probably be in the NCAA tournament.



Sibley's Kavon Martin shoots over the Raiders' Marcus Binns as teammate Chris Halvorsen looks on during first-half action of the Section 4AAAA title game on March 18 at Concordia University.

Tubby Smith won 20 games in his first season as the Gopher men's basketball coach—a tribute both to his coaching ability and to a weak nonconference schedule. The Gophers made men's basketball games at Williams Arena fun again this winter, a notable achievement after last season's disconcerting campaign.

It's to Smith's credit that people even considered them an outsider for the NCAA tournament. A miracle win over Indiana in the Big Ten Tournament gave fans something to be hopeful for next season. The fact that they lost the next two games didn't seem to matter. Lest that seem like a small thing, the NIT and NCAA were merely letters at this time last year.

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



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# Sports Shorts

**Youth basketball teams in St. Paul** are invited to enter the playoffs for the 2008 Minnesota Youth Basketball State Championships. The Region 4 playoffs will be held at Concordia University-St. Paul on April 26-27 for boys and girls in grades 7-9 and May 3 for boys and girls in grades 5-6. Regional champions will compete in the state championships in June in St. Cloud. Visit [www.psmmbn.com](http://www.psmmbn.com).

**The St. Paul Celts lacrosse team** will begin its eighth season of competition in the Minnesota Boys' Scholastic Lacrosse Association with a game against Monticello on Friday, April 11, at Monticello High School. Formerly known as Riverlax, the team includes players from more than 10 metro-area high schools and is sponsored by the St. Paul Lacrosse Club. Because of ongoing construction at Macalester College, the Celts will play much of their early schedule on the road this year. The team is tentatively scheduled to return to Macalester for home games against Superior on May 9, Forest Lake on May 12 and Blaine on May 15. Faceoffs are at 7:00 p.m. Call club president G.F. Gallagher at 651-492-7501.

**The St. Peter's Women's Golf League** will play the Highland nine-hole course on Thursday mornings from May 15 to September 4. Tee times start at 9:00 a.m. An opening luncheon will be held on May 8. New members are welcome. Call Joan Madsen at 651-699-2684.

**Midway Baseball** will hold registration at noon on Saturday, April 19, at the Dunning Recreation Center, 1221 Marshall Ave. Players ages 8-10 need only register; players ages 11-12 will also have an evaluation at 12:30 p.m. (bring a glove and outdoor shoes). The fee is

\$85 for all levels. Call 651-659-1391.

**The 25th annual Melpomene 5K** will be held on Saturday, May 3, along Mississippi River Boulevard. There will be a 5K Women's and Men's Run, Race Walk and Coed Walk at 8:30 a.m., following by a Kids Fun Run (half mile and mile) at 9:30 a.m. The cost is \$25 in advance or \$30 on race day for the 5K and \$5.00 for the Fun Run. Call 651-789-0140 or visit [www.melpomene.org](http://www.melpomene.org).

**Highland Park Soo Bahk Do** is offering martial arts classes on Monday evenings for adults and on Wednesday evenings for kids, parents and adults at Highland Catholic School, 2017 Bohland Ave. E-mail [hpsobahkdo@hotmail.com](mailto:hpsobahkdo@hotmail.com) or visit [www.hpsbd.com](http://www.hpsbd.com).

**Jackie Kelly**, a Highland Park resident and senior at St. Olaf College, was awarded all-academic honors by the U.S. Track & Field/Cross Country Coaches Association. To be eligible for the award, an athlete must carry a minimum 3.5 grade point average and finish in the top 25 percent of the field at their respective NCAA regional meet. Kelly is a 2004 graduate of Visitation School.

**Tae Kwon Do karate** will be offered at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, April 8-June 26 (no class June 10), at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. The class is open to the public for beginner, intermediate and advanced students ages 12 and older. The cost is \$60-\$90. Call 651-698-0751.

**The 76th annual Northwest Sportshow** will be held from Wednesday through Sunday, April 2-6, at the Minneapolis Convention Center. The show will feature more than 600



The Highland Park boys' 5th-grade basketball team won the state grade C championship on March 16 in Bloomington. Team members, from left, include Andy Wingerd, Jack Wingerd, Riley Quinlan, Ryan Tracy, Quincy Taylor, John Bird, Jesse Brelje, Jack Johnson, Carl Knetsch and Sam Gowan. Not pictured are Jonnie Gores and coaches Mark Wingerd, Tim Brelje and Chris Taylor. The players attend Horace Mann and Nativity schools.

exhibits featuring boats, RVs and new products for hunting, fishing, camping and other outdoor activities. Visitors will also find the Midwest's largest display of travel booths, including fishing and hunting camps, family vacations and adventure destinations from across the U.S. and Canada. Admission is \$5.00-\$10. Visit [NorthwestSportshow.com](http://NorthwestSportshow.com).

