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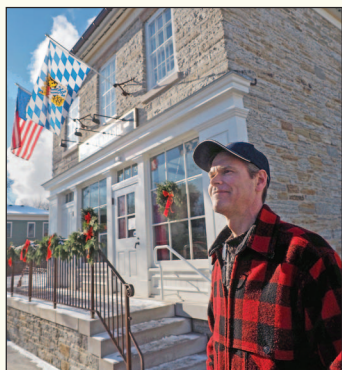


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Cool operator. John Culligan of Cuningham Group Architecture presides over the construction of the Winter Carnival's seven-story ice palace in Rice Park. For more on the events planned during the 17-day festival, see page 22.

PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Commission OKs plan for five-story apartment bldg. on Marshall Ave.

Neighbors say they will appeal the decision to the City Council

BY JANE MCCLURE

The controversial site plan for a new five-story apartment building on the northeast corner of Marshall Avenue and Moore Street won the unanimous approval of the St. Paul Planning Commission on January 12. After the vote, however, several neighbors of the proposed 16-unit building said they would appeal the decision to the City Council.

Almost 100 people attended the January 4 public hearing on the site plan before the Planning Commission's Zoning Committee. The project also generated close to 100 letters and emails with over 60 percent of them opposed to the project.

Developer Jon Schwartzman and project supporters contend the apartment building will bring badly needed rental housing to the area with three- and four-bedroom units housing a total of 61 tenants. Neighbors opposed to the project are concerned about the effect it will have on traffic and parking congestion, public safety and the character of the neighborhood. The

MARSHALL-MOORE ►2

St. Paul debates increase in minimum wage

Restaurant employees argue for the inclusion of tip credit

BY JANE MCCLURE

Minneapolis restaurant owners and managers have reported trimming menus and cutting staff in response to that city's recent decision to increase the minimum wage for all employees to \$15 per hour over the next six years. Minneapolis' new minimum wage does not include a credit for employees who receive tips, and that is causing problems for restaurants, the owners and managers told members of the St. Paul City Council, which is considering raising the minimum wage in St. Paul to \$15 per hour.

City Council president Amy Brendmoen, Ward 4 council member Russ Stark and Citizens League executive director Pahoua Yang Hoff-

"With more mandates and without a tip credit, we can't survive," said restaurant owner Tim Mahoney.

man met on January 8 at Sweeney's Saloon on Dale Street with more than 100 bartenders, waiters and other hospitality industry representatives to discuss the minimum wage and tip credit.

The comments made at that session will be incorporated in a Citizens League report on the minimum wage that will be submitted to the St. Paul City Council and Mayor Melvin Carter following its completion at the end of January, according to Hoffman.

Brendmoen, who said she worked her way through college as a waitress and bartender, urged those present to make themselves heard at future meetings on the minimum wage.

Minneapolis restaurant owners and employees urged their counterparts in St. Paul to get organized early if they want to include a tip credit in any new minimum wage ordinance. Restaurant owner Tim Mahoney and bartender Jennifer Schellenberg said they had been told by Minneapolis officials that they voiced their support for a tip credit too late to have it included in the ordinance.

Under federal law and most state laws, employers may pay tipped employees less than the minimum wage as long as the employees get enough in tips to make up the difference. Mahoney, who lives in St. Paul, said restaurants and other businesses have been dealing with an increasing number of local government mandates, such as earned sick and safe time. "With more mandates and without a tip credit, we can't survive," he said.

\$15 MINIMUM WAGE ►2

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1 ◀ MARSHALL-MOORE

building, which will have 30 underground parking spaces, is expected to attract mostly college students. The monthly rent will run about \$850 per bed.

Zoning Committee members said they empathized with the concerns of neighbors, but the site plan meets all of the conditions of the property's zoning and there was no reason to reject it. "Change is really hard in any neighborhood," said Planning Commission chairwoman Betsy Reveal.

The apartment building will be replacing two century-old single-family homes at 1973 and 1977 Marshall Ave. There is a year-long moratorium on development along that stretch of Marshall while the historic value of the existing homes is studied. However, Schwartzman submitted his plan for the apartment building before the moratorium took effect, Reveal noted, "and we have no way of knowing whether these houses would be designated as historic."

St. Paul city planner Tia Anderson recommended approval of the site plan, saying it met the provisions of the neighborhood plan adopted by the Union Park District Council. However, the UPDC criticized Anderson's findings.

The UPDC had recommended denial of the site plan. According to UPDC president Dan Taylor, Anderson would have had to "pick and choose" sections of the district plan to make her case to approve the project. Although the neighbor-



Depending on the fate of a possible appeal to the City Council, the construction of a five-story apartment building on the northeast corner of Marshall Avenue and Moore Street may proceed as planned.

hood plan calls for greater housing density where appropriate, it also calls for the preservation of the neighborhood's character and scale of housing, Taylor said.

Anderson testified that Schwartzman's development needed no variances. Neighbors disagreed, contending that the underground parking would extend beyond the building's footprint, rising slightly above grade, and for that reason required a variance. Neighbors also pointed out that the version of the site plan submitted before the moratorium took effect was not complete and therefore the project should not be approved. However, the Planning Commission rejected the neighborhood's arguments.

The houses at 1973 and 1977 Marshall, "though they may be old, have not been inventoried and have not been designated as historic at this time," Anderson said. Nevertheless, the historic nature of the two houses that are to be demolished will be evaluated as part of the study underway on Marshall between Wilder and Wheeler streets, according to Aaron Rubenstein of Historic St. Paul.

Schwartzman bought the houses in 2016-17 with the intent of tearing them down and replacing them with "new, modern, upscale apartments," he said. "There's a rental housing crisis and a great demand for housing for students and young adults." The 16 rental units will

measure around 900 square feet, although there will be one unit of 1,800 square feet.

Schwartzman was supported at the hearing by more than a dozen young adults who testified about the difficulty they have had finding suitable housing in the area. According to them, undergraduate and graduate students who rent housing are unfairly blamed by neighbors for causing problems. Many of them said they currently live in older apartments owned by landlords who take advantage of the tight housing market. Several said they would prefer to move into housing that is in better condition and more affordable.

"Housing is the most expensive

bill I pay every month," said recent college graduate Greg Reese, who lives in Arden Hills but would move to St. Paul if he could find an apartment within his budget.

Beau Walker, another recent college graduate, lives in Roseville but works in St. Paul and would like to move to the city. "This building would fit all of my needs," he said, "and there's a bus stop in front."

Lily Hoyt, a junior at the University of St. Thomas, said she has struggled to find affordable off-campus housing. She said she is living in an older building south of St. Thomas, but finds the proposed apartments attractive.

More than two dozen neighbors spoke against the project. Carroll Avenue resident Doug Allchin is opposed to the size and scale of the building. "This is going to be humongous," he said. According to him, it would be twice as tall as neighboring buildings and the largest apartment building in a square mile.

The Reverend Humberto Palomino, pastor of nearby St. Mark's Catholic Church, said he fears for the safety of the 179 children who attend the parish's grade school on the block directly across Marshall. The replacement of single-family homes with student housing will also drive families out of the neighborhood at a time of growth for the parish, he said.

Other neighbors were concerned about the safety of students attending Four Seasons Elementary School, which is located one block north of the development.

1 ◀ \$15 MINIMUM WAGE

Several tipped employees on January 8 said they do not need an increase in their hourly wage because they make a good living from tips. Workers in the front of the house can earn over \$30 per hour with tips at some restaurants, they said, and while a \$15 per hour minimum wage might be fine for back of the house employees such as cooks and dishwashers, waiters and bartenders will take a financial hit if a tip credit is not included.

"Tips are a major source of income for me and many others," said Matt Gray, a waiter at W.A. Frost in Ramsey Hill for more than a decade. Tips make up more than 70 percent of his annual wages, Gray said.

Jeff Crandall, a bartender at Eagle Street Grill on West Seventh Street, agreed. "For people not in the industry to see all of these people who are saying we don't want a raise, that has to be pretty striking," Crandall said.

The Citizens League has been meeting with people who have a stake in the minimum wage for the past month as it prepares its report for the mayor and City Council. Mayor Carter campaigned this fall in support of the \$15 minimum wage, saying he would like to see it approved by this summer.

The statewide minimum wage is currently \$7.87 per hour for small employers and \$9.65 per hour for large employers. Under the Minneapolis ordinance, the hourly minimum wage increased to \$10 for large employers on January 1. It will increase to \$11.25 for large employers and \$10.25 for small employers on July 1, with increases of 75 cents to \$1.00 every year until the \$15 minimum is reached.

The AFL-CIO, ISAIAH, Centro De Trabajadores Unidos En Lucha (Center for Workers United in Struggle) and \$15 Now Minnesota organizations have all held large rallies, small house parties and informational sessions this fall to promote the minimum wage increase in St. Paul.

The debate over the minimum wage is unfolding at a time of growing labor shortages



Bartender Katie Essick clears away the dishes of a patron who had left a tip.

PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

The debate over the minimum wage is unfolding at a time of growing labor shortages in Minnesota where the law of supply and demand would seem to dictate an increase in wages anyway.

in Minnesota where the law of supply and demand would seem to dictate an increase in wages anyway. Several large employers in the state recently announced wage increases. For example, Target Corporation raised its minimum hourly wage to \$11 last fall with plans to increase it to \$15 by 2020.

Celeste Robinson of \$15 Now Minnesota said her organization is opposed to the tip credit, which she called a tip penalty. Without everyone at the same minimum wage, she

said, tipped workers run the risk of falling behind in wages.

Former Minneapolis Mayor Betsy Hodges, who signed that city's \$15 minimum wage ordinance last year, called the tip credit an affront to hourly workers, saying it could subject tipped women workers to sexual harassment. "It isn't widely known that tipping as an institution is rooted in the history of slavery," Hodges said. "The notion of tipping is not native to America, but was imported from Europe just as slaves were being emancipated."

"The minimum wage issue is complex," Hoffman said. "It affects different people in different ways in different employment sectors." For that reason, she said, it is important that the Citizens League reach as many people as possible in its study. While much attention has been focused on tipped workers, there are many other issues to consider, Hoffman said, including what effect raising the minimum wage would have on low-income people who

are receiving public assistance for child care, housing or health care.

Some Minneapolis restaurants faced with a \$15 minimum wage have eliminated tipping altogether and instead charge patrons mandatory service charges to help the restaurant cover its bottom line. Other restaurants have eliminated wait staff and instead offer remote ordering via iPads.

Graham Messenger, executive chef at Fitzgerald's restaurant in Ramsey Hill, said that without a tip credit, chefs would likely leave St. Paul for other opportunities, putting the Twin Cities' restaurant industry at risk.

"I don't want to have to make any more cuts," said Dan Montpetit, co-owner of Gabe's by the Park on Lexington Parkway. "I don't want to cut people because I can't afford to pay them. I also don't want to raise prices for food and drinks."

Carol March, president of the Madison Restaurant Group, which owns eight restaurants in and around downtown St. Paul that employ more than 500 people, discussed the minimum wage and tip credit in December with a group from the Midway Chamber of Commerce. "St. Paul could be at the forefront by having the tip credit issue outlined fully and have it be part of the minimum wage discussions," March said. "We're hoping there's not a rush to a decision in St. Paul and that time is taken to understand the different impacts on different types of businesses. A tip credit needs to be part of the discussion."

No formal groups have emerged in opposition to the minimum wage increase in St. Paul, although the St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce, the Minnesota Restaurant Association and other business groups have argued for a statewide or nationwide approach to the minimum wage issue.

"City by city labor regulations create a compliance nightmare that can hamper economic development," said B Kyle, president and CEO of the St. Paul Chamber. The Chamber would rather see inequity and poverty addressed in a way that brings people together, she said.

City still seeking manager of former Highland bathhouse

By JANE McCLURE

The city of St. Paul is continuing to search for some entity to occupy and manage the former Highland bathhouse on Montreal Avenue and Edgumbe Road. Susie Odegard, manager of special services for the Department of Parks and Recreation, said a couple of proposals are currently being considered, and a decision on a future occupant is possible by the end of January.

Although it would still take a while to get the more than 80-year-old building up and operating as some kind of public space, the report that there were proposals on the table was welcome news for the Highland District Council on January 4. For the past four years, the HDC and the nonprofit group Friends of Highland Arts have sought to revitalize and reuse the old building, which they have dubbed the pool house.

"Fingers crossed that we see something soon," said HDC executive director Kathy Carruth.

Friends of Highland Arts, which has hosted concerts outside of the building for the past two summers, has pushed for it to become a year-round public-private arts and recreation venue, with a local restaurant offering walkup

food service and limited seating. The building has space for art displays and room for live music on the lower level, and a community room or event rental space on the upper level. Seasonal disc golf equipment or cross-country ski rental could also be offered there.

The former outdoor pool area could be used as an amphitheater for public gatherings and performing arts.

Parks staff sought occupants for the building after a request for proposals last fall yielded some interest, but no formal submissions. The building, which was used as a changing facility for swimmers, was built in 1936 as a federal Works Progress Administration project.

The building was constructed with Plattville limestone, but little history remains about its origins. It appears on different historic surveys as a potential historic resource, but has never received local or national historic designation.

The structure was designed at about the same time that Clarence "Cap" Wigington, the nation's first African-American municipal architect, was working in St. Paul. His projects include the nearby historic Highland Water Tower, but historians have never been able to tie Wigington to the bathhouse.



The more than 80-year-old Highland bathhouse on the northeast corner of Montreal Avenue and Edgumbe Road, shown from the back.

The building was in use until 1979 when a new pool was built south of Montreal Avenue. Disc golfers now play in and around the spot where the old pool once stood.

The bathhouse has been used by the city for storing equipment, but the roof started leaking and the interior began to deteriorate. A

few years ago, about \$25,000 was spent by the city to make emergency roof repairs.

For several years, the HDC sought funding from the city's Capital Improvement Budget to restore the building. The most recent submission for \$196,000 did not make the cut in the 2015 review process.

Board delays picking proposal to lease Highland reservoir

By JANE McCLURE

A decision on how to redevelop Highland Park's southern water reservoir near Snelling Avenue and Ford Parkway has been delayed for at least a month. The St. Paul Board of Water Commissioners decided on January 9 to have all five redevelopment proposals first reviewed by city staff and Mayor Melvin Carter's office.

The three City Council members who sit on the Board of Water Commissioners disagreed on what the next steps should be. Chris Tolbert wanted the board to ask the city and county parks departments to work together on a proposal instead of pushing separate ideas for recreational uses. He suggested giving them 30-60 days to bring in a new joint plan.

However, Amy Brendmoen and Rebecca Noecker insisted that all five proposals for the site—including a Hy-Vee supermarket,

a Landforms solar array and a Sotaberries greenhouse—be evaluated by the city staff and mayor. The City Council and Ramsey County Board will also be consulted, since either one of their proposals would require public resources. That will add at least a month's delay to any decision.

The 18-million-gallon reservoir, which was built in the 1920s, has not been used for the past few years as city water use has declined. It is located on 4.3 acres south of the historic Highland Water Tower.

The city is proposing a multiuse field with bleachers and a walking track. The county is proposing a public engagement process while floating such ideas as more rinks and increased parking for its adjacent ice arena.

Tolbert has argued that the space is needed for recreational uses since Highland is losing fields near the former Riverside School on West Seventh Street and Montreal Avenue, and may well lose baseball fields when Ford

Motor Company's former assembly plant is redeveloped.

"Space for active recreational uses is one of the most sought-after things in the southwest part of the city," Tolbert said.

Noecker and Brendmoen cautioned against what they saw as a rush to make a decision. "There are no good reasons to narrow it down at this point," Noecker said.

Noecker said she was intrigued by the idea of attracting new commercial development and more jobs to the area. Hy-Vee's proposal, for example, would create as many as 200 jobs and result in rent payments of \$70,000 a year for 20 years.

Noecker and Brendmoen also said they did not want a city proposal for the reservoir site to affect other planned recreational projects that have long been waiting for funding.

Water board member Mara Humphrey said another issue that must be considered is the area's parking problem when hockey games

are played at the Charles M. Schulz-Highland Arena. "Parking is an issue already," she said.

St. Paul Regional Water Services general manager Steve Schneider and board chair Matt Anfang said the water utility has budgeted for the demolition of the reservoir in 2018. Demolition may go forward or it could wait until a proposal is chosen. "There's no obligation that we do anything," Anfang said.

Even after a proposal is chosen, Schneider said, a prospective developer would have to go through the same process any developer of private land would face. The Highland District Council, which discussed the potential redevelopment last year with water utility representatives, would again become involved.

At the very least, a site plan review by city staff would be needed. Any zoning changes or variances would also have to be approved by the city. Tolbert noted that the city's and county's proposals are the only ones that fit the site's current zoning.

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Safe Routes projects surface in Highland

By JANE MCCLURE

A pair of projects in the Highland Park neighborhood are on different paths as part of Safe Routes to Schools, a nationwide program that promotes physical activity and aims to make it safer and more convenient for children to bike and walk to and from school.

The first project in the Randolph-Hamline area will involve building more sidewalks this summer for students who attend Expo, Holy Spirit, Randolph Heights and Cretin-Derham Hall. The Highland District Council (HDC) Transportation Advisory Board. The other pending project is near Washington Technology High School in the city's North End.

Parents lobbied for the sidewalks in the Randolph-Hamline area after a student was hit by a vehicle while walking home from school in November 2015. Residents on some blocks have pushed for new sidewalks for years.

The project will fill in missing sidewalk stretches on Hartford Avenue between Snelling and Hamline, Pascal Street between Randolph and Highland Parkway, and Saratoga and Warwick streets between Hartford and Scheffer avenues.

Some sidewalks in that area abruptly end, while some blocks have small sections of sidewalks and others have none at all. Students end

up walking in the street to get to and from school.

More than 55 properties will be affected by the sidewalk project. The federal grant is expected to cover the cost and property owners will not be assessed. However, if the cost runs higher than anticipated, some blocks may be left out.

Elizabeth Stiffler and Al Czaia of the St. Paul Department of Public Works discussed the project with the HDC committee on January 9. They emphasized that there will be tradeoffs to get new 6-foot-wide sidewalks, including the removal of boulevard gardens and some trees.

Committee members said that while their priority is to get the sidewalks built, they do not want to see trees and boulevard spaces eliminated unless necessary. There are many ash trees in the area that are likely to come down soon anyway due to the emerald ash borer.

One block that could be a possible opt-out from the project is Hartford adjacent to CDH's south field. There is a sidewalk on the south side of that street, but some committee members said there is a need for a sidewalk on the north side for people attending events there.

Consistency in how sidewalks are built was a repeated request on January 9. Czaia said that when

residents along a stretch of Albert Street sought a sidewalk in the early 1990s, the city went house to house to hear their preferences. The result is a sidewalk that runs along the curb in some places and is set back in others.