**The Minnesota Thunder** professional soccer team's home opener will be against the Rochester Rhinos at 5:05 p.m. Sunday, May 4, in James Griffin Stadium at Central High School. With the expansion to a 30-game regular season in 2008, the Thunder will play every team in the league three times. The majority of

home games will be played at Griffin, with games at the National Sports Center in Blaine on May 24 for the NSC Cup and on June 14 for the All-American Cup.

**The Cinco de Mayo 5K Run/Walk** will be held at 9:00 a.m. Sunday, May 4, beginning at the Highland Pool, 1840 Edgumbe Road. A quarter-mile kids' walk will begin at 8:45 a.m. Proceeds will benefit Minnesota Friends of the Orphans, which is the local branch of Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos. The cost is \$15-\$20 in advance for the 5K (\$20-\$25 on race day) or \$8.00 for the kids' walk (\$10 on race day). For more information, visit [www.friendsoftheorphans.org/mn](http://www.friendsoftheorphans.org/mn).

## St. Paul Parks and Rec sets spring activities

**Registration for summer** youth baseball, softball, T-ball and nearball will begin Monday, April 7, at all recreation centers in St. Paul. Nonresident youths who attend school in St. Paul must show proof of enrollment at the time of registration and pay a nonresident fee of \$30, in addition to the sport fee. Proof of age is required at the time of registration. A copy of the child's birth certificate will be kept on file at the recreation center. Late registration may be accepted if space is available. Registration may be made at the recreation

center, by phone with a credit card or on-line at [www.stpaul.gov/depts/parks](http://www.stpaul.gov/depts/parks).

**Free spring break programming** will be offered the week of March 31-April 4 at St. Paul's recreation centers. All-day programming will be offered from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Palace Recreation Center and half-day programming will be offered from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Hillcrest, Edgumbe, Groveland and Merriam Park centers. Forms will be available at the recreation centers or at [www.ci.stpaul.gov/rec](http://www.ci.stpaul.gov/rec) centers.

**The Merriam Park Recreation Center**, 2000 St. Anthony Ave., is offering the following programs next month: African drumming on Tuesdays for eight weeks beginning

April 1 (\$25 per family member); adult guitar lessons on Tuesdays for eight weeks beginning April 1 (\$60); beginning ballet and tap dancing for eight weeks beginning April 3 (\$50); and basic skateboarding for ages 7-10 and 11-14 for four weeks beginning April 21 (\$35). Call 651-298-5766.

**The Palace Recreation Center**, 781 Palace St., is offering the following programs next month: Strength and Stretch Pilates for adults on Mondays for eight weeks beginning March 31 (\$30); Stamping Madness on three Tuesdays beginning April 1 (\$30); and Yu-Gi-Oh on Thursday evenings for nine weeks beginning April 3 (\$3.00). Call 651-298-5677.

**The Groveland Recreation Center**, 2045 St. Clair Ave., is offering Abakadoodle art classes on four Wednesdays, beginning April 9. Classes will be conducted at 4:00 p.m. for grades 1-5, 5:30 p.m. for ages 2-3 and 6:30 p.m. for ages 4-5. The cost is \$50. Call 651-695-3714.

**The Edgumbe Recreation Center**, 320 S. Griggs St., is offering the following programs next month: adult aerobics every Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning (\$3.00); Irish dancing for the family from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 2 (free); and women's beginning weightlifting on six Thursdays beginning April 3 (\$75). Call 651-695-3711.

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NICE PIANOS. Sales and Service. 651-484-0712; www.NicePianos.com.

ATTN: STORES/Wholesalers! Buy fast-selling products@ZLC, 1-866-464-6952 x203; mention discount code LC21391.

ARTS & CRAFTS Bronze light fixtures, Softside twin water bed, Antique brass fireplace doors, excellent condition; 651-645-2961.

TWO CATS: Lucky, \$60 (spade); Charm, \$50. Good with people. 651-717-5527.

**GARAGE/MOVING SALE**

GARAGE SALE: Multi Family garage sale Sat., April 5, 8:30-2:00. Established Heart, 562 Snelling Ave. S.

MOVING/DOWNSIZING Sale. 1553 Osceola Ave, St. Paul. Fri., April 4, 8-4; Sat., Apr. 5, 8-2. Dining room table with 6 chairs, wall mirror, Tiffany-style lamps, end tables, storage cabinets, cherry highboy dressers, loads of kitchen ware and much more. #'s at 7:00 a.m. on Friday. Sponsored by Ebenezer Hands & Hearts Estate Sales.

**REAL ESTATE/LAND**

All real estate or rental advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising which is in violation of the law. Equal housing opportunity.

ASSESSED PROPERTY value too high? Tax Abatement Appraisals: \$345. 651-690-3018.

**\*WE BUY HOUSES\***

Cash or Terms. Call Eric at 612-419-5067.

HIGHLAND REALTY'S Michael Shields is a Seller Representative Specialist. 651-699-5228.

**REAL ESTATE WANTED**

**\*WE BUY HOUSES\***

Cash or Terms. Call Eric at 612-419-5067.

**WANTED TO BUY**

DIAMONDS, fine estate and antique jewelry. We know and appreciate the value of your jewelry. R. F. Moeller Jeweler, 2065 Ford Pkwy, 651-698-6321. Certified Gemologist.

OLD RECORDS, LP's/45's, Rock, Jazz, Country, Soul, more. 651-224-4947.

YES, WE'RE Buying!!! Older Rugs, Lamps, Pictures; FURNITURE (All Types); Glassware, Crocks; "ANYTHING OLD!" 651-227-2469. TOP CASH PAID.

**HOME IMPROVEMENTS**

WAGNER & LANG CONST., INC. Remodeling and home improvements. Kitchens, bathrooms, basements. Interior/Exterior. MN Lic. #20074260. Call Dennis or Tom, 651-224-3565.

**\*LARRY'S PAINTING\***

Exterior-Interior, spray painting, textured ceilings & walls, skim coat, water damage, knockdown, dry-wall, paper hanging; free estimates; insured; 651-222-4227.

SCHUFMAN BROS. Quality painting, interior/exterior, textured ceilings and water damage repairs, professional service at affordable rates, local references, free estimates, insured; Jonathan, 651-481-0402.

DONNA'S INTERIOR Painting. Large or small jobs. Color consulting. 651-771-8693.

PATES ROOFING. Finest in residential roofing. References. Licensed. Insured. 651-690-3956.

CARPENTRY/SHEETROCK. Window wells. Decks. Porches, Framing. Exterior drain tile systems. Reasonable rates. Free estimate. Frank, 651-276-7094.

HOUSE PAINTING/REPAIR. Book early for 10% discount. Wood frames/stucco, power washing, color matching. Best workmanship, price guaranteed; free estimates. Insured. 651-699-2832.

CARPENTRY, REMODELING, decks, painting, repairs. Robert Behrens. 651-483-0966; cell 651-983-3372. Highland, Mac-Grove, Merriam Park, Crocus. References.

## How do I place a classified ad?

Phone: 651-699-1462

Fax: 651-699-6501

Email: wantads@myvillager.com

Classified ads are \$1.10 per word, \$11 minimum.  
5% discount for prepayment of 3 months.  
10% discount for prepayment of 6 months.  
All want ads are prepaid by either cash, check or credit card.

More information is available at [www.myvillager.com](http://www.myvillager.com)

Next Issue: April 9

Deadline: April 2

**HOME IMPROVEMENTS**

PAINTING, wallpaper removal, skim coating, textured ceilings, knockdowns. Stain/varnishing, small wall repair. Average home \$600; average 3 rooms, \$200; average garage, \$200; Painter Jim, 651-698-0840.

PROFESSIONAL INTERIOR/EXTERIOR PAINTING, WALL-PAPER HANGING, CEILING TEXTURING, MODERATE PRICES; FREE ESTIMATES; LICENSED, BONDED, INSURED; MERRIAM PARK PAINTING. ED, 651-224-3660; "A NEIGHBOR YOU CAN TRUST."

AFFORDABLE PLUMBING; bathroom/kitchen/laundry, pressure loss, water heaters, bathroom rough in; ceramic tile, free estimates; John, 651-772-1546; 651-808-4055.

BONA FIDE Painting, Inc. Quality services, free estimates, references; Ken, 651-695-1828; (c) 651-307-9024.

ADDITIONS, kitchens, baths, basement refinishing, remodeling; Showplace, Inc., Dan, 651-429-1317.