No one is sure why the Ran-Ham area does not have sidewalks on every block. It may have been due to

changes in city policy over the years. Most homes north of Hartford were built in the 1920s, while homes to the south were not built until the 1950s and '60s. St. Paul currently does not allow property owners to opt out of having sidewalks.

The City Council will hold a hearing on the project at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 21.



Safe Routes to Schools will fill in missing sidewalks for students attending Expo, Holy Spirit, Randolph Heights and Cretin-Derham Hall.

Collaborative wants St. Paul to make preschool education available to all

By JANE MCCLURE

A new report from the St. Paul Children's Collaborative (SPCC) is asking city officials to make early-childhood education available to all of St. Paul's approximately 9,000 youths ages 3-4. The effort is seen as critical for many children whose parents cannot afford private programs.

The report was presented to the St. Paul City Council last month by the SPCC, a collaboration of the city, Ramsey County, St. Paul Public Schools and Head Start. If elected officials choose to enact such a program, St. Paul would become the first city in the state to do so.

The group has explored the idea of providing access to preschool programs for all children for several months, looking at similar programs around the United States. Ward 2

City Council member Rebecca Noecker, who works with the SPCC, is excited about the 47-page report and its possibilities.

"As a city, we can step up and take responsibility for our youngest residents," Noecker said. "I think the stars are really aligning on this one."

Expanding preschool opportunities in the city could cost as much as \$115 million per year. The report suggests a city sales tax or additional taxes on lodging, food and beverages to help pay for the program. The plan also suggests that parents pay a sliding fee for preschool based on family income.

According to the report, existing preschool programs range in price from \$3,800-\$13,000 per student annually.

SPCC co-director Christa Anders said providing quality early childhood education

is critical. "We know so much more about children's brain development than we used to," she said. "We're not talking about baby-sitting anymore."

The report said that too many children in St. Paul enter kindergarten without a basic academic background and that some of them never do catch up with their classmates.

"Right now, we know that half of all children are not ready when they start kindergarten," Anders said.

According to her, childcare rates in Ramsey County are among the most expensive in the state, especially for infants and young children. When families cannot afford childcare or a preschool program, parents sometimes must give up work to stay home.

"We know childcare is very expensive," Anders said. "We need to think of it in terms

of economic vitality and creating a city that young families want to move to."

The report was developed through a series of meetings that began last April involving a working group and a citizens advisory committee. City, county and school district staff also weighed in.

Along with promoting preschool citywide, a recommendation in the report that drew City Council interest involved having a single place for parents to go to get information. Anders said the current system is confusing and difficult to navigate. Also needed is a better system for year-round childcare, she said.

One key question that still must be answered is which local government entity would oversee the expanded preschool programs. For more information about the SPCC, visit saintpaulkids.org.



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St. Paul invests \$240,000 in staff training on mental health issues

Social worker will be hired to handle the public library's growing problem with homeless patrons

By JANE MCCLURE

Potholes and park programs are typical city budget issues. Social services are generally left to county and state budgets. However, St. Paul's 2018 city budget includes \$240,000 to deal with a growing problem with mental health issues in the city.

While it may not surprise anyone to learn that the St. Paul Police Department is doing more to deal with people who are mentally ill or chemically dependent, the city's public library system will soon be hiring a social worker practiced in dealing with mental health issues.

The city budgeted \$21,930 in 2018 to match an outside grant for the new mental health practitioner, a position that requires a master's degree in social work and licensing. The hiring was championed by Jane Eastwood, director of the city's public library system director under former Mayor Chris Coleman. Though Eastwood was not reappointed by new Mayor Melvin Carter, the new library administration will fill the job with the assistance of the Wilder Foundation.

During her presentation on the 2018 budget, Eastwood told of the need to address the growing problem of library patrons requiring the intervention of a social worker. According to her, more homeless people are using the public libraries as de facto daytime shelters.

Restroom sinks are being used for bathing or washing hair, children have been found abandoned by their homeless parents, and domestic abuse victims have sought refuge in the libraries. Fights have also broken out, requiring the services of a social worker trained in de-escalating such situations, Eastwood said.

Downtown's Latimer Library appears to have seen the most trouble, but the Rondo, Rice Street, Arlington Hills and Sunray branches have also had problems.

"These are very difficult issues," Eastwood said. "We have to do something."

"We're seeing unprecedented levels of homelessness in the city," said Ward 2 City Council member Rebecca Noecker, who chairs the city's Library Board.

The new mental health practitioner will work out of the Wilder Foundation's Community Health and Wellness Program. He or she will be trained to provide information and referral services to address homelessness and mental and physical health problems. The social worker will also provide library staff with basic training and technical assistance on mental health issues.

The St. Paul Police Department is also changing the way it deals with people in crisis, requiring additional training for all officers on mental health issues and adding a five-person mental health crisis unit at a cost of over \$228,000. Two of the officers will be stationed downtown where a growing number of homeless people are congregating. The three other officers will be assigned to one of the three district offices.

St. Paul Police Chief Todd Axtell said his department is working to be proactive in dealing with people in crisis to prevent violence and the tragedies that can result. The specially trained mental health unit and additional training for officers "will allow us to respond to crises in a way that is appropriate for each situation," Axtell said.

Helping in this regard will be Vitals App, a new smartphone application that provides information on vulnerable people. St. Paul's is the first police department in Minnesota to use Vitals App.

The app will help police respond to situations where a person may have hidden disabilities, such as mental illness, autism or dementia. The person is registered online with the Police Department, then wears a special bracelet, button or card that emits a signal. If the person comes within 50 feet of an officer, the officer will receive a notification about the vulnerable person's diagnosis and how they may best interact.

Area rec centers are recommended for capital improvements in '18-19

\$3M budget finances 46 projects across St. Paul

By JANE MCCLURE

St. Paul's Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) Committee voted on January 8 to recommend to the City Council 46 projects totaling almost \$3 million in capital maintenance and improvements in 2018 and 2019. At the same time, it rejected more than 80 projects totaling about \$6.3 million.

The CIB requests were submitted by the city's departments of Safety and Inspections (DSI), Parks and Recreation, Police, Fire and Public Works. The request lists ranged from just one proposal from DSI—for new doors for the animal control building—to more than 80 proposals from Parks and Recreation.

Each department had to rank its own proposals. Those rankings were taken into consideration by the CIB task force, and the CIB Committee was able to address the departments' most pressing needs, according to its chair, Noel Nix.

Among Villager area projects, the Highland Park Aquatic Center was recommended for \$90,000 in electrical work in 2018.

The Aquatic Center had to close early last summer due to mechanical issues.

The Merriam Park and Dunning recreation centers were recommended for fire and security upgrades of \$38,447 and \$14,000, respectively. The Merriam Park center will also have its roof replaced at a cost of \$72,000 in 2019 if the City Council gives its blessing. The CIB Committee also recommended the replacement of the Public Works Department's system for treating the city's wintry streets with brine at a cost of \$199,689 in 2018.

Other CIB requests must wait, including \$384,620 in heating and air conditioning improvements at the Merriam Park Library, and \$140,000 for heating and air conditioning, \$47,300 for security cameras, \$85,400 for gym floor replacement and \$160,000 for field lighting at the Edgcombe Recreation Center. The Linwood Recreation Center was also denied funding for security cameras.

Also missing the CIB Committees cut were requests for \$200,000 in improved lighting at the Groveland and Dunning recreation centers. The Highland Park picnic pavilion was denied \$119,950 for roof replacement, \$95,000 for kitchen remodeling, and \$47,650 for new picnic tables.

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St. Paul to update rules governing installation of large solar gardens

By JANE MCCLURE

The St. Paul City Council will hold a public hearing on changes to its sustainable energy regulations at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 17, at City Hall. Community solar installations, or solar gardens, would be allowed in the city, a change that has been pushed by advocates of sustainable energy.

"The regulations we have don't cover the technology available now," said city planner Jake Reilly. The new regulations will not change things for people who want to install small home solar panels, but they will affect newer technology and larger installations.

The changes are meant to bring the city's regulations into compliance with updated technologies and with a sweeping package of solar energy laws passed by the Minnesota Legislature in 2013. The new laws allow Xcel Energy to provide power to customers from solar gardens. The large arrays of solar panels are connected to the power grid and have multiple subscribers who receive a credit on their electric bills for the power that is produced.

The city last updated its solar regulations in 2011, Reilly said. Wind energy devices sought since 2002 have operated under the same regulations as cellphone towers. Not long after a wind turbine requested by Metropolitan State University was voted down by the City Council in 2012, the Planning Commission asked that new regulations be written.

Currently, community solar installations are not allowed in St. Paul. The ordinance changes would allow such installations as a primary use in all the city's zoning districts, with the approval of a conditional use permit. Power generated by the installations could be used off-site on the power distribution grid if several standards are met.

An agreement would have to be in place with the electric utility whose service territory covers St. Paul, meaning Xcel Energy. Power and communication lines would have to be underground. The facilities would also have to meet the height and setback standards for buildings within the underlying zoning.

Any community solar facilities close to airports would have to follow federal restrictions on solar panel glare. A decommissioning plan would also be required so that equipment is removed when it is not used for at least a year.

More than half a dozen people commented in favor of the changes, most regarding

community solar. In written testimony, Highland Park resident Lorraine Delehanty also asked that solar energy be considered as a principal land use.

"As a concerned citizen, I believe that it's common sense to decarbonize our energy system," wrote Delehanty, who is co-chair of the Care for Creation group at St. Thomas More Catholic Community. "The moment is now to convert to clean energy. We can be an example to other cities. It'll give hope as we transition to wind and solar energy."

The only person to testify at a Planning Commission public hearing in November was Mary Matze of Landform Professional Services. The Minneapolis firm works with people seeking solar energy systems ranging from small local clients to large-scale, national developers. Landform recently submitted a proposal to place a solar garden on the site of Highland Park's southern water reservoir.

Matze asked the city to make solar energy a principal or main use on a property, rather than an accessory use. That could accommodate solar installations on an interim or permanent basis. Solar could also be used on sites that are vacant, but not ready for redevelopment.

Matze said it is time for the city to update its regulations. "This industry is growing and becoming more efficient not only in the United States, but on a global scale," she said.

The only other topic covered in written testimony was how the city's push for higher-density housing could affect home owners wanting to install solar panels. Hamline-Midway resident Benita Warns asked the city to look at how it can guarantee solar access to residents who may find themselves living next to new, taller buildings that can block the sun.

Reilly said that the Metropolitan Land Use Planning Act and St. Paul's comprehensive plan guarantee access to sunlight.

The proposed regulations would continue to have wind and hybrid wind/solar devices as accessory uses, but would create specific height and setback limits, and spell out the differences in technology. The hybrid devices are typically small and are tied into vehicle charging stations, streetlights or speed limit monitors, which would be limited to 25 feet.

A freestanding wind turbine pole in a residential district could be no more than 125 feet high and could not be in a front or side yard. Wind turbines on poles in industrial areas could be up to 150 feet high and would not require a conditional use permit.

'Unity' and 'Peace' emerge as favorite names for new park on Griggs Street

By JANE MCCLURE

A new five-acre park on Griggs Street between University and St. Anthony avenues should have a name by spring. The St. Paul Parks and Recreation Commission is expected to recommend a name on February 8 after reviewing the preferences of hundreds of St. Paulites who voted on the park name earlier this year.

Five names are in the running—Midway Park, Mosaic Park, Peace Park, Tiawhe Park and Unity Park. Ballot boxes were placed in 14 locations in November and December 2017, including Skyline Tower, Gordon Parks High School, the High School for Recording Arts, Episcopal Homes' Lexington Commons and nearby offices.

Peace Park emerged as the favorite with 251 votes, followed by Unity Park with 220, Midway Park with 202, Tiawhe (meaning "family" in the Dakota language) Park with 146 and Mosaic Park with 77.

The Union Park District Council (UPDC) debated the name at length on January 3 be-

fore agreeing to recommend the names Peace Park or Unity Park to the parks commission. However, the UPDC is considering renaming Iris Park on University and Lynnhurst avenues as Union Park, and board members wondered whether Union and Unity Park sounded too much alike. Peace Park received the unanimous support of the UPDC.

The name recommended by the Parks and Recreation Commission will be reviewed by the City Council before a final name is chosen. Griggs Park will not be used for the new park because the city already has a Griggs Recreation Center and playground.

The idea for the park originated several years ago among the students and faculty at nearby Gordon Parks High School. The city purchased three vacant properties for the park over the past few years with the help of private funds and money from Trust for Public Land. Gordon Parks students had suggested other names for the park, including Three Ring Park, a reference to the property's former use as a camp for the animals and circus workers who performed in downtown St. Paul.

News Briefs

Work on The Capp expected to start soon at 46th & Hiawatha

Oppidan Investment Company has not yet found a grocer to anchor The Capp, its proposed \$35 million mixed-use development at the southeast corner of East 46th Street and Hiawatha Avenue in Minneapolis. However, project manager Drew Johnson said that would have no bearing on plans for breaking ground in the next few weeks.

The Capp is named for the longtime owner of a lumber yard that once occupied the site. It will include 146 market-rate apartments on four floors atop the ground-floor grocery, along with two other smaller ground-floor retail spaces and a restaurant, all just a short walk from the light-rail Blue Line.

Johnson said the large Creative Kidstuff building at 3939 E. 46th St. will be torn down by the "end of February or the beginning of March," once the materials inside the building are removed. The Capp will sit on nearly 4 acres and will include both underground and surface parking. Construction is expected to take about a year to complete.

While "nothing is imminent," Johnson said that by the end of next month the developer should know the identity of the new 45,000-square-foot grocery store.

Melanie Majors, executive director of the Longfellow Community Council, said the LCC took an on-line survey of residents last February and ranked their grocer preferences. The top four were Trader Joe's, a food co-op, Fresh Thyme and Lunds & Byerlys.

Site prepared for apartment complex in Mendota Heights

The first phase of Michael Development's \$25 million apartment project on Highway 13 and Acacia Boulevard in Mendota Heights is continuing apace despite a lawsuit that has been filed against the city, according to Tim Benetti, the community development director for Mendota Heights.

The lawsuit was filed by residents after the Mendota Heights City Council gave preliminary approval last fall to the development plan proposed by Michael Swenson, owner of the Lilydale-based company. After winning formal council approval on a 3-2 vote in November, and since the lawsuit did not include him or his company, Swenson immediately began preparing the site.

"Mr. Swenson has razed the old Mendota



The Capp will feature 146 apartments atop a 45,000-square-foot grocery in Minneapolis.

Motel and has begun other activities to clean the site for construction," Benetti said.

Jim Thomson, the attorney representing the city in the case, said there likely will not be a settlement because all the plaintiffs want is for the project to be stopped. "We go before Judge (M. Michael) Baxter on February 16 for a summary judgment hearing where both sides will present their cases and wait for a ruling," he said.

Swenson sought a zoning change and \$1.27 million in tax increment financing from the city for the two-phase project, which consists of a pair of three-story, 69-unit luxury apartment buildings. The first building is scheduled to open this year, and the second one in 2019 on the site of the former Larson's Greenhouses.

Hearing set on improvements to make Grand Avenue safer

Grand Avenue pedestrian safety and traffic calming improvements, which were the topic of a neighborhood meeting on January 4, will be discussed at a public hearing before the St. Paul City Council at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 21, at City Hall.

The project involves making changes at all intersections on a 1-mile stretch of Grand between Victoria Street and Hamline Avenue. That area has been the site of dozens of accidents involving pedestrians and bicyclists over the past decade.

A total of 147 properties will be affected, but no one will be assessed for the work. The proj-

ect includes corner bumpouts and changes to traffic signals, including pedestrian countdown timers, audible push buttons, overhead signal indicators and larger signal heads.

Funding for the project includes a \$667,800 federal grant received in 2015 and a \$250,000 match through the city's Capital Improvement Budget. Though city officials had hoped for an earlier start, the project is set to be built during the 2018 construction season.

The project has been sought for several years by the Summit Hill and Macalester-Groveland community councils. They and the Grand Avenue Business Association have been reviewing the plans. The Summit Hill Association has asked for a second neighborhood meeting before the project goes forward, but no date has been set.

Transformation continues for Midway Center, soccer stadium

The former Midway and later American bank building at the southeast corner of University and Snelling avenues began coming down in January as part of the work to transform the Midway Center superblock into a new shopping area and Major League Soccer stadium.

A permit for the demolition was issued after Christmas. The building, which has been closed since 2013, was eyed as a site for a Walgreens. Most recently it was used to house public meetings for planning the new Allianz Field and Midway Center redevelopment.

The bank was built in 1960 and was the

second Midway Bank. The original bank was to the east of its most recent location. The bank was described as an example of Mid-Century Modern architecture, but it was never formally designated for preservation.

The master plan for Midway Center calls for a commercial building to be placed there, although no specific site plan has been submitted to city officials.

Allianz Field, which is currently under construction as the new home of Minnesota United FC, is now the focus of a sign variance request. That request goes to the St. Paul Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) at 3 p.m. Monday, January 29, at City Hall.

Minnesota United is seeking a 1,200-square-foot sign variance from the maximum 1,987.5 square feet that is allowed on the property. The proposed 3,187.5 feet of signage reportedly is needed for building identification, directional and entrance signs.

Minnesota United also is seeking a variance to the zoning code that allows a maximum of 250 square feet of temporary signage to identify real estate development and construction companies. It is proposing 3,237 square feet of temporary signage, for a variance of 2,987 square feet.

The variance requests will be discussed by the Union Park District Council's Land Use Committee at 6:30 p.m. Monday, January 22, in Otto Hall at Episcopal Homes, 1860 University Ave.

Dixie's expansion plan to be topic of hearing on January 23

A proposal to expand the building that houses Dixie's, Saji-Ya and Emmett's restaurants will be discussed at 7 p.m. Tuesday, January 23, at Dixie's, 695 Grand Ave.

Details of the proposal have not been released and the owners of the restaurants declined to comment. However, the Summit Hill Association has been told it could cover parking along with housing above the businesses.

It is not known yet if the project would need any city variances. The property is zoned for community business use and would likely need a zoning change to traditional neighborhoods use to add the level of density being sought. No application for a zoning change has yet been filed with the city.

News Briefs were compiled by Jane McClure, Kevin Driscoll and Bill Wagner.



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Viewpoint

County Board process is lacking in transparency

BY ROY MAGNUSON

St. Paul STRONG (SPS) has been following the Ramsey County Board's process for replacing Sheriff Matt Bostrom since December 2016 when our organization requested that the County Board cease its plan to interview only one candidate and instead conduct an open, competitive and public hiring process. At the time, then County Board chair Victoria Reinhardt said the board's lone candidate for sheriff would be interviewed in a public forum at the Courthouse. Unfortunately, the forum did not allow the public to speak, ask questions of the commissioners or have any dialogue with the candidate, Chief Deputy Jack Serier. The forum ended with the County Board appointing Serier as Sheriff Bostrom's successor.