\*HARDWOOD FLOORS\* Refinished, installed, repaired. "Green" or polyurethane products. Finnish Projects, 651-271-2166.

**HOME IMPROVEMENTS**

PAPER HANG/Strip, Paint, Faux. Call Dar, 612-867-7675.

\*DRISCOLL BROTHERS, LLC\* Home Redesign and Construction. We build on your ideas! 20 years' residential design-build. Architectural & construction services. Kitchens, baths, additions, restorations and attic renovations. MN Lic. #20343246. 651-765-0008. driscollbros@comcast.net.

**\*BATHROOMS\***

YoungCastle Bathrooms specializes in bathroom design, repair, creation and remodeling. Great savings! Call for a free consultation. 651-257-4706; www.youngcastlebathrooms.com.

\*REMODEL-DESIGN-CONSULT\* Kitchens, Baths, Basements. New Additions, Decks, Fences, Porches. Reasonable rates. Personal, professional, proficient. Free estimates. "Building Brocks" 651-222-1992, office; 651-285-3237, cell.

TURNING POINT Woodworks. Quality wood turning/carving. Your vintage home specialist. 651-698-4227.

GENERAL CARPENTRY. Doors, finish work, basements, bathrooms, drywall/repair; reliable; 20 years; Mike Foster, 651-216-3023.

**HOME IMPROVEMENTS**

RIVERVIEW CEMENT. 30+ years' experience. References. Free estimates. Ray Johnson, 651-238-1435. Bobcat work also.

BIG E'S CUSTOM Flooring. Install, refinish & repair. Laminates & hardwoods. Free estimates. Residential/Commercial. 612-501-7054; 763-444-9048.

**\*BATHROOM RE-HAB!!!\***

Low water pressure? Sinks, toilets, tubs/surrounds, etc. Ceramic tile. Basement bathrooms installed. 612-275-9815.

KITCHENS, ADDITIONS, porches and baths designed and built. Award winning historic restoration. Structural and moisture problems solved. 27 years' experience. Licensed and Insured. Call Steve, 651-291-7117.

MIDWEST HOME Improvement. Handyman Service. Tile, painting, drywall and more! Dan, 651-238-5345.

**\*LOW WATER PRESSURE?\***

Change pipes to copper. Replace toilets, sinks, tubs/surrounds, water heater, etc. 612-275-9815.

BATHROOM/KITCHEN Remodeling. Professional, reliable, free estimates. Call Mike, 651-263-7065.

HOME IMPROVEMENTS: Concrete, roofing, siding, remodeling specialists; free estimates; 651-329-2415.

PLASTER REPAIR/ceramic tile, custom plaster and texturing, ceramic tile bath, kitchen and entry; total kitchen, bathroom, basement and attic remodel; B. Witte, 651-644-9177.

PLUMBING SERVICE and repair. See ad in Service Directory. Zeller Plumbing; 651-690-0421.

INTERIOR CARPENTRY, frame, trim, finish, door problems. Call Dave, Nice Finish Construction, 612-282-5431. Since 1973.

CAN'T DECIDE paint colors? Interior-exterior paint plans. Beth, 651-292-0488.

TILING. Backsplashes, floors, tub surrounds. Artisan quality. Licensed (#20454530). Insured. 612-702-0761.

**HOME IMPROVEMENTS**

SP CUSTOM Carpentry & Windows. Specializing in older homes. Featuring St. Paul historically approved all wood replacement tilt-in sash kits and wood or aluminum combination storm windows. Repair/replace rotten wood. www.spwindows.net. 612-232-0716.

D.J.'S HARDWOOD Flooring. Installation, sanding, finishing, repair. Quality work, affordable prices, insured; 8 years' experience. Free home estimates. 651-755-5279.

RIVER CITY Hardwoods. Installation, sanding & refinishing. Fully insured. References available. Free estimates. Call Adam, 651-214-4708.

REFACE existing cabinets with new real wood fronts, end panels, doors/drawer fronts. One man shop. Special attention to detail. 35 years' experience. Free estimate. Call Pat, 612-529-8816.

GOODMANSON CONSTRUCTION. Driveways, patios, steps, walks, retaining walls. Think spring! Estimate your project today. Call Bryan Dan, Mac-Grove resident, 651-636-4996; www.goodmansonsconstruction.com.

HANDYMAN A to Z. Quality repair or remodel. Gerry, 651-483-8581.

ARBORS, WOODEN Fences and Platform Decks. Call Keith, 612-839-7655.

**\*WINDOWS\***

Replacement windows installed, maintenance free, several styles. 651-755-8766.

DANNER PLUMBING and Restoration. Repairs, Remodels, Code Compliance, Water Heaters, Gas Piping. Residential/Commercial. Licensed/Bonded/Insured. Professional Quality at a Reasonable Price. 651-263-3623. Paul.

FREE ESTIMATES, \$25.00 gas card with each accepted job. Established, local, licensed, masonry contractor specializing in replacing sidewalks, drives and steps. We work with concrete, stone and brick and are restoration specialist. Quality work for good value. Call Doug at 651-645-8517.

Continued page 44

**Betsy Jensen**  
Estate & Household Sales  
eBay Sales, Appraisals  
651 698-9650



**TAX SEASON IS HERE**  
James J. McNulty, C.P.A. 651-698-1968  
I offer competitive rates with electronic filing. A year-round, full-service tax and accounting firm conveniently located in Highland Park. More than 20 years experience.

**WINNER 2007 UPTOWN COFFEE FESTIVAL**  
WHITE ROCK COFFEE ROASTERS  
HOT SOUPS • GIFTS  
769 Cleveland Avenue  
at Ford Parkway • 651-699-5448  
649 Snelling Avenue  
at Scheffer • 651-695-1960

**VISIT KITCHEN COMFORT**  
Kitchen & bath design for an existing or new residence. We specialize in renovation work!  
1399 St. Clair • 651.698.4949  
www.kitchencomfort.net

**Drawing & Painting Lessons**  
Ages 5 to Adult  
**The Art Academy**  
651-699-1573 • theartacademy.net



**Pates Roofing**  
Finest in Residential Roofing  
651-690-3956  
Licensed • Bonded • Insured  
Serving Community 25 Years  
STATE LIC.#20153317



**Want ad worksheet.**  
(You need not use this form to place a want ad.)  
For more information, call 651-699-1462.

Check Classification Here

<input type="checkbox"/> For Sale	<input type="checkbox"/> Computer/Internet	<input type="checkbox"/> Business Opportunity
<input type="checkbox"/> Antiques	<input type="checkbox"/> Insurance	<input type="checkbox"/> Child Care
<input type="checkbox"/> Garage/Moving/Misc.	<input type="checkbox"/> Professional Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Child Care Wanted
<input type="checkbox"/> Autos, Boats, Mtrcycles	<input type="checkbox"/> Special Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Home Health Care
<input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal Services	<input type="checkbox"/> For Rent Residential
<input type="checkbox"/> Wanted to Buy	<input type="checkbox"/> House/Pet Sitting	<input type="checkbox"/> For Rent Commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> Home Improvements	<input type="checkbox"/> Health & Beauty/Massage	<input type="checkbox"/> Garage/Storage
<input type="checkbox"/> Home Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Sewing/Embroidery	<input type="checkbox"/> Wanted to Rent
<input type="checkbox"/> Housecleaning	<input type="checkbox"/> Photography/Video	<input type="checkbox"/> Roommates
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Music Instruction	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacation
<input type="checkbox"/> Lawn, Landscape & Snow	<input type="checkbox"/> Piano Tuning/Repair	<input type="checkbox"/> Personals
<input type="checkbox"/> Income Tax & Accounting	<input type="checkbox"/> Instruction	<input type="checkbox"/> Lost & Found
<input type="checkbox"/> Office Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Help Wanted	<input type="checkbox"/> Free! Free! Free!

I'd like my classified ad to be worded like this. (one word per blank):

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	11.00 minimum	12.10	13.20
14.30	15.40	16.50	17.60
18.70	19.80	20.90	22.00
23.10	24.20	25.30	26.40

Classified ads are \$1.10 a word, \$11.00 minimum. All classified ads are payable in advance by cash, check or credit card. Please email, fax or deliver your ad to: wantads@myvillager.com, 651-699-6501, 757 Snelling Ave. S., St. Paul, MN 55116.

To charge your ad, please complete:  Discover  Visa  MasterCard

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

# Nearby Service Directory our readers own homes.

(And 10 out of 10 would welcome a bit of improvement.)

Our Spring Home Improvement Issues reach over 132,000 readers at a time when they're really getting busy around the house. Whether they're looking to sell or just spruce things up a bit, they'll need all kinds of products and services to help them. And they'll be looking in the Villager for ideas. Considering our readers have more than the average amount of money to spend,\* placing your ad in front of them right now would be hitting the nail on the head.