The County Board's decision to hire Serier ignored the principles of transparency, fairness and inclusiveness. It eliminated the possibility of attracting a pool of capable law enforcement professionals from which to hire an interim sheriff, including women and people of color. It also gave Sheriff Serier the upper hand of incumbency in the 2018 campaign for sheriff. The comments by county commissioners that Ramsey County voters would have an opportunity to assess Serier's performance, while factually true, was politically disingenuous.

Last August SPS sent a letter calling into question the County Board's process for citizen engagement, only giving citizens input through phone calls or individual meetings with the commissioners. That process eliminates the opportunity for robust discussion that can lead to a better understanding of any given issue as well as the potential for any unintended consequences. If this is an indication of how the County Board conducts the people's business, SPS has serious concerns.

There were several unresolved issues within the Sheriff's Department that the County Board apparently ignored during the process for appointing Bostrom's successor. These issues included staffing in the county jail that the law enforcement employees' union described as being in a "state of emergency" and Sheriff Bostrom's residence in London for more than a month while on the county payroll. Now there are serious questions about Serier's residency.

Former Ramsey County Sheriff Bob Fletcher has presented evidence that suggests Serier did not live in Ramsey County at the time of his appointment. Instead of acting with due diligence when these questions surfaced, chair Reinhardt and the rest of the County Board dismissed these allegations as politically motivated and refused to consider that the evidence may be true.

Ramsey County's sheriff is required to reside in the county. The Minnesota Secretary of State requires sheriff candidates to fill out an Affidavit of Candidacy. This form allows candidates to keep their address private. However, candidates are still required to fill out a separate Address of Residence form. The very least the County Board could have done before appointing Serier sheriff was to verify that he met the residency requirement. That they did not validate his residency exemplifies a pattern of behavior by the County Board that lacks transparency and public participation.

Reinhardt, along with former Sheriff Bostrom, was the catalyst for Serier's appointment as sheriff without the benefit of a public process. Reinhardt also dismissed the idea that appointing Serier would give him a leg up in the 2018 election by making him the incumbent. Now we see that Reinhardt is serving as cochair of Serier's campaign for sheriff.

SPS does not support any candidate in the sheriff's race, and it is not accepting former Sheriff Fletcher's allegations about Serier's residency without further evidence. However, it is concerned about the series of events that have transpired. It also asks the County Board to clearly state how the public can have input into its future decision-making and to conduct an internal evaluation to make its processes more accountable and transparent.

This process could begin by investigating whether Serier was a resident of Ramsey County when he was appointed interim sheriff and if he was not, to respond appropriately to that information. In either case, the public has a right to know.

Roy Magnuson is a teacher at Como Park High School and a member of the Steering Committee for St. Paul STRONG, a nonpartisan organization dedicated to improving local government by encouraging transparency and open processes that promote citizen participation.



Inbox

A call to action in St. Paul

What a delight to meet our new St. Paul mayor, Melvin Carter III, and other neighbors at a well-attended inauguration week event at Coffee Bene on January 5.

Mayor Carter is young, smart and ready to produce results with an agenda heavy on rejuvenating and growing St. Paul. He asked us all, as the agents of progress, to answer his administration's call to action in the coming months, whether it's reading to kids in our neighborhood libraries; going to City Council, School Board or state Capitol meetings to make our voices heard; or taking part in other volunteer efforts based on our skills and time.

As Mayor Carter pointed out, his ideas aren't just random things he has thought up, but rather thoughtful plans supported by the thousands in St. Paul who resoundingly voted him into office. I'm so eager, as a strong advocate of our public schools, to see his energy and emphasis on our youngest learners. I'm excited to help him continue to improve our city, and I hope *Villager* readers will do the same.

*Dr. Cheryl Bailey
Merriam Park*

Perplexing policy on Marshall

In researching the 10-year community plan of the Union Park District Council (UPDC), I learned something odd about its land-use policy. Section 3.2 of the plan indicates a desire to "explore opportunities to increase density levels and promote new development along key corridors that support transit-oriented development, including along Snelling Avenue and Marshall Avenue between Snelling and Hamline Avenues, and on mixed-use transit routes, while maintaining the historic human scale of the neighborhood."

I agree that the UPDC should support transit-oriented development along Snelling Avenue and on mixed-use transit routes. However, it's perplexing that the plan specifically mentions Marshall between Snelling and Hamline when that stretch is precisely where Metro Transit's Route 21 bus turns off of Marshall to jog north to University Avenue. Why would the neighborhood plan suggest one of the only main corridors within its jurisdiction that does not have a bus line as a good candidate for transit-oriented development?

I suspect the reason may have to do with the fact that there are very few houses along that stretch of Marshall, and that adding transit-oriented development on that

stretch wouldn't meet with as much resistance. However, it's disappointing that the UPDC apparently doesn't think that Marshall west of Snelling qualifies as a mixed-use transit route, given its opposition to the development at Marshall and Moore Street.

*Jeff Christenson
Macalester-Groveland*

Anatomy of a snow emergency

A letter from Sue Shetka regarding the lack of response by the city of St. Paul to our first snowfall this winter ("Public Works was a no-show," *Villager* Inbox, December 20) inspired me to want to teach people the challenges involved in snow removal.

As someone who has privately done snow removal for many years, I feel that some people don't quite see the full picture. Many people go to bed at 9, 10 or 11 p.m., wake up at 7 a.m., see what is on the ground and have no idea when the snow fell. Sometimes the snow wraps up at 6 a.m., so we would start our plowing route then. It would be impossible to have all of our clients plowed and ready by 7 or 8 a.m.

We love it when the snow stops at midnight. We plow all night when the streets are slow and the lots are empty. Unfortunately, the weather does not take requests.

The first snowfall this winter saw a thunderstorm with heavy rain quickly transition into snow late at night. There was no way the city could pretreat the road as it would have all been washed away by the rain. We knew the roads were going to be a mess when we were out plowing our clients' lots and alleys. It was going to get down to 10 degrees the next day, so all that moisture would freeze.

We were able to get our lots and alleys plowed before it froze because we do not have to declare a snow emergency to get cars off the streets and we do not have to plow a whole city. There are only so many trucks in the Public Works Department's arsenal, and they could not possibly get the whole city plowed and salted in the time frame the weather gave them.

Snow, sleet, ice and rain sometime come at un-opportunistic times. We all try to do our best to get everything cleared and ready to go as soon as possible, and I am sure that includes the Public Works Department.

*Ross Robey
Merriam Park*

8◀ INBOX

Shovel your sidewalk, please

I am one of many St. Paul residents who do not have regular access to a car. I rely on walking and public transit to get to work, doctor appointments and errands. Even as an able-bodied person, I struggle to walk over icy, snowy sidewalks. For people with mobility issues, or parents with strollers, it is much harder.

The number of residents who feel they do not have to clear their sidewalks of snow is appalling. I do not mean occasionally. I mean those houses whose sidewalks stay unshoveled all winter. When the property has elaborate Christmas decorations outside—or even worse, when a path has been shoveled just from the house to the garage—it adds insult to injury. We can see that you are home, and that you are able-bodied. Do you feel you are special? That the rules do not apply to you?

If you are not at home, or are unable to shovel, you still need to keep your sidewalks clear. You can hire a service to do this for you.

Fellow pedestrians, you can download a friendly note from the city's website to remind your neighbors to shovel. You can also find the phone number to report a problem property on the same website: stpaul.gov/departments/public-works/street-maintenance/snow-emergency-information/sidewalk-snow-shoveling.

City regulations allow residents 24 hours to get their sidewalk cleared of snow. Please do it.

*Elizabeth Merritt
Macalester-Groveland*

Bicyclists get distracted, too

As a bicyclist, I have a responsibility to obey all traffic control signs and signals just as motorists do. My experience is that the majority of bicyclists do not adhere to traffic laws. They routinely ride through red lights and, if they stop and look, they proceed before the light turns green. I observe bicyclists wearing ear buds and using cell phones while biking.

I encourage BikeMN to add to its strategy on distracted driving (*Villager* Viewpoint, January 3) an increased focus on what bicyclists can do to make roads safer. At present, it is not illegal to text while bicycling, nor is it illegal to ride with headsets or earphones. In addition to holding bicyclists accountable for obeying the rules of the road, let us take steps to ensure Minnesota's cell phone use and texting laws apply to bicyclists as well as motorists. Roads will be safer for all when all pay attention and follow the rules.

*Grace Schmitt
Highwood Hills, St. Paul*

Twisted logic on climate change

A recent letter to the editor about climate change ("Don't sell your winter coat," *Villager* Inbox, December 20) follows the same flawed reasoning many science deniers use. They refer to past events of global cooling in the Little Ice Age and Great Ice Age and say that because we've cycled to those extremes in the distant past we're bound to do so again.

What these deniers all rely on for this information is vast scientific research that has revealed these past cycles through ice core samplings and other methods. They choose to believe these scientists' revelations about past events—many so far distant they precede human record-keeping—yet choose not to believe climate scientists

who are predicting a warmer earth.

You can't have your logic both ways. You're only entitled to choose your non-scientific opinions, not your scientific facts. Just as past scientists honed their skills through trial and error and then adjusted their theories, so too have modern climate scientists built their ever-refined theories of climate science on the shoulders of their past peers.

One thing is certain: Science steadily improves itself. I don't think we can claim the same for human nature.

*Bob Brereton
Macalester-Groveland*

For senior housing at Ford

We live in some great neighborhoods, with good schools, convenient shopping and services, better-than-average public transportation, parks, multi-use paths along river road and lots of large homes suitable for families who want to take advantage of this bliss. Trouble is, I'm 66 and I live in one of those homes and until I get some better senior living options, I ain't leaving!

Where are the plans in the Ford site's redevelopment for an acceptable housing option for me, an active baby boomer, and my 99-year-old neighbor who needs more help? Let's put some thought into the evolving needs of our neighborhood and its residents and make this work for everyone.

*Mary S. Gray
Macalester-Groveland*

Return the Ford site to nature

I've written to the president of Ford Motor Company, telling him what a contentious issue is the proposed plan for its former assembly plant in Highland Park, pitting neighbor against neighbor and citizens against elected officials who turn a deaf ear to our concerns. I suggested to him that when Ford gets an idea of the fair market value of the property, it donate the acreage in its entirety to the Nature Conservancy and take a huge tax deduction. That way the land will revert to nature in perpetuity. Why should the city of St. Paul care when it has been so free in giving away large parcels for tax-exempt sports stadiums?

*K. Deming
Macalester-Groveland*

Shine a light on the city's treasures

During the energy crisis of the 1970s, the craze was to turn off lights and turn down thermostats. However, there are some symbols of our society that need to be illuminated. In St. Paul these includes the three pillars of religion, government and business.

Our state Capitol and the 1st National Bank sign meet these standards. I can get up at night and see these structures shining bright. They represent the hope and security of society. Before the dome of the St. Paul Cathedral was reroofed, it too was well-illuminated. However, now when I get up in the middle of the night, the Cathedral is dark. There is some lighting, but it's shut off from midnight to 4 a.m. I can't afford it, but I hope that someone would pay to illuminate the Cathedral all night. It's a world-class treasure.

*Lyle D. Nelson
West Side*

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VILLAGER

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Maurice F. Mischke, 1920-1991

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9◀ INBOX

New housing for old

Did any of the neighbors who “broke out in loud cheers” over the dropped plan to raze two homes on Iglehart Avenue (*Villager*, January 3) offer to pay for the homes’ renovations? All of those who were against the new housing proposed there need to stop telling other people how to spend their money. What is the fascination with all things Mauer? If he loved it here, why is he living in Florida?

S.J. Luzum
Macalester-Groveland

What happened to our republic?

As he was leaving the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia in 1787, Ben Franklin was approached by a woman on the street who asked him what sort of government they had created. He replied, “A republic, madam, if you can keep it.” During that convention, Franklin declared that this system of government can only end in despotism when the people who run it become so corrupted that a despotic government is the only one capable of governing.

The current occupant of the White House proved the prescience of old Ben 230 years ago. We are no longer a republic but have become an oligarchy ruled by a wealthy few at the expense of the many. Perhaps it is time we replace the word “republic” with “oligarchy” when we say the Pledge of Allegiance.

Norm Spilleth
Minnehaha, Minneapolis

Liberty and justice for all

St. Paul’s ex-Mayor Chris Coleman chose to operate within the rigid confines of American political orthodoxy. Perhaps he did the best job possible within those narrow parameters. What America needs are politicians with the intellectual competence and moral courage to challenge our dysfunctional status quo.

We need politicians who will ask why the American economic system is so generous to the corporate and economic elite and so hostile to poor, working and middle-class Americans. We need politicians with the honesty to acknowledge that though there are elements of a free market

in America, the free market is mostly a myth foisted on the people by the ruling class and its collaborators to deflect attention from the fact that the economic system is a rigged game that endlessly enriches the upper class at the expense of the majority. We need politicians who understand that America, like every modern nation, has a managed economy, and who will manage the economy to ensure that all Americans have the basic goods and services needed to live meaningful, fulfilling and useful lives.

This is the only way that “liberty and justice for all” will become the guiding force of our nation instead of an empty slogan.

Scott Raskiewicz
Macalester-Groveland

Trump’s removal is overdue

Once again we stare in awe as President Trump makes up new rules for the office he has dragged to new lows. He announces, “I can do what I wish with the Department of Justice.” No you can’t, Mr. President.

But there is a truth he needs to keep in mind, namely, we the people can elect and support our president or we the people can elect and remove our president if he or she is given to pathological lying, flighty compulsiveness or simple incompetence. In short, anything that renders him incapable of making prudent decisions. Thank goodness our forefathers envisioned this possibility and allowed for this in the Constitution.

It’s not a pretty process, but there are at least two routes to get it done: 1) Article 25 of the Bill of Rights allows the Cabinet to remove the president; or 2) the Constitution prescribes an impeachment process, which is certainly more messy and takes longer than the former method, but the result is the same. This country has lived through an impeachment process more than once when good reason justified the action, and we will live through the next one because we are at heart a peaceful nation that can change leadership without a war.

The removal of Donald Trump from office is overdue. As time goes on, he does more damage to fellow members of our communities, simply because they were born in a different country and came here with a dream or they were born not looking like him or, God help us, they were born female.

The president of the U.S. is awash with power that was intended by the drafters of the Constitution, but its abuse is

specifically forbidden and the need for this forbiddance is exemplified in the danger to which Mr. Trump has exposed our country with his brinkmanship and foolishness in North Korea.

Patrick F. Quinn
Macalester-Groveland

The nature of enforcement

Regarding “Who gets the speeding ticket” (*Villager* Inbox, January 3):

Should we ignore one thief just because another thief got away? Hardly. The benefit of stopping speeders is to inform every driver that he or she could be the one in 100 to be ticketed. Without visible enforcement, there is little compliance.

John Kaplan
Highland Park

A far-flung partisan smear

I fail to understand the editorial thinking that went into printing the letter from the regional press secretary for the National Republican Congressional Committee (“The aisle is wide,” *Villager* Inbox, January 3). The letter was a partisan smear of two Minnesota Congressmen whose districts are far from the *Villager*’s circulation area in northern and western Minnesota. I read the *Villager* for news of our neighborhood. Please keep the gratuitous national partisanship out of our community newspaper.

Don Arnosti
Macalester-Groveland,

Do write, won’t you?

The *Villager* welcomes letters to the editors and longer guest editorials. To be considered for publication, however, all commentary must be signed, indicate the neighborhood in which the writer lives and include a telephone number for verification purposes and. You may email your commentary to the *Villager* at letters@myvillager.com or send it to our office, 757 S. Snelling Ave., St. Paul, MN 55116.

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District Council News

Highland Park

highlanddistrictcouncil.org • 651-695-4005

Neighborhood Honor Roll—The Highland Park District Council has chosen James Farnsworth, Jenny Winkelman and Johnny Allen Jr. as its nominees for the city of St. Paul's 2017 Neighborhood Honor Roll. The public is invited to join in recognizing them during a citywide celebration from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Friday, January 26, in the Anderson Student Center at the University of St. Thomas. Each year the event recognizes outstanding individuals or groups from St. Paul's 17 district councils. Admission is \$15 and includes light hors d'oeuvres. Tickets are available at 2017neighborhoodhonorroll.brownpapertickets.com or at the door.

Home Improvement Fair—There is still time to sign up as a sponsor or exhibitor for the 2018 Macalester-Groveland & Highland Park Home Improvement Fair that will be held on Saturday, March 10, at Cretin-Derham Hall. For information, visit the HDC website and look under "events."

Upcoming meetings—Community Engagement Committee, 6:45 p.m. Tuesday, January 23; board of directors, 7 p.m. Thursday, February 1. Both meetings will be held at the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy.

Macalester-Groveland

macgrove.org • 651-695-4000

Frost Fest 2018—The Macalester-Groveland Community Council will hold its annual Frost Fest from 1-3 p.m. Saturday, January 20, at Groveland Park, 2021 St. Clair Ave. The winter celebration will feature free hot chocolate, ice skating, games, treats and music. Free skate rental will be provided by the Groveland Recreation Center. Visit macgrove.org/frostfest.

Neighborhood Honor Roll—Every year, the Macalester-Groveland Community Council recognizes outstanding people from the neighborhood and volunteers as part of St. Paul's Neighborhood Honor Roll. A celebration for the honorees will take place from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Friday, January 26, in the Anderson Student Center at the University of St. Thomas. Tickets may be purchased in advance on the district council's website or at the door. The Macalester-Groveland honorees this year are Sheila Sweeney, Melanie Peterson-Nafziger and the Girl Scout Cadettes from Holy Spirit School.

Mizna Arab Film Fest—Presented by the local Arab American arts organization Mizna, the 2018 film fest will feature Arab and Arab American films shown at several local colleges. First up will be *Those Who Remain* at 7 p.m. Friday, January 26, in Davis Hall at Macalester. The film tells the story of a 60-year old Christian farmer's struggle to stay on his land amid sectarian tension, fear and hopelessness. For tickets, priced from \$6-\$10 (free for students), visit tinyurl.com/ycs7ybok.

Get involved—The Macalester-Groveland Community Council currently has several openings on its board of directors, including at-large residential, at-large faith, at-large landlord and at-large education representatives. The council also has four standing committees that meet once a month. Those

who attend three consecutive committee meetings can become voting members. Visit macgrove.org/node/341.

Upcoming meetings—Transportation Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, January 22; Housing and Land Use Committee, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 24, Groveland Recreation Center; Community Building Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, February 12; Environment Committee, 7 p.m. Thursday, February 15. Unless otherwise noted, the meetings will be held at the Edgcombe Recreation Center.

Summit Hill

summithillassociation.org • 651-222-1222

Summit Hill Plan—The Summit Hill Association is in the process of revising its neighborhood plan, which helps guide decisions regarding such topics as zoning, parking and pedestrian safety and is part of the city of St. Paul's Comprehensive Plan. Those who live or own a business in the neighborhood are being asked to provide their input on the plan by taking a survey at summithillassociation.org/comprehensive-plan-update before February 15. They may also sign up on the website to receive email notifications about the plan and all SHA developments.