## UPCOMING HOME IMPROVEMENT ISSUE:

**April 9**

Deadline:

**April 3**

To reserve your advertisement call 651-699-1462  
or e-mail [displayads@myvillager.com](mailto:displayads@myvillager.com)



Serving the St. Paul neighborhoods of Highland Park, Macalester-Groveland, Merriam Park, Snelling-Hamline, Lexington-Hamline, Summit-University, Summit Hill, West 7th/Fort Road and Downtown; the Minneapolis neighborhoods of Hiawatha and Minnehaha; and suburban Mendota, Mendota Heights and Lilydale.

\*Family incomes of overall readership 40% greater than the Twin Cities median. Data copyright 2006 by Experian/Applied Geographic Solutions.

### HOME IMPROVEMENTS

**PAINTING** BY Dennis Winge! We do it all. 651-270-7905, more info.

**CERAMIC TILE.** Expert restoration repairs, construction and design; 30 years; 651-458-9708.

**PAINTING.** Interior & Exterior. Includes Power wash. Highland. References. Experienced. Reas. Butch BOS, 651-738-2746.

**RITWAY CONCRETE.** Remove/replace old basement floors. Chimney repair/tuckpointing. Very reasonable. 612-321-0842.

**LET'S CREATE** your new deck, pergola, arbor. Design build. Eliot Stadler, 651-785-3873.

**HIRE A HUSBAND.** Carpenter, painting, tile, plaster, minor plumbing/electrical; 30 years; insured; 651-699-7077.

**\*PAINTING\*** Interior/Exterior. Professional quality work. Water damage, repair, plaster, handyman services, carpentry, enameling, windows and doors. 651-735-3349.

**CONCRETE WORK:** steps, sidewalks, patios, driveways. Call Tom Seemon, 612-721-2530.

**SULLIVAN STONERWORKS** for all your stonework needs. Call Jim, 651-210-8741.

**CERAMIC TILE,** floors/bathrooms. For free estimate, call Frank, 651-276-7094.

**HOUSE REPAIR and RENOVATION.** Whether upgrading, expanding or just doing maintenance or repair; very satisfied, long-term clients; personable, flexible and very conscientious, 15 years +; 651-765-0742, Paul.

### HOME SERVICES

**BURTON'S RAIN** Gutter Service. GUTTERS CLEANED, repaired, installed. Since 1973. Insured, bonded. License #20126373; 651-699-8900.

**ALL BRIGHT** Window Cleaning. Year round. Chandeliers. Carpets. Mike, 651-646-4000.

**WILLIE'S RUBBISH** hauling and small demolition, garage, basement cleaning; licensed; 612-825-6511; 612-310-5559, cell.

**ANYTHING MOVED.** Call Good Stuff Moving. Reasonably priced. Licensed, insured. We sell boxes. 651-488-4808.

**CARPET PROFESSIONALLY** installed, restretch, repair. Quality work. 30 years' experience. 651-774-3738.

**PROFESSIONAL MOVES,** large/small; many local references; Angie's List; reasonable rates! John, 651-387-2955.

### HOME SERVICES

**ANYTIME HANDYMAN.** All general repairs, large and small projects; low rates; quality work; senior discounts; free estimates; 651-225-9942.

**MIDWEST DRYWALL.** Complete drywall service and repairs. Insured. Dan, 651-238-5345.

**\*HANDYMAN JIM\*** No job too small, will troubleshoot or even assist the homeowner; 651-230-8339, lve. msg. All calls returned.

**CARPET INSTALLATION,** sales and repairs. 16 years' experience. Free estimates. John, 612-366-5837.

**FURNITURE REPAIR.** All types; nicks, gouges, scratches, buttons, springs and things; complete antique restoration; 651-482-9386. We also buy antiques.

**HANDYMAN,** 20 years' experience, big or small jobs; 651-482-9386.

**BIBLE & BOOK** repair; 38 years' experience. Steve, 651-698-1477. [www.specialbindings.com](http://www.specialbindings.com).

**TIME TO CLEAN.** You call, I haul. No job too small. 651-646-5175.

**FURNITURE REFINISHING.** Furniture repair, stripping & refinishing. Quality work, 32 years in business. Oak Plus, 612-724-5151.

**HIGHLAND HANDYMAN,** good work, reasonable rates. Insured. Mitch, 651-698-5595.

**EXPERIENCED HANDYMAN/ CARPENTRY.** No job's too small. Reasonable rates. 651-285-3237; 651-222-1992.

**RECYCLE YOUR** old bed box spring or mattress, \$10 pickup charge each piece; 10-5; 651-647-1771.

**RETIRED MASTER** Plumber. Restore water pressure, eliminate drainage problems; add, replace or repair fixtures. Unbeatable rates. 612-968-9727.