Neighborhood Honor Roll—The SHA will honor its recipients named to St. Paul's Neighborhood Honor Roll, along with those from throughout the city, during an induction ceremony from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Friday, January 26, in the Anderson Student Center at the University of St. Thomas. All are invited to attend. Tickets are \$15 and include hors d'oeuvres. There will also be a cash bar. For information, email director@summithillassociation.org.

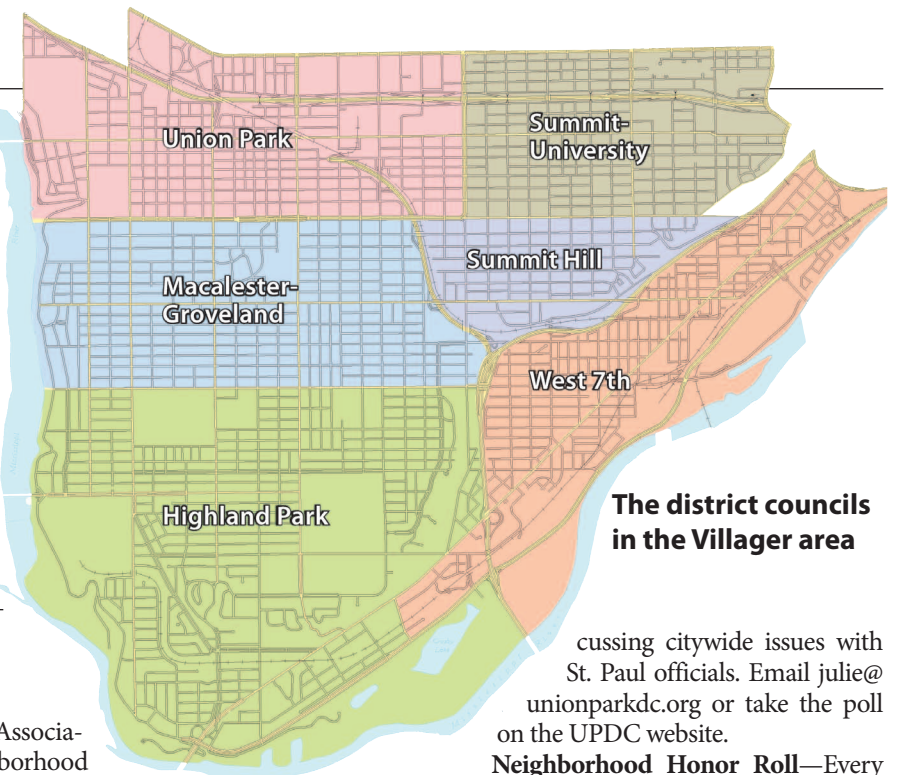
Historic house tour—The Summit Hill House Tour is set for Sunday, September 30. Those who are interested in having their homes included on the tour or wish to volunteer are being asked to contact Monica Haas at director@summithillassociation.org.

Keep in touch—Check out the SHA's new website and watch for details about upcoming events, including an evening with Larry Millett and Carol Carey of Historic St. Paul in February and a special dinner with Lynne Rossetto Kasper in March. People also can sign up for the association's electronic newsletter and learn how they can volunteer.

Union Park

unionparkdc.org • 651-645-6887

Open forums—The Union Park District Council holds public forums almost every month and is seeking suggestions for future topics, such as preventing crime, planning transportation during soccer games at the new Allianz Field or dis-



The district councils in the Villager area

cussing citywide issues with St. Paul officials. Email julie@unionparkdc.org or take the poll on the UPDC website.

Neighborhood Honor Roll—Every year, the UPDC recognizes three individuals or groups for inclusion on St. Paul's citywide Neighborhood Honor Roll. The public is welcome to attend a celebration for this year's honorees from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Friday, January 26, in the Anderson Student Center at the University of St. Thomas. For information, email julie@unionparkdc.org.

Ten-year anniversary—This March marks the 10th anniversary of the selection of the Union Park District Council as the new name of what had been three smaller district councils. The council plans to hold an event to celebrate the milestone. Those who are interested in helping out are being asked to email michael@unionparkdc.org.

Music and movement—The UPDC has teamed up with Playing With Music to offer music and movement classes at 10 a.m. on Saturdays at 161 N Snelling Ave. for children from birth through kindergarten and their caregivers. The 45-minute classes foster music appreciation, along with basic beat and pitch competency. A Ukulele Club for children ages 5-8 is also being offered at 11 a.m. on Saturdays. For information, email marksorvari@gmail.com.

Historic home project—Those who own historic homes in the Union Park neighborhood are invited to purchase an engraved plaque for their properties. The cost is \$95, which includes a \$25 tax-deductible donation to the UPDC. For information, visit unionparkdc.org/historichome.

Upcoming meetings—Environment and Parks Committee, 7 p.m. Wednesday, January 17, 161 N. Snelling Ave.; Land Use and Economic Development Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, January 22, Otto Hall at Episcopal Homes, 1860 University Ave.; Transportation Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, February 12, Episcopal Homes; board of directors, 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 7, Episcopal Homes.

Stay in touch—The public is invited to "like" the UPDC on Facebook and subscribe to its e-newsletter, "Neighborhood Matters," by emailing michael@unionparkdc.org.

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Crime Report

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

Highland Park

Burglary—Highland Park Elementary School, 1700 Saunders Ave., was broken into during the evening of December 23-24.

Theft—A Gretsch Birch Catalina drum set was stolen from a vehicle on the 600 block of South Snelling Avenue on December 12-13.

—Two iPads were reported stolen at Pearson's Candy, 2140 W. Seventh St., at 12:09 p.m. Wednesday, December 13.

—A concrete saw was reported stolen at Zantigo, 2545 W. Seventh St., on Thursday, December 21.

—Building material was reported stolen from the construction zone at Horace Mann School, 2001 Eleanor Ave., at 6:48 a.m. Thursday, January 4.

—Vehicles were stolen on Finn Street and Highland Parkway on January 6, and on Edgumbe Road and Randolph Avenue on January 9.

Assault—A student assaulted two teachers at River East School, 1845 Sheridan Ave., at 11:40 a.m. Monday, January 8.

Lexington-Hamline

Robbery—TCF Bank, 459 N. Lexington Pkwy., was robbed at 5:01 p.m. Thursday, January 4.

Theft—A purse was stolen at the Midway Target around 11 p.m. Friday, December 22. An iPhone 8 Plus also was stolen at the store between 5:38-6:28 p.m. Sunday, December 24.

—A wallet was stolen from a purse at the Midway Target between 11 a.m.-noon Saturday, December 30. The suspect was described as a black woman with a big build. She was wearing a red coat and using a motorized scooter. She left in a light-blue, four-door Mercury.

—Two boys were caught on January 2 and two girls were arrested on January 6 at the Midway Target. In both cases they were trying to steal more than \$500 in merchandise.

—A vehicle was stolen at Skyline Tower, 1247 St. Anthony Ave., between January 4-5.

Macalester-Groveland

Theft—A Cleveland-brand trombone was stolen from a vehicle on the 1900 block of Summit Avenue during the evening of

December 19-20.

—A vehicle was stolen on the 300 block of South Lexington Parkway during the evening of January 3-4.

—A backpack and MacBook Pro computer were stolen from a vehicle parked outside the Green Mill, 57 S. Hamline Ave., between 6-7:14 p.m. Friday, January 5.

—A Dell Latitude laptop computer and other personal items were stolen from a vehicle on the 200 block of South Cleveland Avenue between 4:30-6 p.m. Monday, January 8.

Assault—A 52-year-old man was arrested for felony domestic assault of a female at 5:37 p.m. Monday, January 1, on the 1300 block of Berkeley Avenue.

—A female reported being assaulted at Ramsey Middle School at 2 p.m. Wednesday, January 3.

Mendota Heights

Robbery—A woman reported being robbed at 12:23 p.m. Monday, January 1, on the 1000 block of Northland Drive.

Miscellaneous—A homeowner called police to report seeing two males going through his neighbor's mailbox at 6:05 p.m. Tuesday, January 2, on the 500 block of Hiawatha Avenue. Another neighbor said the suspects also came to his house, asked for someone who did not live there and then left on foot.

Merriam Park

Burglary—Two homes were burglarized on the 1700 block of Iglehart Avenue between December 21-26.

Theft—A backpack, Apple MacBook Air computer and schoolbooks were reported stolen at the University of St. Thomas at 5:15 p.m. Tuesday, December 19.

—Two vehicles were stolen on the 1500-1600 blocks of Marshall Avenue during the evening of December 20-21.

—Children's clothing and six car stereo amplifiers were stolen from a vehicle at the Days Inn, 1964 University Ave., between 12:20-1:19 a.m. Monday, December 25.

—A purse-snatching was reported at the light-rail station on Snelling and University avenues at 5:52 p.m. Saturday, December 30.

Snelling-Hamline

Theft—A car was reported stolen at the Midway Cub Foods at 11:22 p.m. Thursday, December 21.

—A Dell laptop computer was stolen from

a vehicle parked outside O'Gara's, 164 N. Snelling Ave., between 2:45-3:15 p.m. Thursday, December 21.

—Two cars that were left running to warm up were reported stolen on the 1400-1800 blocks of Laurel Avenue at 12:06 p.m. Friday, December 29.

—A 32-year-old woman was arrested for trying to steal more than \$500 in merchandise from the Midway Walmart at 9:58 p.m. Thursday, January 4.

—A backpack, iPad and Nike shoes were stolen from a vehicle on Snelling and Lincoln avenues between 6-6:49 p.m. Friday, January 5. The total loss was estimated at \$900.

—A cellphone valued at around \$1,000 was reported stolen at the Sprint Store, 1360 University Ave., at 4:36 p.m. Sunday, January 7.

—A man in a black sedan reportedly tried to steal packages from the front steps of a residence on the 1300 block of Summit Avenue at 9:17 a.m. Tuesday, January 9. When confronted, the suspect dropped the packages and fled.

Miscellaneous—A 20-year-old man was arrested for causing significant damage to the door of O'Gara's, 164 N. Snelling Ave., after being kicked out of the restaurant at 1:56 a.m. Sunday, December 31.

Summit Hill

Robbery—A woman was the victim of a strong-arm robbery at 5:54 p.m. Wednesday, January 3, on the 900 block of Goodrich Avenue.

Theft—Merchandise valued at more than \$500 was reported stolen at The North Face, 799 Grand Ave., at 2:35 p.m. Wednesday, December 20.

—A Lenovo laptop computer was stolen from a vehicle on the 500 block of Lincoln Avenue during the evening of December 20-21.

—A cellphone was stolen from a store at Milton Mall, 917 Grand Ave., at 12:30 p.m. Thursday, December 21. A wallet also was reported stolen from a purse there at 10:33 p.m. Friday, December 22.

—A backpack, Apple laptop computer and two bags of clothing were reported stolen from a vehicle on Grand Avenue and Victoria Street at 8:45 p.m. Friday, December 29.

—An auto theft was reported at the Tavern on Grand, 656 Grand Ave., at 8:26 p.m. Sunday, December 31. Two vehicles also were stolen on the 800 block of Grand on January 3-5.

Miscellaneous—A 42-year-old man was arrested for felony damage to property total-

ing more than \$1,000 at Fjallraven, 797 Grand Ave., at 7:58 p.m. Wednesday, January 3.

—Felony criminal damage to property was reported at a residence on the 1000 block of Lincoln Avenue the evening of January 3-4.

—Felony damage to property was reported to the water heater and boiler at an apartment building on Lexington Parkway and Lincoln Avenue at 6:30 p.m. Friday, January 5. More damage also was reported there the next morning. The suspect was believed to be a tenant who was angry about an eviction notice.

Summit-University

Theft—Vehicle thefts were reported on the 800 block of Laurel Avenue on December 21-22, on the 200 block of North Western Avenue on December 22, on the 200 block of Dayton Avenue on December 23 and on the 700 block of Selby Avenue on January 5.

—A backpack, MacBook laptop computer, tennis shoes and workout clothes were stolen from a vehicle at WA Frost, 374 Selby Ave., between 6-7:11 p.m. Thursday, December 22.

—A brown leather satchel containing several books, including one written by the owner, was stolen from a vehicle on the 400 block of Selby Avenue between 1-2:16 p.m. Sunday, January 7.

—The catalytic converter was reported stolen from a vehicle on the 700 block of Laurel Avenue at 12:27 p.m. Monday, January 8.

West End

Burglary—Someone broke the front door and stole cigarettes and lottery tickets from Cooper's Foods, 633 W. Seventh St., during the evening of January 2-3.

—A construction site at the former Schmidt Brewery on the 900 block of West Seventh Street was broken into and tools were stolen between January 5-8.

Theft—A vehicle that had been left running and unlocked was reported stolen on the 1000 block of James Avenue at 7:30 a.m. Thursday, December 21.

—Other vehicle thefts were reported on the 300 block of West Seventh Street on December 23-24, on the 900 block of Armstrong Avenue on December 25, on the 200 block of West Seventh Street on December 31, on the 200 block of South Western Avenue on January 1, on the 600 block of Armstrong Avenue on January 5 and on the 200 block of Banfil Street on January 8.

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Charting its course

Hiawatha Academies earns high marks as it prepares to open its fifth school in Mpls.

BY FRANK JOSSI

In the lively halls and classrooms of Hiawatha Leadership Academy-Morris Park, student “scholars” were wearing green T-shirts on a recent winter day as they moved to a gymnasium where a makeshift lunchroom served Mexican meals.

Though the scene did not look much different from other elementary schools in the Twin Cities, the student body of the K-4 charter school is markedly poorer and more diverse than many of them.

In fact, many of the students attending Hiawatha Academies’ network of four charter schools in South Minneapolis are children of color, eligible for free and reduced-price lunches, and speak a language other than English at home. Despite

those challenges, the schools have flourished, with test scores among the highest in the state when factored for poverty.

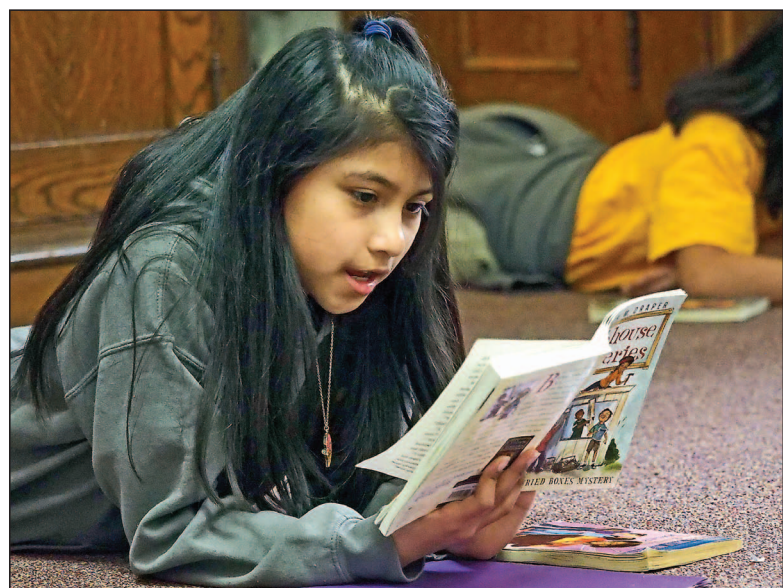
Awards have flowed as a result. The schools have received recognition from the Minnesota Department of Education, Teach for America and the Minnesota Business Partnership, to name a few. So what is their secret?

“We see our goal as working to close the opportunity or achievement gap by having high expectations for our scholars and having strong support in place for them,” said Ambar Cristina Hanson, chief external relations officer for Hiawatha Academies.

The schools focus on college preparation, starting with kindergartners, she said. In the hallway



First-grade teacher Lindsey Kane works on a project with students Za’Niah Allen and Jordana Palacios Hyatt at Hiawatha Leadership Academy-Morris Park in South Minneapolis. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER



Fourth-grade scholar Betzy Martinez gets lost in a good book during class at the charter school’s Morris Park location.

at Morris Park, 3810 E. 56th St., teachers hang flags or signs with the names of universities from which they graduated, and students are taught college songs to sing on Friday school get-togethers, Hanson said.

The strategy is to get students thinking early about college, since many come from households where university degrees are a rarity. The hallway posters encourage students to “expect more than others think possible” and “care more than others think wise.”

Students are taught about social justice and the importance of acceptance of others. The curriculum concentrates on reading, math, engineering, English and social justice and even yoga, Hanson said.

The school also encourages parental involvement to keep students motivated and on track. “What the research and data show is that to be successful in a lifelong sense, family support is critical,” said Morris Park

principal Catherine Chu Lapiska.

Toward that end, Hiawatha operates a six-week Family Academy that offers resources and tools to parents, she said. Other opportunities for parental involvement occur throughout the school year. Families “are the primary educators and the primary champions in their (students’) lives,” Chu Lapiska said. “And we learn a lot from families because they know a lot more about their kids than we do.”

Teachers must be open to changing their approaches to teaching in dealing with a multicultural classroom, said Laura Harringa, who has taught at Morris Park for two years. She adapts to the needs of low-income students who often arrive from vastly different backgrounds than hers or other teachers. They face poverty, food insecurity and other challenges, and seek in school a place where they can feel safe in a trusting and nurturing environment, she said.

The collaborative approach that Hiawatha trumpets applies to teachers, too. “I like that there are people here I trust to make me better,” said Harringa, who teaches 3rd grade and leads an equity work group. “I want us to continue to push ourselves on the equity work and in challenging our biases.”

Jordan McNiven was asked what he likes about teaching at Morris Park. “Too many things,” he said. “I love my classes and my kids because they work so hard and they care a lot about the school.”

Now in its 11th year, Hiawatha has grown from 140 students in grades K-1 and seven teachers to an anticipated 1,600 students and 240 staff members next year. It moved to Morris Park in 2009 and now also operates Hiawatha Leadership Academy-Northrop for grades K-4 at 1611 E. 46th St., Hiawatha College Prep-Kingfield for grades

HIAWATHA ACADEMIES ► 16

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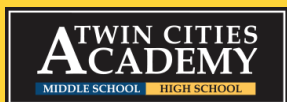
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Dist. 197 to hold vote on \$117M bond

By KEVIN DRISCOLL

The District 197 School Board agreed last month to place a \$117 million ballot question before voters on May 8. If approved, among several other projects, the measure would pay for construction of a multisport athletic field and track at Henry Sibley High School.

The lighted field would be built on the site of the existing track on the north-west corner of the school property and would be used for football and other sports. Matson Field, which is located about 2½ miles away, would be retained for middle school athletics.

The bonds would pay for renovations and repairs at all eight of the district's school buildings and would take 22 years to pay off, according to Carrie Hilger, communications director for the Mendota Heights, West St. Paul and Eagan public schools. It would modernize outdated classrooms and educational spaces, improve fine arts and athletic spaces, and address handicapped accessibility and school parking lot safety.

"Our facilities are aging and despite the work of our staff to keep up with maintenance, there are updates that need to be made to our academic and co-curricular spaces," said School Board chair Joanne Mansur. "There are parts of the high school, such as the music and science areas, that have had little to no changes since the school opened (in 1971)."

Mansur said discussions regarding school facilities began 18 months ago with a deferred maintenance assessment for the district. Last March, the board assembled a task force of parents, other citizens, teachers and administrators to complete a comprehensive review of all school buildings and grounds.

Here is a partial list of the improvements being proposed in each of the schools:

Sibley High School

Nearly \$47 million of the bond funding would be spent on Sibley. Along with the new sports facility, the high school would get a new swimming pool to replace the one at Heritage Middle School, and improvements to its locker rooms, baseball and softball dugouts, concessions and ticket booths, scoreboard and

Estimated Market Value	Estimated Tax Annual
\$100,000	\$28
150,000	49
200,000	71
237,200	87
250,000	92
300,000	114
400,000	156
500,000	196
1,000,000	441

The estimated property tax increase by home value if the bond passes.

bleachers.

There also would be enhancements to the school's performing arts and music areas, auditorium, science labs, commons area, school store and office space, along with the creation of small group break-out spaces, expanded health and fitness areas, and improved handicapped access.

Improvements also would be made to parking lots, landscaping, concrete walks, drainage, fencing, lockers, doors, elevators, flooring, mechanical systems, plumbing, ventilation, lighting and public address systems.

Middle schools

Friendly Hills and Heritage middle schools would see the expansion of their cafeterias, renovation of performance and multipurpose spaces, increased handicapped accessibility, and upgrades to commons, music and media production spaces. Both schools would receive updated landscaping, concrete walks and fencing. Interior improvements would be done to doors, locker rooms, elevators, flooring and gym equipment. Heating and cooling, piping, ventilation, lighting and public address systems also would be upgraded.

Elementary schools

The district's five elementary schools—Garlough, Mendota, Moreland, Somerset and Pilot Knob—would all see handicapped accessibility improvements, the resizing of kindergarten classrooms and renovations in spaces for grades 1-4.

Garlough, Somerset and Pilot Knob would get separate bus and parent drop-off areas, while Garlough and Somerset would get improvements to their kitchen and serving areas. Somerset would

get a new two-story classroom addition, along with renovations necessary to provide handicapped access to a portion of a building added in 1936 and the creation of a dedicated gymnasium.

All of the elementaries would see similar interior improvements to lighting, public address and fire alarm systems. Exterior enhancements would include drainage, landscaping, concrete walks, retaining walls, tuck pointing, sealants and painting.

Approving the bond issue would increase property taxes by \$87 a year on a median-priced home of \$237,200 and by \$114 a year on a \$300,000 home (see chart).

Hilger said a survey that was conducted last June determined that 74 percent of voters would support or at least consider voting for a tax increase for the district, which currently enrolls 5,013 students.

"At that time," she said, "the facilities task force was right in the middle of its work, so we were unable to ask any specific questions about projects that would be included in the bond request."

She said the district plans to contact voters before and after the referendum (should it pass) for input on planning and design for each of the projects.

The district also conducted a survey prior to a referendum in May 2014 to upgrade technology and security and construct a new early-learning center. That survey also showed a predominance of residents willing to vote in favor, but not enough of them showed up at the polls and the questions were defeated.

District leaders scaled back their requests, replaced the early-childhood proposal with one to build a new stadium at Sibley and held a referendum again in November 2014. The first two questions passed, but the stadium funding was rejected.

Hilger said that if the current referendum does not pass, the district will regroup to consider its next steps. "Right now we're simply focused on making sure our community is informed about the election on May 8," she said.

The district has tentatively set an open house on the bond issue for March 6 at Sibley. For more information, call 651-403-7557, email elections@isd197.org or visit isd197.org/about/bond.



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Coordinator Ted Tiffany shows off the computer lab at the new Best Buy Teen Tech Center at 1150 Selby Ave. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

Teens learn the latest in high-tech at free after-school center on Selby

BY KASEY MCKEE

An after-school program that offers students ages 14-18 hands-on learning in the field of high technology opened in mid-December at 1150 Selby Ave. The new Teen Tech Center is sponsored by Best Buy, the Richfield-based electronics retailer. It is operated from 2-7 p.m. Mondays through Fridays under the management of the local nonprofit Keystone Community Services.

Though the year-round center's opening came shortly before schools took their two-week winter break, students found their way to the storefront, which is next door to Keystone's Express Bike Shop on the corner of Selby and Dunlap Street.

"We have a nice group of about eight regulars," said Teen Tech Center coordinator Ted Tiffany. "Everybody who's been coming here has come from within a one-mile radius."

The Teen Tech Center has three distinct learning areas—a computer lab, a large conference table with three-dimensional printing equipment and a musical recording booth. "It's all state-of-the-art," Tiffany said. "We have computers with Adobe Photoshop and Premier, graphic design software, a laser engraver and a music studio with ProTools."

"The tech center is a space to create, not to hang out and play video games," Tiffany said. "The music studio is heavily used in other teen tech centers, and the idea of free studio time is a huge draw. I felt it was important to get real instruments, so there are electric and acoustic guitars, a bass guitar and a keyboard."

Tiffany's job at the Teen Tech Center is to offer students help with their projects. Prior to being hired by Keystone, he worked with the St. Paul Department of Parks and Recreation developing "maker spaces" in its community outreach program.

Best Buy sponsors the Teen Tech Center through a partnership with Clubhouse Network, a Boston-based organization that offers connections to more than 100 such facilities

in 20 countries.

The Selby location is the third Teen Tech Center in the Twin Cities for Best Buy. The others are at the Central Library and the Brian Coyle Center in Minneapolis. Best Buy plans to open four more Teen Tech Centers in the Twin Cities area over the next three years, bringing the company's total to 60 in the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

"When we opened our first Teen Tech Center four years ago, the idea was to look at the needs of low-income and underserved neighborhoods," said Andrea Wood, a spokesperson for Best Buy. "Many of them didn't have access to tech tools and training. We're trying to expose teens to careers in tech, get them excited about those careers, and see them enrolled in postsecondary education."

Wood said that by developing these skills, the centers will provide an employee "pipeline for Best Buy, but also for businesses across the Twin Cities."

Keystone president Mary McKeown said her organization's partnership in the Teen Tech Center was a natural fit. "We're very much committed to helping youths find the skills that will help them in their careers," she said, "and technology is a big part of that."

In keeping with the Clubhouse Network's mission of self-directed learning, the Teen Tech Center's educational program is hands-on. Rather than following a curriculum, it facilitates students' individual projects. "We know from youth development that those are best practices," McKeown said. "Students are going to be most successful when they're doing the work themselves."

The Selby Avenue center also plans to develop a mentorship program where volunteers with expertise in high technology work one-to-one with teens. "A mentor is very different than someone just coming in and volunteering," McKeown said, "so we're going to develop it over time, using a model that has worked well at other centers. Given our proximity to Central High School, I think it'll grow fairly quickly."

Central is located just two blocks from the Teen Tech Center, and students taking part in the high school's extra-curricular Program Club have been encouraged to visit it.

"The Teen Tech Center is a wonderful opportunity for Central students," said Brian Reinhardt, the Central teacher who works with the Program Club. "The facilities are top-notch and offer many different tools. It provides an opportunity for hands-on learning, much like the bike shop right next door."



Teen Tech Center's Ted Tiffany and assistant Mason Murph try out the guitars in the facility's music studio.



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School Notes

A St. Paul Charter School Fair will be held from 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, January 27, at St. Paul College, 235 Marshall Ave. The third annual fair will give students and families the chance to meet school administrators and teachers, ask questions, and learn more about the opportunities and formats that the city's more than 35 charter schools offer. Admission to the fair is free. For details, contact Nancy Dana at ndana@stpaulcityschool.org or Tina Haarbusch at thaarbusch@tcgis.org.

Highland Catholic School, 2017 Bohland Ave., will hold a preschool open house for parents to meet teachers and learn about the school's educational programs from 6-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 31. It also will hold a roundup with classroom visits and activities for future kindergartners from 9-10:30 a.m. Tuesday, February 6. Personal tours also are available. Call 651-690-2477.

St. Thomas Academy will hold entrance exams at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, January 20, for 9th-grade applicants and on Saturday, January 27, for middle school applicants. Any boy applying to STA must take the school's entrance exam before being accepted. For information, call 651-454-4570.

Horace Mann Elementary School, 2001 Eleanor Ave., will hold an open house from 5-6:30 p.m. Thursday, January 25. Those who attend will be able to talk with current students, staff and parents, and see the current state of construction. Call 651-293-8965.

Linwood Monroe Arts Plus will hold the following events at its Monroe campus, 810

Palace Ave.: a staging of *The Lion King* at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, January 18, and at 10:20 a.m. and 3 p.m. Friday, January 19; the premiere of the 4th-grade opera at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, February 1, and at 10:20 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Friday, February 2; and 8th-grade Indonesian gamelan and dance performances at 10:20 a.m. and 3 p.m. Friday, February 9. Linwood will also hold a 2nd-grade Anishinaabe beading residency at 3:15 p.m. February 16, at its Linwood campus, 1023 Osceola Ave. All events are free. Call 651-293-8690 (Monroe) or 651-293-6606 (Linwood).

The St. Paul School Board elected the following officers for 2018 at its annual meeting on January 9: Zuki Ellis as chair, Steve Marchese as vice chair, Jeanelle Foster as clerk and Jon Schumacher as treasurer.

The Minneapolis School Board elected the following officers at its meeting on January 9: Nelson Inz as chair, Siad Ali as vice chair, Jenny Arneson as treasurer and Kim Ellison as clerk. Roosevelt High School junior Ben Jaeger will serve as the student representative.

The St. Thomas Academy rifle team won the state championship in the Civilian Marksmanship Program and now advances to the regional championship on April 12-14 at Camp Perry, Ohio. Team members included seniors Seth Olson, Riley Miller and Jack Kotok, and junior Kaleb Turgers. Olson shot the second-highest score of his career, a 553 out of 600 in the 3x20 competition. In the sporter category, he placed first overall. Finishing third at state was the STA rifle team of juniors Peter Corniea and Jackson Marquardt, sophomore Max Ilinykh and freshman Michael Driscoll.

13◀ HIAWATHA ACADEMIES

5-8 at 3800 Pleasant Ave., and Hiawatha Collegiate High School for grades 9-11 at 4640 17th Ave. S.

Hiawatha is also planning to open a new \$27.3 million high school in August in a former soda bottling plant at 3500 E. 28th St. It serves about 300 high school students now, but expects that number to grow to 475 in grades 9-12 at the new campus next term. The current high school will become a middle school.

Hiawatha, which is sponsored by the University of St. Thomas, formed the state's first district/charter collaboration with the Minneapolis Public Schools to share its best practices. Its tremendous growth over the past decade came under Eli Kramer, who announced in December he was resigning as executive director. In a press release, he said he felt it was best for the organization in its next phase of growth to have new executive leadership.

Kramer, who was not available for an interview, attracted kudos from the public in a daily newspaper article in December. "Eli Kramer is a true community hero who has built schools that are some of the most successful incubators for nurturing new young minds," said former Mayor R.T. Rybak, now president of the Minneapolis Foundation.

Hiawatha's long-term plan calls for an enrollment of more than 2,500, or roughly 5 percent of all Minneapolis students in



Morris Park 4th-grader Abdirizak Ismail gets a hug from instructor Jordan McNiven during class.

PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

grades K-12.


Success in confronting educational equity issues has been the bases for Hiawatha's astonishing growth. "I don't think there's a silver bullet to dealing with inequity," Chu Lapiska said, "but we're always working to do well and pushing ourselves to be even better."

Applications are currently being accepted for enrollment in Hiawatha Academies' new high school that is opening this fall. Tours of the current high school are being offered on January 17 and February 22. For more information, call 612-547-9056.

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The Kiosk

Wednesday/January 17

PASSION! BETRAYAL! VENGEANCE!, a four-week lecture series on Verdi's *Rigoletto* with musicologist Daniel Freeman, continues from 10 a.m.-noon today and January 24 at House of Hope Presbyterian Church, 797 Summit Ave. The program is sponsored by the Friends of the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra. The cost is \$35 per session. Visit friendsofthespc.org.

KIDS COUNT, a study that measured the well-being of children across the U.S., will be reviewed by Representative Dave Pinto (DFL-District 64B) and the Children's Defense Fund at 4 p.m. at Carondelet Village, 525 Fairview Ave. S. The public is invited to attend and discuss state and national policies to respond to the study's findings.

THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION is being explored in a series of free programs from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesdays at St. Paul's United Church of Christ, 900 Summit Ave. The sovereignty of God, salvation by grace through faith and the priesthood of all believers are addressed today. Energy and inspiration through an accessible Bible will be covered on January 24, and John Calvin's teachings on total depravity and predestination on January 31. Call 651-224-5809 or visit SPUCConSummit.org.

Thursday/January 18

END OF LIFE PLANNING is the subject of four programs that will be offered at 7 p.m. today and Thursdays, January 25, February 8 and 15, in the Wesley Room of Fairmount Avenue United Methodist Church, 1523 Fairmount Ave. Susan Marschall of the Minnesota Hospice and Palliative Care Association will provide recommendations for obtaining hospice and palliative care. The public is invited. For information, call 651-699-1335.

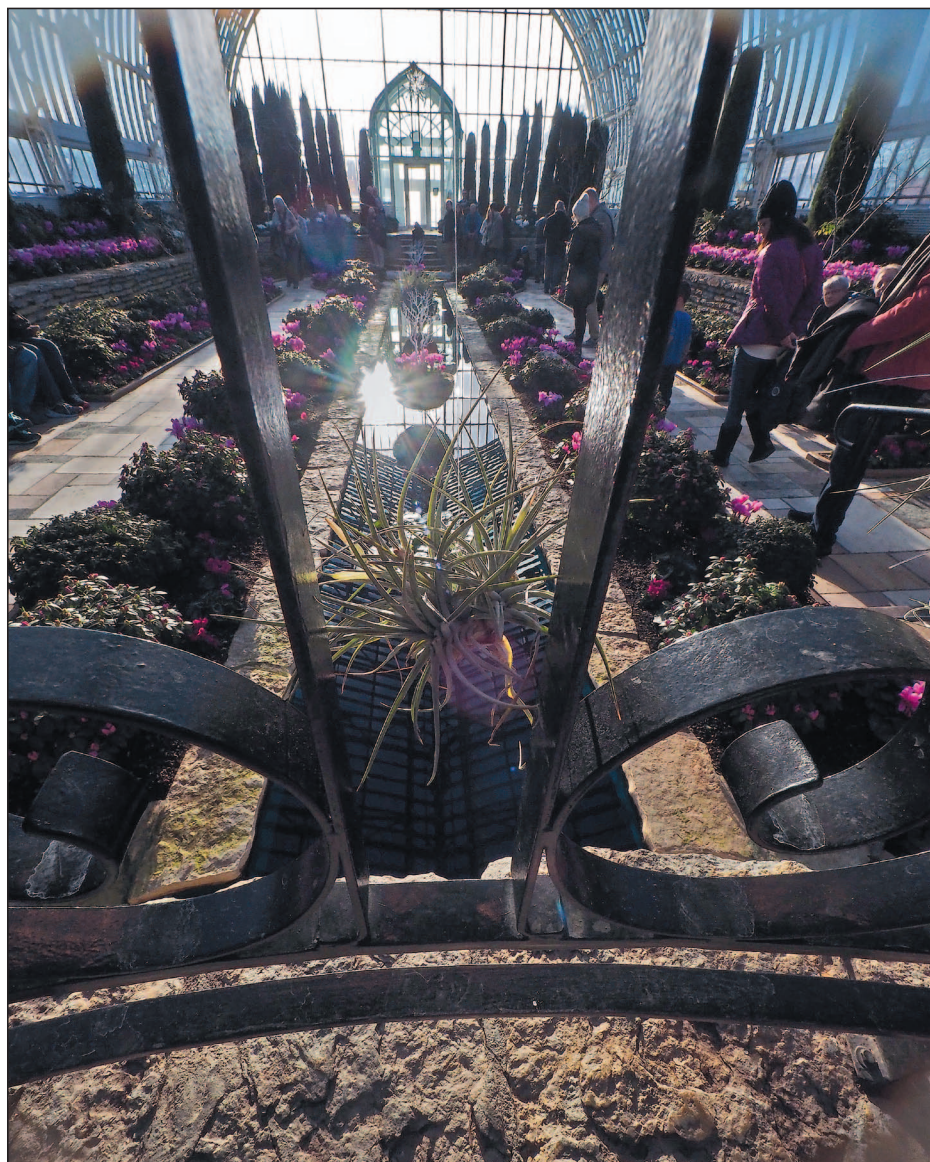
Saturday/January 20

"WOMEN'S RIGHTS & Modern America," a look back at the 1977 National Women's Conference in Houston that endorsed abortion rights, gay rights and the Equal Rights Amendment and a separate rally across town that launched the conservative Pro-Family Movement, will be offered from 10-11 a.m. at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. University of South Carolina Professor Marjorie Spruill, author of *Divided We Stand: The Battle Over Women's Rights and Family Values*, will conduct the forum. Tickets are \$16. Visit cart.mnhs.org or call 651-259-3015.

Sunday/January 21

"IS PAX AMERICANA on the Wane?," a review of the United States' longtime role as world peacemaker and whether or not that role has shifted in recent years, will be the subject of a Foreign Policy Association presentation at 1:30 p.m. at the Waters of Highland Park, 678 S. Snelling Ave. The free program will feature a 20-minute film followed by a discussion. For more information, call 651-363-3040.

HAVE AN IMPACT on issues you care about. Attend the Advocacy Fair from 2-5 p.m. at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 S. Snelling Ave. Representatives of more than 25 organizations active in the



A respite from all the white. A wrought-iron railing frames the Sunken Garden where winter-weary visitors strolled through the Super Bold Flower Show on view through March 11 at the Como Conservatory. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

arts, civil rights, the environment, health, safety and transportation will be there to connect with prospective volunteers. The event is sponsored by state legislators Dave Pinto, Rena Moran and Fuong Haw. For information, call 651-428-1547.

THE ST. PAUL HIKING CLUB will gather for a five-mile hike along Mississippi River Boulevard beginning at 2:30 p.m. at Baker's Square, 2219 Ford Pkwy. New members are welcome. For information, call Charlotte Svobodny at 651-455-0052.

Monday/January 22

A PRAYER SERVICE FOR LIFE with Archbishop Bernard Hebda will begin at 10:30 a.m. at the Cathedral of St. Paul. It will be followed by the 45th annual March for Life sponsored by Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life. The march will begin at noon in front of the state Capitol, and it will be followed at 12:30 p.m. by a program on the Capitol steps. For information, call 612-825-6831 or visit mccl.org.