**RUSS'S OLD HOUSE.** Double hung window sash; renovation/repair; reglazing; replace sash cords; wooden storms/screens. 651-645-2396.

**\*I DO WINDOWS\*** Call Chris at 651-645-1451.

**DECKS & WOOD** Fences. New or Repairs. State Lic. #20581059. Troy's Decks & Fence, 651-210-1387.

**PROFESSIONAL WINDOW/gutter** cleaning, power washing, 10 years' experience, insured, references, free estimates. Jeremy, SkyBlue Windows, 651-503-0996.

### HOME SERVICES

**\*CHIMNEY REPAIR\*** Flues, brick, tuckpointing. Mark, 651-353-3870.

**HIGHLAND PARK** Painting: Interior/Exterior. Power washing, decks, gutters, tree removal. Reasonable rates. 651-216-6548.

**OLD WINDOW Tune-Up.** Sash cord replacement. Weather sealing. Complete maintenance. Call Mike, 612-722-3328.

**100,000 WINDOWS** cleaned! Serving entire Metro. Residential/Commercial. Free estimates. Jerry, 651-343-6948.

### HOUSECLEANING

**HOUSECLEANING,** specializing in one-time cleanups; excellent references; 20 years' experience. Connie's Cleaning, 651-646-1637; 612-281-5921.

**PERFECTIONIST?** Call MB's Cleaning Service for housecleaning. Feng Shui, clutter control. 651-225-1960.

**HIGH STANDARDS,** honest, reliable housecleaner, thorough. Excellent references. Karen, 651-487-2454.

**WE LIKE TO CLEAN & ORGANIZE.** What can we help you with? Call Castle Keepers, 651-426-8850. Insured/bonded. Visa/MC.

**EXCELLENT CLEANING,** reasonable rates, estimates available. Ann, 651-776-7834.

**OPENINGS AVAILABLE.** Spic 'n span housecleaning. Honest, reliable. References. Sarah, 651-698-4645.

**JOLYNN'S CLEANING** Service. Homes, apartments; fast, reliable; one-time cleaning. 651-659-9695; 651-792-6953.

**CLOVERLEAF CLEANING** Service. Licensed. Insured. Sisters in business and now expanding. 651-730-4124.

**MICHELLE'S DETAILED** Housecleaning. Honest, reliable, excellent references; 651-293-1273.

**HOUSECLEANING.** Sister duo, over 10 years' experience. Fantastic references, free estimates. 612-708-0843, Sasha.

**SUZY'S HOUSECLEANING.** Reliable, thorough, trustworthy; \$22 per hour. References available. 651-690-1460.

**SPARKLING CLEAN!** Detailed, organized, reasonable rates. Experienced, good references. Free estimates. Maria, 651-245-9027.



## Publication dates for 2008

<p><b>JANUARY</b></p> <p>6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31</p>	<p><b>JULY</b></p> <p>6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31</p>
<p><b>FEBRUARY</b></p> <p>3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29</p>	<p><b>AUGUST</b></p> <p>3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31</p>
<p><b>MARCH</b></p> <p>2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31</p>	<p><b>SEPTEMBER</b></p> <p>7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30</p>
<p><b>APRIL</b></p> <p>6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30</p>	<p><b>OCTOBER</b></p> <p>5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31</p>
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<p><b>JUNE</b></p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30</p>	<p><b>DECEMBER</b></p> <p>7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31</p>

News deadline is Tuesday, 8 days prior to publication.  
Display ad deadline is Thursday, 6 days prior.  
Service Directory/want ad deadline is Wednesday, 7 days prior.

## Scoring Positions Available

Pearson is looking for hundreds of college graduates to read and score student exams on a temporary basis at our St. Paul Performance Scoring Center. Paid training will begin in late April and projects will last approximately 5 weeks.