A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION on the contentious issue of immigration will be held at 6:30 p.m. at Lumen Christi Catholic Community, 2055 Bohland Ave. The free program invites people to share their personal experiences and discuss Christian teachings surrounding immigration and the plight of refugees around the world. Call 651-698-5581

Tuesday/January 23

WHAT MAKES A GOOD LIFE? Lessons from the longest study on happiness will be

discussed during the monthly Lunch, Learn & Laugh program from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Episcopal Homes' Seabury Building, 1830 University Ave. The cost is \$8, payable by cash or check, and that includes lunch. For reservations, contact Kire at 651-379-5102 or kmeyer@episcopalhomes.org.

A BEGINNERS' CLASS in hand drums will be offered from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the Women's Drum Center, 2242 University Ave. The cost is \$10. Drums are provided. Visit womensdrumcenter.org.

MEETING THE CHALLENGES of raising a child with mental illness is discussed in a facilitated support group meeting from 6-7:30 p.m. today and the second and fourth Tuesday of every month at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 S. Snelling Ave. The program is sponsored by the National Alliance on Mental Illness. Call Jonathan Wagner at 651-210-9549.

Wednesday/January 24

THE HIGHLAND PARK LIBRARY Book Club will discuss *LAB Girl* by Hope Jahren at 6:30 p.m. The club meets monthly at the library, 1974 Ford Pkwy. New members are welcome. Call 651-695-3700.

Thursday/January 25

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

END OF LIFE PLANNING is the subject of programs that will be offered at 7 p.m. today and Thursdays, February 8 and 15, in the Wesley Room of Fairmount Avenue United Methodist Church, 1523 Fairmount Ave. The Reverend Ed Holland, a Methodist chaplain and therapist, will discuss how to prepare and update a health care directive. The public is invited. For information, call 651-699-1335.

"MINNESOTA CAVES: History and Lore," a Powerpoint tour of the state's more notable caves, will be led by St. Paul hydrogeologist and author Greg Brick in a free program from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Ramsey County Library, 2173 N. Hamline Ave. in Roseville.

Saturday/January 27

A RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE will be held from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Parish Commons of Holy Spirit Church, 515 S. Albert St. The American Red Cross is short on blood and platelet donations due to the weather-related cancellation of more than 150 blood drives. Appointments are preferred, but walk-ins are also welcome. Call 1-800-733-2767 or visit redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code COHS.

MORE THAN 200 CATS from the U.S. and Canada will compete for the title of Best Cat at the Saintly City Cat Club's 42nd annual Championship and Household Cat Show from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. today and Sunday, January 28, on the lower level of Roy Wilkins Exhibition Hall in downtown St. Paul. The various breeds of cats will be judged in five classes. Admission is \$4, \$3 for seniors and children under age 10. To enter the competition, contact Susan Kline at 801-645-4730 or scklinemn@gmail.com.

POLITICAL THEORIST Hannah Arendt and her writings on "The Revolutionary Tradition and its Lost Treasure" will be addressed by Molly Wilbur-Cohen from 10:15-11:45 a.m. in the Teen Room at the Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy. The free program is sponsored by Or Emet, the Minnesota Congregation for Humanistic Judaism. Visit oremnet.org.

DOGGIE DEPOT, a celebration of all things canine, will be held from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Union Depot in downtown St. Paul. Bring your dog to the free event, which will feature paws-on activities, rescue dog adoptions, a pet products marketplace, a Q&A with Katie K9 of radio station 107.1FM, information on the Twin Cities' most pet-friendly restaurants, and the crowning of the St. Paul Winter Carnival's Canine Court (cast your vote by January 23 at mytalk1071.com). Visit uniondepot.org.

Wednesday/January 31

A RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE will be held from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at St. Paul College, 235 Marshall Ave. The American Red Cross is short on blood and platelet donations due to the weather-related cancellation of more than 150 blood drives. Appointments are preferred, but walk-ins are welcome. Call 1-800-733-2767 or visit redcrossblood.org.

Thursday, February 1

A WORSHIP SERVICE for Candlemas with incense and music for the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple will be held at 7 p.m. at St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church, 60 N. Kent St. All are welcome.



Hot Dish

By Morgan Smith

Agra Culture serves up a menu to live for

That it carries activated-charcoal lemonade at an all-you-can-drink beverage fountain says a lot about Agra Culture Kitchen & Press. That the activated-charcoal lemonade is its best-selling beverage says a lot about people who patronize the new Highland Village eatery.

The fast-casual restaurant in The Finn at 721 S. Cleveland Ave. is owned by Mikael Asp and Aaron Switz. Their philosophy, stenciled on a wall near the cash register, is to serve no food containing hormones, antibiotics or refined sugars. The restaurant uses organic products for what are known as the “dirty dozen” fruits and vegetables that typically come with the most residue of harmful chemicals. And in addition to vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free and dairy-free selections, Agra Culture serves “paleo” foods—the kind of high-protein, low-carbohydrate foods our ancestors might have enjoyed in the Stone Age.

Asp graduated in 1999 from the University of St. Thomas with a degree in finance and math. He liked the area around St. Thomas so much he bought a house in Highland Park in 2001.

Asp spent a dozen years working in the world of finance before realizing that he wanted “to build something of long-term value,” he said. Sensing a generational shift in how people eat out and believing that diners wanted more transparency and higher-quality food from restaurants, he and Switz founded Agra Culture in 2014 with three Minneapolis locations—in the Uptown neighborhood, at 50th and France and inside the Minneapolis Institute of Arts.

The partners signed a lease for the space in The Finn in late 2016, and their Highland Village restaurant opened in November 2017. Its shiny tin ceiling, barn-wood walls and wagon wheel chandelier are just some of the “signature” interior design elements that Asp credited to Andrea Switz, Aaron’s wife.

“The general manager at our Highland location was the sec-



The Agra Harvest Salad at Agra Culture Kitchen & Press served with a glass of the popular-charcoal-filtered lemonade.

PHOTOS BY
BRAD STAUFFER

I ordered the full version of the American Bowl (\$9.25).... It was about as good as breakfast gets.

ond prep cook we ever hired in the spring of 2014,” Asp said. “Culture is an important part of our name, and our employees are the most important part of that culture.”

That cultural emphasis has paid off with informative, enthusiastic workers. I visited Agra Culture twice in December. On my first visit with my wife Mecca, I asked about the charcoal lemonade. The counter person brought out the activated charcoal mixture and explained its popularity and health benefits. As you might expect, the lemonade is black in color, and it has hints of licorice in taste.

On my second visit, my friend Dave ordered the Vegan Chorizo Burrito (\$4) and Griddle Cakes (\$7). The burrito’s name is a little misleading since it is made with organic eggs and cheddar cheese. Only the chorizo is vegan. However, there’s a totally vegan version of the burrito as well, and that’s what Dave ordered. He declared the fist-sized serving “more flavorful than

most of the vegan burritos” he has tried.

On the same outing, my friend Juan selected a half-version of the El Granjero Breakfast Bowl (\$6.75), a combination of organic scrambled eggs, chorizo, organic peppers, black beans, pepper jack cheese, cilantro and pico de gallo. “I don’t usually like eggs,” Juan said, “but this is really delicious.”

I ordered the full version of the American Bowl (\$9.25), a combination of organic scrambled eggs, nitrite-free bacon, organic spinach, truffled mushrooms, onion, cheddar cheese and parsley. It was about as good as breakfast gets.

My friend Jordan went with the Gouda Hash Burrito (\$4), a serving of organic eggs, smoked gouda cheese and hash in a flour tortilla. By the time I’d gotten around to asking him how it was, he’d gobbled it up. “Very nice,” he said.

Jordan’s 2-year-old daughter dug into her bowl of Oatmeal (\$5) with delight. Considering her small frame, she put a respectable dent in the steel-cut oats, organic caramelized apples, maple syrup and dried cranberries. The smile on her face said it all.

Like the rest of us, she also took a few bites of Dave’s Griddle Cakes. The three banana pancakes were a bit more dense than I prefer, but the four of us were more than happy to help Dave tuck them away.

I ordered the Paleo Burger Bowl (\$11.25) on my earlier visit to Agra Culture. The beef patty came with truffled mushrooms, organic peppers, onion, carrots, avocado and chimichurri and was very tasty. Equally delicious was the Ala Mexicana Bowl (\$10.50) that Mecca ordered—a combination of chicken, quinoa, black beans, avocado, cilantro, radish, salsa verde and pico de gallo. Mecca’s and my only complaint about Agra Culture was that the food was not hot by the time it arrived at our table. However, that may have been partly our fault since we sat next to one of the large windows facing Cleveland Avenue on a bitterly cold day.

With four restaurants to run, you might think Asp and Switz to be plenty busy, but they found the time to partner with Highland Catholic to provide the hot lunches for that grade school this year. “It’s been a good partnership so far,” Asp said. “The kids and parents seem to be happy.”

Asp’s mantra at Agra Culture is “We are your kitchen.” With its varied menu of salads and sandwiches, bowls and plates, flatbreads and side dishes, smoothies and raw juices, coffee drinks, beer and wine, he said, diners can drop in pretty much every day of the week without falling into a dietary rut.



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On the Town

Waldmann's Schroeder raises mug to the history of saloons in St. Paul

BY DAVE PAGE

Tom Schroeder received a home-brewing kit for Christmas and began making his own beer in a small stone structure on St. Paul's West End built by German immigrant and stonemason Jacob Amos. Now, more than 30 years later, Schroeder owns his own microbrewery and serves his beer in a bar and restaurant he operates in an even older Jacob Amos building in the same neighborhood just north of the High Bridge.

Schroeder is an attorney with the Minneapolis law firm of Faegre Baker Daniels, and he lives in an 1877 Victorian home that he restored not far from his new Waldmann Brewery and Wursterly at 445 N. Smith Ave.

Over the decades, he has gained an encyclopedic knowledge of early St. Paul, its immigrant communities and their drinking habits. His research into the history of St. Paul's saloons will be the subject of a two-hour program beginning at 5:30 and 8:30 p.m. Thursday, January 25, at the Alexander Ramsey House, 265 S. Exchange St. In the programs, Schroeder will be pouring glasses of the classic German lager he makes at his Waldmann Brewery and Wursterly, 445 N. Smith Ave.

Schroeder was coaxed down the path of historical research by his friend, West End architect John Yust, who has worked on several historic preservation projects in the Twin Cities. Together, Schroeder and Yust became intrigued by the limestone residence that houses the Waldmann Brewery and Wursterly. The building did not appear to fit the architectural style of other old homes in the neighborhood. When the property was put on the market in 2008, Schroeder and his wife, Ann, purchased it.

In their spare time and with the help of an archaeological team, Yust and Schroeder literally dug into the house and the adjoining properties which the Schroeders also purchased. They also consulted Ramsey County property records and the minutes of old St. Paul City Council meetings. What they discovered in the governmental

and archaeological records was proof that Waldmann Brewery and Wursterly is the oldest remaining commercial structure in the city.

Apparently, German immigrant Anthony Waldmann had operated a lager saloon in the building from shortly after it was built in 1857 to 1863. The St. Paul City Directory from those years "lists it as 'Amos' Store," Schroeder said. "Everyone at that time knew that 'store' was a euphemism for saloon. In fact, Abraham Lincoln's opponents tried to attack him as a 'store keeper.'"

Saloons played an important role in the founding and early history of St. Paul. In 1839-40 the U.S. military uprooted the pioneers who had settled in the area around Fort Snelling and were selling liquor to the soldiers at the fort. The pioneers were forced to relocate several miles from the fort, and they founded a new settlement in what is now downtown St. Paul.

Schroeder's talk on January 25 will focus more on the decade between 1855 and 1865. "There was a significant drinking problem (in St. Paul) before the Civil War," Schroeder said. "At that time, the city had one saloon for every 74 people. Today, it's more like one bar for every 4,000 residents."

St. Paul drinking establishments in the mid-19th century were the customary Yankee grog shops and Irish saloons that served whiskey and other hard spirits to folks who

wanted to get drunk, Schroeder said. In response to that practice, there was a push for the adoption of Maine Laws, named after the prohibition ordinances that had been enacted in that New England state. However, in the midst of the push for temperance, there arrived in St. Paul an influx of German immigrants with a recipe for "light, effervescent, dry and supposedly non-alcoholic lagers," Schroeder said.

The German arrivals served their beer in saloons that functioned more like social clubs, places where men and women could congregate, sip the suds and discuss the issues of the day. As a result, a coalition of German immigrants, kindred abolitionists in the new Republican Party, and local temperance supporters were able to pass an ordinance in 1860 that exempted lager saloons from the sales taxes St. Paul charged in all other liquor establishments. At the time, the liquor tax was second only to the wharfage fee in the amount of money it raised for St. Paul's city coffers.

Schroeder realized he would need a new city ordinance himself if he was to restore his new property on Smith Avenue to the German lager saloon he claimed it used to be. The property was zoned for residential, not commercial use, so he pushed for the creation of a new historic use zoning that would



Server Laura Carver brings a round of German-style beer to patrons on the second floor of the historic Waldmann Brewery and Wursterly.



Tom Schroeder greets the morning outside of his historic Waldmann Brewery and Wursterly on Smith Avenue. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

allow for the original historic use of a structure in any zoning district. With the help of former City Council member Dave Thune and then-Mayor Chris Coleman, Schroeder succeeded in getting the ordinance adopted in 2015.

Schroeder still needed to convince the St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) that the old stone house on Smith Avenue originally served as a saloon. Besides the gaps in government records and the changing of street names, Schroeder was confronted by the tendency of property records to hide the actual tenants of a commercial building beneath layers of leasees and sub-leasees. Fortunately, copies of the rental contracts were often submitted to the Ramsey County Records Office for safekeeping in case of fire.

Nothing if not persistent, Schroeder gathered together an inch-thick, double-sided, single-spaced report to convince the HPC of his claim and was granted

the variance for his wursterly. On the adjacent lots, Schroeder constructed "an urban barn" to enclose the microbrewery, which uses horizontal fermentation tanks for space reasons and because they produce the best flavors in lager yeasts, he said. "Most breweries use vertical fermentation tanks because they're more efficient and easier to clean," Schroeder said.

Schroeder is passionate about history and giving his patrons a chance to step back in time and experience a German lager saloon of the mid-19th century. With its wood-burning stove, oil lamps, historic photographs of Civil War personalities, and tables and bars made from reclaimed wood, Waldmann Brewery and Wursterly comes very close.

Tickets for Schroeder's talk at the Ramsey House are available at mnhs.org/ramseyhouse (see upcoming special events). The \$26 charge include two drinks, snacks, and time to mingle in the mansion.

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On the Town Briefly

Dance

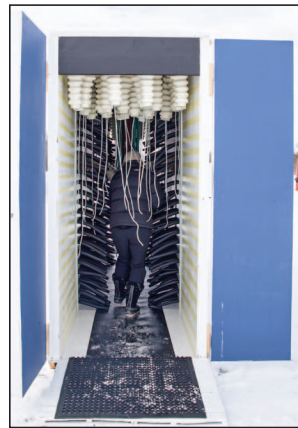
CAAM Chinese Dance Theater will celebrate its 25th anniversary with the full-length production "Our Dance, Our Dreams" at 7 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday, January 27-28, in O'Shaughnessy Auditorium at St. Catherine University. Over 150 performers ages 3-70 will take to the stage to perform old favorites and new pieces of Chinese dance. Tickets are \$20-\$25. Call 651-690-6700.

Exhibits

"1968," a look back at one of the most turbulent years in U.S. history, has opened a 13-month run at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. The immersive display is filled with the sights and sounds of this media-saturated year along with artifacts and stories from those who were there. It opens with an illustration of how the bloodshed of the Vietnam War was broadcast into American living rooms, and ends with Apollo 8's iconic image of an earthrise over the moon. In between are stories from the jungles and rice paddies of Southeast Asia, tales of protests on college campuses, the last speeches and assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., the hotly contested presidential race, the assassination of Robert F. Kennedy, and the rise of feminism and Black Power. A lecture on Women's Rights and Modern America will be presented at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, January 20. Admission is \$12; \$10 for seniors, college students and military personnel; \$6 for children ages 5-17. Call 651-259-3000.

"When Home Won't Let You Stay," an exhibit of portrait photography and first-person stories highlighting the plight and resiliency of refugees in Minnesota, is on view through February 6 in the Undercroft Gallery at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 2136 Carter Ave. The photos were taken by documentary photographer James A. Bowey, who will moderate a public conversation on answering the needs of displaced people from 6:30-9 p.m. Thursday, January 25, at St. Matthew's. Call 651-645-3058.

"Land Body Industry," an exhibit exploring industrial narratives through the work of nine artists, is being displayed through February 10 in the Katherine E. Nash Gallery



Art on ice. Frozen Lake Harriet in South Minneapolis is being transformed into an interactive exhibit of 22 creative spaces and 18 performances that will expand your notions of art and artist. The artist-designed village of Art Shanty Projects will be open to the public free of charge from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays from January 20 through February 11. Audience participation is essential. If by chance the ice is not thick enough, the projects will be moved to the area around the Lake Harriet bandshell.

at the University of Minnesota's Regis Center for Art, 405 21st Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Drawn from cultural histories, collective memory and present-day reality, the works by Lamia Abukhadra, Julie Renée Benda, Leslie Grant, Alexa Horochowski, Rini Yun Keagy, Alison Malone, Monica Sheets, Nina Pessin-Whedbee and Josh Winkler reflect on industry's ability to transform, destroy and reinvent individuals, communities and the environment. A public reception will be held from 5-9 p.m. Saturday, January 20. A panel discussion with artists Grant, Horochowski and Keagy will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, February 1. Call 612-624-7530.

"Halcyon Daze," bold and brilliant abstract paintings by Rick Pirtle and collage and expressionist paintings by Jim Blaha, are

on view through February 13 at Vine Arts Center, 2637 27th Ave. S., Minneapolis. Visit vineartscenter.org.

Northern Clay Center, 2424 E. Franklin Ave., Minneapolis, is displaying through February 25 the sculpture and ceramics of Jerome artists Susan Feigenbaum, Autumn Higgins, Lisa Truax and Ellie Bryan in the Main Gallery and the clay works of Gregory Palombo, Gillian Doty, Lily Fein, Valerie Ling and Audra Smith in the Emily Galusha Gallery. Call 612-339-8007.

AZ Gallery, 308 Prince St., has opened its second annual Fire & Ice Winter Carnival Art Show. Members of the St. Paul Art Collective are displaying more than 100 paintings, mobiles, photography, collage,

jewelry and sculpture that depict the beauty of winter or the promise of spring. The exhibit is on view from 5-8 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays and 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays through February 18. Meet the artists and John Kocon, designer of this year's Winter Carnival buttons, at a public reception from 5-9 p.m. Friday, January 26.

"Bound by Nature," art inspired by the symbiotic relationships found in woodlands, will open with a public reception from noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, January 21, in the American Association of Woodturners' Gallery at Landmark Center. The sculptural wool of guest artist Kimber Olson will be displayed beside wood sculptures from the AAW's permanent collection. The free exhibit will remain on view through February 18. Visit galleryofwoodart.org or call 651-484-9094.

Books

The Friends of the St. Paul Public Library has returned with its Fireside Reading Series at 7 p.m. Wednesdays through February at Hamline-Midway Library, 1558 Minnehaha Ave. Minnesota authors will read from their latest books in the free program. Hot coffee, cider and cookies will be served. The schedule includes Miriam Karmel and *Subtle Variations and Other Stories* on January 24 and Bao Phi and her poetry collection *Thousand Star Hotel* on January 31.

SubText Books, 6 W. Fifth St., will host author Bukola Oriola and her books, *A Living Label* and *Imprisoned: The Travails of a Trafficked Victim*, at 7 p.m. January 18; Read & Response, an open mic for writers to share their work, 7 p.m. January 24; and a reading by the Loft Peace and Social Justice Writers' Group from its anthology, *Turning Points: Discovering Meaning and Passion in Turbulent Times*, 7 p.m. January 25. Call 651-493-2791.

British novelist Mick Herron will launch his new thriller, *This Is What Happened*, at 7 p.m. Monday, January 22, at Common Good Books, 38 S. Snelling Ave. Admission is free and open to all. Call 651-225-8989.

Star Tribune writer Curt Brown, author of *Minnesota, 1918*, will discuss this monumental year in state history from 7-8 p.m.

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Tuesday, January 30, at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. While 118,000 Minnesotans were serving in World War I at home and abroad, local residents were subjected to loyalty tests, government surveillance, an influenza epidemic and a wildfire across 1,500 square miles in northeastern Minnesota. Admission is free. Call 651-259-3000.

Family

Ta-Da!, a weekly series of puppet shows for children, is being presented at 10 a.m. and noon on Saturdays through March 10 at In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre, 1500 E. Lake St. The schedule includes *It and Git, Or How Change Makes the World Go Round* by Theresa Linnihan on January 20; *Gary's Garden* by Seth Eberle, January 27; and *Martina the Cockroach* and *Perez the Mouse* by Gustavo and Julie Boada, February 3. Tickets are \$7. A make-n-take puppet-making workshop is offered between shows at 11 a.m. every Saturday. The cost of the workshop is \$5 for children, \$3 for adults. To register, call 612-721-2535.

Night Trains has returned from 6-9 p.m. every Saturday through February 24 at the Twin City Model Railroad Museum, 668 Transfer Road, Suite 8. With the lights turned down, dozens of model railroad layouts come to life with glowing streetlights, miniature holiday decorations and vintage passenger trains chugging through a fictional town buried in the snow. Admission is \$15, free for children age 4 and under. Visit tcmrm.org.

Travel the world without leaving St. Paul. Participate in Urban Expedition, a series of free programs offered from 1-3 p.m. Sundays at Landmark Center. The music, dance, arts and crafts of Bulgaria will be featured on January 21. Visit landmarkcenter.org.

Color Your Way: Backyard Critters, a relaxing afternoon of coloring with tea and treats, will be offered from 1-3 p.m. Sunday, January 21, at Dodge Nature Center, 1701 Charlton St. and 365 W. Marie Ave. in West St. Paul. The cost is \$10, materials included. For reservations, call 651-455-4531.

The Chamber Music Society of Minnesota will present its annual family concert at 4 p.m. Sunday, January 21, in Sundin Music Hall, 1531 Hewitt Ave. The program includes "The Tale of Peter Rabbit" by Peter Child, "Little Red Riding Hood" by Bruce Adolph and other classics. Joining violinists Ariana

and Young-Nam Kim and cellist Anthony Ross will be the Edina Children's Choir, narrator Maria Jette, flutist Greg Millerin, clarinetist David Pharris, pianist Mary Jo Gothmann and percussionist Bojan Hoover. Tickets at \$25, \$20 for seniors and free for children are available at the door or by calling 651-450-0527.

The wonderful world of words will be explored from noon-4 p.m. Sunday, January 28, at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. Learn about Minnesota authors and poets, create a handmade book to take home, or join a story circle and learn about *A Crack in the Sky: From Somalia to the USA*, a play about a young man who is inspired by poet Maya Angelou. Admission is \$12, \$10 for seniors, college students and veterans, \$6 for children ages 5-17. Call 651-259-3000.

Film

Omnifest, a collection of five films on topics in natural science, is being screened in rotation through March 1 on the 90-foot domed screen in the Science Museum of Minnesota's Omnitheater, 120 W. Kellogg Blvd. The schedule includes *Jane Goodall's Wild Chimpanzees*, *Journey Into Amazing Caves*, *Wolves*, *The Magic of Flight* and *Rocky Mountain Express*. Tickets are \$9.95, \$8.95 for seniors and children ages 4-12, with a \$2 discount for the second film on the same day. Visit smm.org or call 651-221-9444.

The Twin Cities Arab Film Festival will screen Eliane Raheb's *Those Who Remain* in a free program at 7 p.m. Friday, January 26, in the Lecture Hall of the Campus Center at Macalester College. Call 612-788-6920.

Music

Macalester-Groveland lutenists Richard Griffith and Rockford Mjos will perform solos and duets of medieval, Renaissance and contemporary music in concert at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, January 18, at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 104 S. Snelling Ave. Admission is free, but donations are appreciated. Refreshments will be served.

Seward Concert Band will play the Sounds of Winter at 7:30 p.m. Friday, January 19, in the auditorium at Sanford Middle School, 3524 42nd Ave. S., Minneapolis. The concert will feature works by Gabrieli, Bach, Rachmaninoff, Emile Waldteufel, Alfred Reed, Eric Whitacre and Gustav Holst. Admission is by donation with \$6, \$5 and \$4 suggested

for adults, seniors and children, respectively.

Ginkgo Coffeehouse, 721 N. Snelling Ave., will present singer-songwriter Ellis Paul in concert at 7:30 p.m. Friday, January 19 (tickets are \$20); a family show by Ellis Paul at 10 a.m. Saturday, January 20 (free); and guitarist Pat Donahue in concert at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, January 27 (\$18 in advance, \$20 day of show). Call 651-645-2647.

Lute-A-Thon, solo performances by local lutenists Paul Berget, Richard Griffith, Rocky Mjos, Phillip Rukavina and Thomas Walker Jr., will be presented by the Minnesota Guitar Society at 8 p.m. Saturday, January 20, in Sundin Music Hall, 1531 Hewitt Ave. Soprano Sarah Jackson will join Rukavina in a set of songs by English Renaissance composer John Dowland. Tickets are \$25. Visit mnguitar.org.

Finnish pianist Juho Pohjonen will perform the music of Mozart, Bach, Franck and Schubert in a Chopin Society recital at 3 p.m. Sunday, January 21, in the concert hall of the Fine Arts Center at Macalester College. Tickets are \$30, \$15 for full-time students. Call 612-822-0123.

"Songs My Mother Taught Me," works by Bohemian composers Dvorak, Martinu, Leos Janacek and Pavel Haas, will be performed by the Bakken Trio at 4 p.m. Sunday, January 21, at the MacPhail Center for Music, 501 Second St. S., Minneapolis. Joining violinist Stephanie Arada, cellist Pitnarry Shin and pianist Michael Kim will be violinist Sarah Grimes and violist Ken Freed. Tickets are \$25. Call 612-374-3175.

Warm up to the live music of Siam's Congo World Quartet from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Sunday, January 21, at the Como Conservatory. Admission is free. Beer, wine, pop and light snacks will be available for purchase.

Macalester College instructors James Garrick on violin and Becca Albers on viola will be joined by violinist Susie Park, violist Maiya Papach and cellist Julie Albers in a free concert on Sunday, January 21, in Mairs Concert Hall in the college's Fine Arts Center. The 7 p.m. program will feature Viola, Viola by George Benjamin, Terzetto in C Major by Dvorak and Brahms' String Quintet. Call 651-696-6808.

Thursday Musical will present performances by tuba player Charles Wazanowski, soprano Jane Thelen, flutist Beth Blackledge, and soprano and Young Artist Scholarship Competition winner Olivia Schurke on January 25. The music will begin at 10:30 a.m. in Antonello Hall at the MacPhail

Center for Music, 501 Second St. S., Minneapolis. Admission is \$15, \$6 for students. A 10 a.m. reception with free coffee and doughnuts will precede the show. Visit thursdaymusical.org.

"Hot and Cool Classics" will be performed by the St. Paul Civic Symphony in a free Winter Carnival concert at 2 p.m. Sunday, January 28, in the cortile of Landmark Center.

The Minnesota Chorale will host a sing-along of the Fauré Requiem at 4 p.m. Sunday, January 28, at Hamline Church United Methodist, 1514 Englewood Ave. Admission is free, though donations will be accepted.

Theater

Rhinoceros, playwright Eugene Ionesco's parable of social conformity and what it means to remain human in the face of the trampling herd, is being performed at 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays through January 28 at Theatre in the Round, 245 Cedar Ave. S., Minneapolis. Tickets are \$22 with discounts for students and seniors. Call 612-333-3010.

A Steady Rain, a harrowing journey into moral uncertainty where trust and loyalty struggle for survival, is playing through February 3 on the thrust stage at Gremlin Theatre, 550 N. Vandalia St. Written by Keith Huff and directed by Ellen Fenster, the drama stars Dustin Bronson and Peter Christian Hansen as childhood pals who grow up to be Chicago policemen and see their friendship put on the line. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$28, \$25 for seniors, half their age for those under 30 and whatever you can afford for the additional show at 7:30 p.m. Monday, January 22. Visit gremlintheatre.org.

Ishmael, a funny, thoughtful and harrowing tale about a schoolteacher who signs up for a whaling trip with a captain he's never met, is playing through February 4 at the Jungle Theater, 2951 Lyndale Ave. S., Minneapolis. Jack Weston, a singer with the band Pert Near Sandstone, plays all 12 characters. He is joined on stage by three other bluegrass musicians. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays and 2 and 7:30 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$35-\$47 with discounts for students, local residents and employees, and anyone under age 30. Call 612-822-7063.

Grounded, playwright George Brant's searing look at morality and modern warfare, will

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Seven-story ice palace will tower over expanded Winter Carnival

The 132nd St. Paul Winter Carnival will be extended an extra week from January 25-February 10 in connection with Super Bowl LII. The "Coolest Celebration on Earth" will have more than four dozen activities and several new attractions to entertain local supporters and out-of-town visitors, including a 70-foot-tall ice palace in Rice Park. The palace will be made of 4,000 blocks of ice and will feature six ice spires representing each member of the Royal Family.

Most carnival events are free and open to the public. Here is a look at some of the highlights:

Thursday, January 25

—The Moon Glow Pedestrian Parade will open the carnival beginning at 401 Robert St. and ending at Rice Park with live music and the lighting of the ice palace. Walkers should bring glow sticks, lighted hats and gloves, and anything else that will help light up the night. Come early and enjoy hot chocolate and cookies. The festivities start at 5:15 p.m., with the parade at 6 p.m.

Friday, January 26

—The new King Boreas, Queen Aurora and their court will be announced at the Royal Coronation at 8 p.m. at St. Paul RiverCentre (\$15 with a carnival button), followed by a free reception.

Saturday, January 27

—Jigsaw Puzzle Contest with adult and family brackets from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Cortile at Landmark Center (\$50 per four-person team).

—The 33rd annual Securian Winter Run, featuring a half-marathon, 10K, 5K and new Kids Fun Run from 9 a.m.-noon beginning at the Securian Center at Sixth and Jackson streets (\$40-\$55).

—Doggie Depot from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Union Depot, 214 E. Fourth St. There will be a pet products marketplace, pet photos, rescue dog adoptions, and the crowning of the third Winter Carnival canine king and queen.

—King Boreas Winter Triathlon at 10 a.m. at the Phalen Golf Course. The event will include a 5K run, 17K bike ride and 6K ski (\$80). New this year is a duathlon option. Visit kingboreaswintertri.com.

—Kids Day hosted by the St. Paul YMCA from 2-6 p.m. at Landmark Center, featuring live entertainment and interactive activities

for kids of all ages.

—King Boreas Grande Day Parade from 2-4 p.m. along West Seventh Street, beginning at the High Bridge and ending at Rice Park.

—Rock the Palace featuring the Klondike Kates at 6:30 p.m. and Bad Girlfriends from 9 p.m.-1 a.m. at the St. Paul Hotel, 350 Market St. (\$15 in advance, \$20 at the door). Visit klondikekates.org.

—Karneval Euro-Tanzparty featuring disco dance lessons, a costume contest, carnival games, '70s hair and makeup booth, and music from 7 p.m.-1 a.m. at the Germanic-American Institute, 301 Summit Ave. (\$15). Buy tickets at gai-mn.org.

Sunday, January 28

—Vulcan Fun Day starting at 9 a.m. at the State Fairgrounds, including free fire truck rides, celebrity visits, a snow treasure hunt and a Polar Plunge (noon-1:30 p.m.) to benefit Minnesota Special Olympics.

—UCare Jazz in the Park featuring live musical entertainment from noon-4 p.m. in Rice Park.

Tuesday, January 30

—Frozen Family Fun Night from 4-9 p.m. at Rice Park, with costumed characters, food trucks, live performers, carnival royalty, the St. Paul Mounted Police and more.

Wednesday, January 31

—Disco Night featuring live entertainment from 5-9 p.m. in Rice Park.

Friday, February 2

—Kids Quarter-Scale Car Races from 5:30-9 p.m. at the State Fairgrounds.

Saturday, February 3

—Ledermann Boot Hockey Tournament from 7 a.m.-noon at Wells Fargo WinterSkate in Rice Park.

—Amateur snow-sculpting contest from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at the State Fairgrounds.

—Family Day with live music and other entertainment from noon-11 p.m. at Landmark Center.

—Olympic Team USA's Winterfest from noon-8 p.m. in Landmark Plaza. The event will include a chance to meet Olympians Meryl Davis, Charlie White, Vonneta Flowers and Jeremy Bloom, and will include Hershey's S'moresmobile, a Bobsled Boomerang and the Oreo Curling Challenge.



A seven-story, 4,000-block ice palace in downtown's Rice Park will serve as the centerpiece for this year's Winter Carnival, opening January 25. St. Paul's annual celebration of winter has been extended to February 10 to coincide with Super Bowl LII.

—The first nighttime Polar Plunge from 6:30-8 p.m. at the Vulcan Snow Park at the State Fairgrounds. Proceeds will benefit Minnesota Special Olympics.

Sunday, February 4

—Ladies' Day from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Landmark Center, with shopping, fashion shows, Designer Purse Bingo, fitness classes and more.

Wednesday, February 7

—Fancy Hotdish Competition featuring six local chefs going head to head from 4:30-7:30 p.m. at The Lexington, 1096 Grand Ave.

Thursday, February 8

—Cinco de Mayo Night from 4-9 p.m. in Rice Park, with live entertainment, food from the West Side and a jalapeño-eating contest.

Friday, February 9

—Klondike Kate Arctic Sizzle Lunch and Show from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the Camp Bar, 490 N. Robert St. (\$25 in advance, \$30 at the door). Purchase tickets at KlondikeKates.org.

Saturday, February 10

—Vulcan Victory Torchlight Parade at 5:30 p.m. in Rice Park, followed by the overthrow of Boreas at 7 p.m., fireworks at 7:30 p.m., and the Vulcan Victory Dance from 7:30-11:30 p.m. at the InterContinental St. Paul Riverfront Hotel, 11 E. Kellogg Blvd. (\$20 in advance and \$25 at the door). For more, visit vulcanvictorydance.com.

Multiple day events

• January 25-February 10—The multi-block ice carving competition on January 25-27 in Rice Park, followed by the individual competition on February 3, with live ice carving taking place throughout the carnival.

• January 26-27—Craft and Vendor Show from 5-9 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday at the Double Tree-Hilton Hotel, 411 Minnesota St.

• January 26-February 11—Minnesota State Snow Sculpting Competition (January 26-28), Giant Snow Slide, two Polar Plunges, Vulcan Snow Day and more at the Vulcan

Snow Park at the State Fairgrounds.

• January 26-28—Autonomous Snow Plow Competition at Rice Park, featuring robotic snowplows created by college teams from the United States and Canada.

• January 27-28—Saintly City Cat Show from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday at St. Paul RiverCentre (\$3-\$4). Visit saintlycitycatclub.org.

• January 28-29—Orchid Show from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at the Como Park Conservatory (\$5).

• February 1-4—A Minnesota Made Market in Rice Park featuring local products and services.

• January 25-February 10—Winter Carnival Memorabilia Display in Landmark Center featuring the extensive collection of West End resident Marilyn DiMartino.

• February 3 and 10—Tow Up Throw Down X Competition from noon-7:30 p.m. at the State Fairgrounds. Snowboarders, skiers and snowskaters get towed up the hill and thrown down again by bungee to showcase their moves.

• February 9-10—The third annual "Freeze Your Bags Off" Frozen Bean Bag Tournament from noon-3 p.m. on Friday and Saturday on Fourth Street near the James J. Hill Library in Rice Park (\$25 per team). Visit wintercarnival.com/get-involved/competitions/freeze-your-bags-off-tournament.

• February 9 and 11—Barstool Ski Race qualifiers from 7-10 p.m. on Friday and the finals at noon on Sunday at the State Fairgrounds. Participants ride homemade sleds constructed of a barstool on skis and race down the slope.

• February 10-11—Lawn Mower Races at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday at the State Fairgrounds.

St. Paul Winter Carnival buttons are available for \$5 each, or \$19 for a collector's pack, at Cub Foods, SuperAmerica and other local retailers. For information, call 651-223-4700 or visit wintercarnival.com.

be staged by Frank Theatre from January 18-28 at Intermedia Arts, 2822 Lyndale Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Hope Cervantes stars as a fighter pilot whose career is interrupted by an unplanned pregnancy. Reassigned to a desk job operating military drones, she grows numb as she tracks terrorists by day and plays with her daughter at night. As the pressure to find a high-profile target mounts, the line between her worlds begins to blur. Call 612-724 3760 or visit franktheatre.org.

Our House, a new play that peers behind the marble facade of the Minnesota Capitol to dramatize the inner workings of state government, will be performed from January 19-28 at the Capitol. Directed by Alan Berks and Leah Cooper, it stars professional actors and actual Capitol employees as bureaucrats, legislators, aides, lobbyists, activists, journalists and tour guides. Following a preview at 2 p.m. Friday, January 19, *Our House* will be staged at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, January 20; 1:30 p.m. Sunday, January 21; 7:30 p.m. Friday, January 26; 12:30 p.m. Saturday,

January 27 (ASL-interpreted and audio-described); and 1:30 p.m. Sunday, January 28. Tickets are available in advance for \$25 (visit wlproductions.org). Some tickets will be available at the door at no charge. For information, email info@wlproductions.org.