\$12.25 per hour  
Ample free parking at the site  
Public transportation accessible  
Friendly, professional atmosphere

**Requirements:** Proof of a four-year degree (Bachelor degree equivalent)

Identification for completion of the I-9

**Shifts Available:** M-F 8:00am – 4:30pm  
Beginning April 28th

M-F 6:00pm – 10:00pm  
Beginning April 28th

To schedule an interview appointment log onto [www.careermapping.com/pemjobs](http://www.careermapping.com/pemjobs) or call 1-877-PEM-JOBS

**Pearson**  
10 River Park Plaza, 7th Floor  
St. Paul, MN 55107

Questions: 651-602-5488  
or [temp\\_employment@pearson.com](mailto:temp_employment@pearson.com)

Pearson is an Equal Opportunity Employer M/F/V/D

## YOU'RE THE BOSS

Be independent, enjoy flexible hours, and still enjoy the benefits of training, mentoring, coaching, and a great retirement plan. At Coldwell Banker Burnet, independent contractors have it all! We are looking for two entrepreneurial spirits to join our thriving team. Call Kathie Phillips at 651-690-8595.

## Tom's Lawn Care

One-Time to Weekly Rates  
Seasonal Contracts  
651-455-9329



## HARMONING REMODELING

651-278-4783

# Service Directory

## LAWN/LANDSCAPE/SNOW

\*P.H.M. INC. 651-231-7748\*  
Murphy's Lawn and Landscaping. Quality work and competitive rates. Commercial/Residential. Landscaping services include grading, sodding, decorative rock & wood mulch gardens. Retaining walls, patios, sidewalks & driveways. Weekly lawn cutting, weed & feed. Free estimates. Licensed. Insured. References available upon request.

THE BEST Landscaping Design Services. Retaining walls, walks & patios, grading, sodding, trees/shrubs/plantings, ponds; Bluhm Brothers Landscaping, Inc., 651-227-2584.

TIM'S GRASS CUTTING. Seasonal cleanups, year-round contracts; estimates; 651-690-1284.

LAWN SERVICE. Spring cleanups; gutter cleaning/repair; dethatching, tree/bush service; 651-699-2832.

CREATIVE DESIGNS. I can help you install. Horticulture Degree, U of MN. Certified Nursery/Landscape Professional. Living Space Landscapes. Scott Solomonson, 612-868-7787.

LAWN SERVICE & Landscaping. Large & small projects. Total maintenance, trees and shrubs. John, 612-328-6893.

LERFALD SERVICES. Installation of retaining walls, pavers, concrete, rock/mulch beds, shrubs, trees, sod, dirt. General hauling/excavating, tree trimming/removal. Free estimates. Fully insured. Accept credit cards. References. Loren, 651-208-6346.

EARLY BIRD Lawscapes. Landscaping. Year-round maintenance services. 651-768-0030.

CNT LAWCARE and Snow Removal. Spring cleanups, mowing. Highland resident. Chris, 651-690-2427; cell 651-757-6339.

N/S LAWN SNOW. Call 651-776-5929 for estimates. Appreciate your business.

CC LAWN CARE & Snow Removal. Highest quality; competitive rates; since 1985. Family owned/operated. Chris, 651-230-9614 (bus).

PERSON TO PERSON Lawn Care. Personal, professional. Spring cleanups. Weekly lawn. Edging, hedging & more. Tree trimming/stump removal. Reasonable. Now taking new contracts. Commercial/Residential. 651-775-0248.

\*BEAGLE LANDSCAPING LLC\* Residential, commercial 4-season property care. Spring cleanups. Monthly mowing contracts. 651-775-2035.

HELLER FAMILY Lawn. Serving the area for over 20 years. Family owned & operated. 651-699-9315; 651-442-1325.

\*100 MONTHLY CONTRACTS\* Full service lawn care. Experienced, reliable; Jeff, cell 651-276-4396.

MOWING/WEED WHACKING. Yard Cleanup/Tilling. Any/all Outdoor Needs! Zach BOS, 651-341-6133.

SORENSEN LAWN Care serving Highland area for 17 years; complete lawn care; call Jeff for free estimate, 651-695-1230

## LAWN/LANDSCAPE/SNOW

LOOKING FOR: Gutter cleaning, raking, mowing, weed pulling; odd jobs; Jim, 651-698-0840.

SADOWSKI BROS. Landscaping. We do it all. Reasonable rates. No job is too big or too small. Satisfaction guaranteed! 651-353-3870.

METRO LAWN & Snow. Spring cleanup. Full lawn service, gutters, trees & bushes; 651-690-5227.

\*TREE TRIMMING & REMOVAL\* Call Frank, 651-276-7094.

STUDENT/ST. THOMAS, reliable lawn mowing, trimming and blowing; call Andrew, 651-645-3940.

EXTERIOR DRAIN TILE systems. Solve your water problems! Frank, 651-276-7094.

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