South Minneapolis comedian Lorna Landvik will return with her one-woman improvisational *Party in the Rec Room* at 7 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, January 19 through February 17, at the Bryant-Lake Bowl, 810 W. Lake St. in Minneapolis. Tickets are \$18 in advance, \$20 on the day of show. Call 612-825-8949.

Frederick Douglass Now, a drama by playwright, actor and director Roger Guenveur Smith that weaves the story of the former slave and 19th-century African-American orator, journalist and politician through a constellation of modern American politics, power and promise, will be presented in six performances from January 25-28 at Penumbra Theatre, 270 N. Kent

St. Show times are 7:30 p.m., Thursday and Friday and 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are \$15-\$25. Call 651-224-3180 or visit penumbrateatre.org.

Playwright Hansol Jung's Cardboard Piano will open on January 26 on the thrust stage at Park Square Theatre, 20 W. Seventh Place. It tells of the daughter of an American missionary in Uganda and a local teenage girl who exchange vows in a secret wedding. When civil war encroaches on their fragile union, they cannot escape its reach. Adelin Phelps, Kiara Jackson, Michael Jemison and Ansa Akyea star. Signe V. Harriday directs. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 1 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday through February 18. Call 651-291-7005 or visit parksquaretheatre.org.

Jake Heggie's Dead Man Walking, a story of grief, grace and redemption, will be performed by the Minnesota Opera on January 27, 28 and 30 and February 1 and 3 at the Ordway Music Theater. Based on the

memoir of Sister Helen Prejean, the opera recounts her struggle to provide spiritual guidance to a murderer on death row. Seth Carico, Catherine Martin and Karen Slack star. The curtain rises at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Tuesday and Thursday; 2 p.m. Sunday; and 8 p.m. Saturday, February 3. Tickets start at \$25. Call 612-333-6669 or visit mnopera.org.

Et cetera

The Twin Cities Jewish Humor Festival will continue on Wednesday, January 24, with Books and Brewhaha, an evening with writer and artist Eli Valley and his anthology *Diaspora Boy*, a richly satirical work that unmasks the hypocrisy behind the headlines. The program begins at 7:30 p.m. at Blackstack Brewery, 755 N. Prior Ave. Warming up the crowd will be the improv troupe The Chosen Few. A book sale and signing will follow. Tickets at \$12 in advance, \$14 at the door, include a free beer.

Sports



The Wright Call

By Dave Wright

No good answers to problems with Gopher hoops

It has been one of the most troubling stories we have seen around here in a long time, and one that has led to a lot of unanswered questions. Just what did University of Minnesota men's basketball player Reggie Lynch do? How many times did he do it? Why did it take so long for this story to be told? Should he be suspended while the process unfolds? Does it make sense that he can be suspended from games but still be allowed to practice with the team? What did head coach Richard Pitino and athletic director Mark Coyle know and when did they know it? Why does it take so long for the appeals process to work itself out?

And those are just for starters. We are just getting warmed up.

If you missed it, Lynch is a college senior from Edina who transferred to the U after playing two years for Illinois State. He sat out the 2015-16 season and became a key regular for the Gophers last winter. He was the Big Ten defensive player of the year and set a school record for blocked shots in a season while averaging 8.4 points per game.

This season, he has again been a shot-blocking power (66 in 16 games) and upped his offense to 10.1 points a game. In turn, the Gophers shot out of the gate, winning 13 of their first 16 games, garnering some national buzz and NCAA tournament consideration. Then the roof caved in on Lynch—and perhaps the basketball program.

First, the school's Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action (EOAA) office concluded that Lynch violated the student conduct code on sexual misconduct and rules regarding sexual assault, stalking and relationship violence related to an incident with a 20-year-old college student in his dorm room on April 28, 2016. The EOAA recommended Lynch be suspended from school and banned from campus until no earlier than August 1, 2020. Lynch immediately appealed. A day later, a second assault that had also occurred in April 2016 was revealed. The EOAA contended Lynch should be expelled from school immediately.

Lynch hired attorney Ryan Pacyga to defend him. Pacyga did what attorneys hired for this sort of thing are supposed to do. He held a news conference, said the incident did not happen and suggested that past accusers may have colluded. He pushed for a quicker resolution and offered the theory that Lynch is the real victim here. In the process, he added several more questions that will take a while to answer.

While all this is going on, the Gophers still have half a season to play. What looked like it might be a winter to remember at Williams Arena has quickly turned into one to forget. With Lynch gone and guard Amir Coffey sidelined with a shoulder injury, the Gophers lost a close game at home and got steamrolled by 23 points at Northwestern on January 10. A record of 13-5 is normally a good thing, but you would have a hard time finding anybody smiling in Dinkytown these days.

But this too is the just the tip of the iceberg. Men's basketball is a big money sport at the U. That well may quickly dry up if the backers think they are throwing money at a program that does not come down on student-athletes who misbehave.

Division I athletics have been heading down this rabbit hole for a while. The Gopher football program was tinged by it a year ago. Some players were later exonerated, but nobody walked away feeling good about the process. New head football coach P.J. Fleck had a double rebuilding job to do. The on-field efforts were only half of the issue.

Private colleges such as St. Thomas, Macalester and St. Catherine also are required to report such incidents if they

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Holding court

Hoop talent runs deep for top-ranked Raider boys

By Bill Wagner

The Cretin-Derham Hall boys' basketball team can make some pretty good opponents look pretty bad. But that can happen when you are the No. 1-ranked team among Minnesota's Class AAAA high schools.

The Raiders, who were 10-1 overall and 4-0 in the tough Suburban East Conference through January 9, have been nothing if not impressive so far this season. They have beaten several of the state's basketball powers, including Orono, Hopkins, East Ridge, St. Cloud Tech, Apple Valley and Central. Their only loss to date was against Edina, a consistent top-10 team that was on top of its game in that contest.

CDH's latest victim was Forest Lake, which was off to an 8-2 start and was expected to challenge the Raiders on January 9. The Raiders led by a point a few minutes into the game, but the suspense ended there as CDH went on to beat Forest Lake 84-48 in a contest that was not even that close.

Time and again the Raiders outran the overmatched Rangers. And when they were not hitting their shots, the Raiders were outrebounding their opponent. Senior Sy Chatman led the way with 25 points, followed by seniors Daniel Oturu with 19 and Jacob Prince with 13. Ten Raiders made it on the score sheet.

The Rangers entered the game with a reputation for being good shooters, but the toughness and size of CDH's front line made any penetration to the basket virtually impossible. The Raiders' defense played havoc with the Forest Lake attack and coach Jerry Kline started substituting for his starting lineup with 13 minutes left in the game.

Four days earlier against Mounds View, the Raiders exhibited the same kind of scoring balance with 14 different players contributing. In the 89-59 win over the Mustangs, junior Jaeden King led CDH with 18 points, followed by senior Caleb Davis with 13 and Oturu with 12.

The Raiders can go 10-deep in their rotation, and as Kline pointed out, they have a lineup that includes "a Big Ten center and a Division I point guard—players that you can't screw up with."

Kline always has been a defense-first kind of coach, and as dominant as his squad has been thus far he thinks there is room for improvement in that area. He noted that his team was giving up around 69 points a game, which he wants to see come down significantly.

"When we have it all going with our defense, we're a very tough club to handle," he said. "But defense is an acquired taste."

CDH's shining cast is led by 6-foot-10 Gophers-bound Oturu, who can single-handedly frustrate an opposing attack. Oturu had 64 blocks in the season's first nine games, to go along with his 18-point average and rebounding strength. "He can do it all," Kline said.

Not far behind is senior power forward Chatman, who is a steadfast de-



Daniel Oturu battles beneath the boards during the Raiders' 84-48 win over Forest Lake on January 9. At right, Ryan Larson goes for a lay-up early in the game. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

fender and averages almost 19 points an outing.

Senior Ryan Larson, who goes about 6 feet but plays a lot bigger and is a Division I-caliber point guard, contributes 12 points a game. However, the way he penetrates a defense and then zips the ball to one of his dunking teammates is a work of art. Larson also exhibits a feistiness that keeps up CDH's energy level and enables them to control a game. "He's our engine," Kline said.

Guard King averages 16 points a game and is a good offensive option. Small forward Prince, meanwhile, handles a lot of the physical stuff, whether it is grabbing a big rebound or exerting some muscle down low. "He's a glue guy," Kline said.

And nobody can boast a better bench than this year's Raiders. Davis logs key minutes at backup guard and has a nice offensive touch. Senior Jaylen Newton comes in for spot duty at guard, sophomore Amari Carter gets time at the small forward slot and senior Charlie Dennis is available at backup guard.

Kline said his team's best game of the year was an 86-73 victory against perennial power Hopkins in early December. It was made even more notable because



it came on the Royals' home court and with losing Oturu to a sprained ankle just minutes into the game.

"We came out and attacked—hit them really hard," Kline said. "We were getting to the rim."

This year's Raiders have a lot going for them, and it will take an outstanding team playing an outstanding game to oust them from the playoffs. CDH has been to the state Class AAAA tournament three times since Kline took over as coach, including 2011, 2014 and 2017. The Raiders took last year's consolation title and have a good shot at returning to state this winter.

Upping their game

Wins follow as the Scots become more confident in boys' hockey

BY BILL WAGNER

The Highland Park boys' hockey team just keeps getting better. The Scots, who resurfaced in 2010 after not having their own varsity hockey program for more than two decades, were 10-4 overall as of January 13. That included a first-place finish in the Waseca Invitational over the holidays, where they defeated Austin, La Crescent and Waseca by a combined score of 13-4.

The Scots were also 3-2 in the Two Rivers Conference, including a solid 6-1 dismantling of Mora/Milaca in mid-December that second-year head coach Mark Prokop said represented a milestone. "We'd never won in Mora before," said Prokop, whose team won 16 games last year. "We showed some great zone time and some great puck control. We took the momentum in that game."

Prokop said that his players, which also include Central students for the second year, are

more and more confident that they can improve on last year's playoff effort as the season unfolds. Last year, the Scots posted their first postseason victory with a win over Simley in the first round of sections, but were then eliminated by St. Paul Academy.

"I think our players have an idea of what it takes (to win in the postseason)," he said. "Our goal this year is to be a sixth or fifth seed."

From the outset of the season, the Scots have shown that they can be competitive against a lot of teams. Highland lost its home opener to Johnson 2-1 as the Governors dominated play for much of the game. However, senior goalie Jack Branby kept the Scots close.

Branby has been a model of steadiness since he first arrived as a Scots regular his freshman year. As of this writing, he had made 89 consecutive starts and has a .944 save percentage. He also logged his first shutout of the season in a 4-0 win over Waseca.

Prokop said Branby moves well and can



The Scots' Samuel Blindt (18) and Charlie Dombrow (9) fight for the puck with River Fall's Braedon Harer in Highland's 3-2 win at home on January 13. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

make a save even when screened because of his good positioning. He described him as a thinking-man's goalie who is always ready to play. "I like his preparation," Prokop said. "He's all business. He's in the zone."

Gabe Nelson, a 6-foot-2 senior center, plays at one speed—all out. Nelson leads the team with 13 goals and 12 assists, including a rocket to the high glove side in the team's only tally against Johnson in the home opener.

"It was a great individual effort, but that's the kind of player he is," Prokop said. "His individual play is unbelievable. He battles well in the corners and he can shoot."

The left wing on Nelson's line is manned by junior Evan Lindstrom, a strong, physical player with great hands and solid playmaking skills who was second in scoring with 19 points. Senior Alex Fadden is the right-side wing with a great shot and had added 15 points.

On defense, senior Billy Wengler shows a lot of grit and knows the value of physical play to defend in his own zone. Along with the line centered by Nelson, Wengler spends a lot of

time playing point on Highland's power plays. Wengler has adjusted well after being moved back to defense from forward.

As one might expect with a developing program, depth is still a concern, and Prokop acknowledges that he spends his share of time experimenting with various line and defense combinations. However, he also noted that one can tell just how far the team has progressed with a total of 38 players on the junior varsity and varsity, and a talented group of Bantams moving up next year.

"There were 12 freshmen who joined us four years ago who are now seniors," said Prokop, who was an assistant before taking over the head coaching duties last season.

There is more evidence of how far the team has come these days. Prokop said he used to have a hard time scheduling games with a lot of teams because they thought Highland wouldn't be challenging enough. But word has spread that the Scots have upped their game.

"Now, they call us," he said.



The Scots pose for a photo after sweeping three games to win the Waseca Invitational hockey tournament on December 29. It was the first championship for Highland since it brought its varsity boys' team back in 2010 and its first shutout. PHOTO BY VINEETA SAWKAR BRANBY

Sports Shorts

The St. Thomas Academy hockey team will host a Military Appreciation Night during its game against South St. Paul at 7 p.m. Thursday, January 25, at the school's ice arena at 950 Mendota Heights Road. Free admission will be given for those with a military I.D. All active members of the military, along with veterans, and their immediate families are invited to at-

tend. Contests and activities will be held, and the academy's honor guard and band will participate. Call 651-454-4570.

The Minnesota Sportsmen's Boat, Camping & Vacation Show will be presented from Thursday through Sunday, January 18-21, at St. Paul RiverCentre, 175 W. Kellogg Blvd. The

48th annual show will feature the newest gear for hunting, camping and fishing, along with exotic animals, live whitetail deer, a trout pond, and plenty of seminars. Admission is \$2.50-\$9, and free for children 5 and younger. For information, call 651-340-4848 or visit stpaulsportshow.com.

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occur. "Each year, Public Safety comes in to talk to us about how to handle these issues," said longtime Tommies athletic director Steve Fritz.

The main difference is that even a successful athletic program like St. Thomas' is not subject to the media glare that is cast on Gophers' athletics. A 2-25 Gopher men's basketball team is still going to get more public attention than a 25-2 MIAC team. It is just a fact of life.

The pressure to win at the Division I level is tremendous. In the Lynch case, Pitino contended the proper vetting was done in advance and there was no way to know that trouble was looming when Lynch joined the team. And it is true that college students can make mistakes that could not be predicted.

But we live in a very public era when any malfeasance by a college athlete—whether it be in the classroom, on social media or in the dorm—is going to get attention and the program itself is going to suffer from it. And coaches will, at times, lose their jobs because of it. Just ask former Gopher football coach Tracy Claeys.

The face of athletics has changed and schools like Minnesota are having to make tough decisions in accepting

*But we live in a very public era
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attention and the program itself is
going to suffer from it.*

a student who may be a talented athlete but pose a potential problem as well.

Highland skiers rounding into form

The state Nordic ski meet on February 15 at Giants Ridge in Biwabik is the first of the winter tournaments on the Minnesota State High School League's schedule. Last year, the Highland Park boys' team surprised many people with their third-place finish. Head coach Brad Moening had to rebuild

that team due to graduation the year before.

Judging from the results at the Loppet Invitational on January 6, the rebuilding plan is apparently well ahead of schedule. The Scots' won the Loppet event, considered to be the biggest invitational in the metro area, with a team effort. Ben Earl-Moseley, one of three seniors on the team, came in second in the 5K classical event. The tandem of freshman Otto Schmidt and senior Joey Temali also took second in the sprint relay. "We have a very deep team," Moening said.

The Highland Park girls' team, which is one of the youngest in the state with four freshmen and four 8th-graders on the 11-player roster, also won the Loppet Invitational. The freshman pair of Celeste Alden and Maeva Moening won the sprint relay. Molly Moening, an 8th-grader, took top honors in the 5K skating event, while sophomore Caroline Harding was fourth in the classical race. "It's a unique team," coach Moening said.

Highland's varsity squads were both ranked in the top 10 in the state and were undefeated so far this season. The Section 3A tournament is right around the corner on February 6 at Theodore Wirth Park in Minneapolis—the same site where the Scots skied so well at the Loppet Invitational.

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

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30 1 2 3 4 5 6	4 5 6 7 8 9 10
7 8 9 10 11 12 13	11 12 13 14 15 16 17
14 15 16 17 18 19 20	18 19 20 21 22 23 24
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MARCH	APRIL
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MAY	JUNE
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JULY	AUGUST
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SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER
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NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
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11 12 13 14 15 16 17	9 10 11 12 13 14 15
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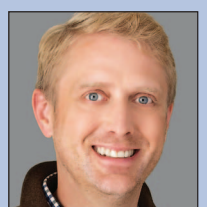
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First time on the market! This bright, sunny first floor unit has its own private courtyard. Features include a spacious 2750 sq ft, 3BR/2BA, formal dining room, den, sunroom, master bedroom suite, new stainless steel appliances and a 1 car garage. 436 Portland Ave.

SARAH KINNEY
651-282-9621 • \$589,000



JUST BLOCKS TO LAKE NOKOMIS!

Two story, 3 bedroom, 2 bath. This home features an updated kitchen with farmhouse sink & dishwasher. Main floor bedroom, bath & laundry. Formal dining room with hardwood floors. Upper level has two bedrooms & a new full bath. Fully fenced yard and double garage.

DANIEL BUCHEN
651-431-8833 • \$239,900



HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS IN THE HEART OF HIGHLAND!

1210 Bayard offers stunning new kitchen with Bosch appliances, beverage refrigerator, induction cook top, quartz and stainless, spacious main floor space with family room, 3 large BRs up and lower level fun room, with private 62.5 wide yard. Call Lolly for details!

LOLLY MCNEELY SALMEN
612-810-4138 • \$515,000



COMING SOON 3BR TUDOR!

Maintenance-free stucco with 2 NEW baths, master suite, carpet thru-out. Refinished hardwood floors, NEW kitchen w/granite and stainless appliances. Fireplace, central air, 2+car garage - Beat the Spring Market!

GARY FABEL
651-334-3659 • \$379,900



PARK TOWERS!

This luxurious 23rd floor condo features 2/BR, 3/BA, bright sunny open spaces with deluxe accoutrements, panoramic views and heated parking. Located in the historic Rice Park neighborhood with a short walk to the Ordway and Xcel. 59 4th Street #23E.

SARAH KINNEY
651-282-9621 • \$725,000



New Price!

CONVERTED MANSION!

Elegant 3-level condo with panoramic river bluff views, original parlor, library & dining room all meticulously restored. Features include 2,517 sqft, 2 BR, 3 BA, fabulous common areas and a 2/c garage. 302 Summit Ave.

SARAH KINNEY
651-282-9621 • \$695,000



SPLENDID RENOVATION!

This Cathedral Hill home features 5/BR, 4/BA, an updated kitchen, first floor family room, a master BR, wine cellar, new 3-car garage, a charming 2/BR carriage house with a secluded courtyard. All set on a third acre lot. 435 Portland Ave.

SARAH KINNEY
651-282-9621 • \$1,195,000



CLASSIC TUDOR!

A stunning restoration/renovation. Features include 4/BR, 5/BA, a new kitchen, new baths, leaded glass windows, gorgeous wdwk, slate roof and copper gutters. Beautifully set on a spacious corner lot. 1400 Summit Ave.

SARAH KINNEY
651-282-9621 • \$1,199,000

