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VILLAGER

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With zoning study as yet unfinished...

Builder unveils \$50 million plan for Shepard-Davern

by Jane McClure

Even as the Highland District Council prepares to sign off on the Shepard-Davern Small Area Plan, one developer has unveiled a \$50 million proposal for that portion of the neighborhood bounded by West 7th Street, Davern Street and Norfolk Avenue.

Ron Christenson of Christenson Building Corporation of Minneapolis and former Thorpe Brothers Realty owner Sam Thorpe want to remove more than 40 homes and two businesses in the area and replace them with a hotel, a 10-screen movie theater with two floors of office space above, two other office buildings, two or three restaurants, two retail buildings and a two-level parking ramp.

Christenson believes there is a great demand for more restaurant, office and retail space in that area.

He likes the idea of combining such developments with a theater since parking can be easily shared. The two office buildings would each have 30,000 square feet of tuck-under and at-grade parking. The project also could include a 30-unit apartment building to address any concerns about the loss of housing, Christenson said.

"We're still looking at what it would take to make things work," Christenson said. "I think it's a great location."

So do several other developers who have been eyeing the Shepard-Davern area for some time. One of them is Jerry Trooien of the JLT Group of St. Paul. Trooien purchased the former Unisys plant at Shepard Road and Davern Street several years ago and redeveloped it as the RiverBank Business Center,

Shepard-Davern/see page 5



Color their world. Jessica Robinson (left) 12, Tony Verril, 8, and Nicole Verril, 10, couldn't wait for spring to work its magic in the garden. Last week they laid into this Eleanor Avenue sidewalk with a palette of pastel chalk. Photo by Mike Long.

Light-rail transit planners get heavy dose of public opinion

Residents and business people cast a wary eye on Ramsey County's vision for Riverview Corridor

by Jane McClure

How to bridge the Mississippi River is one issue that supporters of a Riverview Corridor light-rail transit line must address. Bridging the gap in public trust is apparently another.

Questions and concerns about the Riverview Corridor planning process have prompted the Highland District Council to dedicate its annual meeting to the proposed transit project. The meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, April 22, at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy.

Ramsey County commissioners, Regional

Rail Authority staff and their consultants say that no decisions have been made about the alignment of the Riverview Corridor or about what type of transit should be employed there. However, many area residents and business people remain skeptical.

"You keep saying that no decision has been made," Highland District Council president Shawn Bartsh told county representatives at a March 25 public hearing on the Riverview Corridor, "but it's hard to trust the Regional Rail Authority when every newspaper article is about light-rail transit. I think residents are frightened that a decision has already been

made."

According to Bartsh, the greatest fears center on the idea of light-rail tracks being laid on West 7th Street. "You take away the businesses' parking and they're gone," she said.

The public hearing was sponsored by the Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority and Federal Transportation Administration. A \$1.15 million study of the Riverview Corridor will not be completed until March 2000.

According to Ramsey County commissioner and Regional Rail Authority chairman Tony Bennett, the county has not determined the route nor the mode of transit in the

Riverview Corridor. "We may determine that nothing should happen," he said.

County officials assured the 40 people in attendance that they are not trying to force a decision on the public. "If we don't have the support of the community, then we don't have a project," said Myrna Valdez of the Parsons Brinckerhoff engineering consulting firm, which is conducting the Riverview study.

The Riverview Corridor extends from St. Paul's near East Side to Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. In addition to im-

Riverview/see page 9

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Merriam Park flees cloud of hazardous fumes

Chemical emission at Co-operative Plating causes evacuation of six blocks

by Jane McClure

Chemical fumes that forced the evacuation of more than two dozen Merriam Park and Snelling-Hamline homes and businesses last month will be discussed at two upcoming neighborhood meetings.

The Snelling-Hamline Community Council will review the issue during its meeting at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, April 8, at Liberty State Bank, 176 N. Snelling Ave. The Merriam Park Community Council will do likewise at its meeting at

7:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 14, at the Merriam Park Community Center, 2000 St. Anthony Ave. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) staff will attend both meetings to discuss the incident, which took place around 4:00 p.m. on March 22 at Co-operative Plating, 1605 Iglehart Ave.

Police and fire department personnel responded to the scene after receiving a call that yellowish-orange fumes were spewing from the plant's rooftop vent. The fumes were created when workers poured a sulfuric-nitric acid mixture

into a 3,000-gallon waste collection tank. Assistant St. Paul Fire Chief Al Bataglia said the workers thought the tank was empty, when in actuality there were 3 to 4 inches of metal residue in the bottom.

"When the sulfuric acid came in contact with the metal, it caused the metal to break down," Bataglia said. That generated heat and a cloud of fumes.

Firefighters evacuated 26 workers from the plant and worked with police

Chemical emission/see page 5

Seven area projects among 42 vying for STAR grants

Forty-two applicants with proposals totaling \$716,115 are competing this year for funds through the city of St. Paul's Neighborhood Sales Tax Revitalization (STAR) small grants program.

The city has not yet determined how much money will be available in 1999, according to Bob Hammer of the St. Paul Department of Planning and Economic Development. In past years the city has allocated between \$300,000 and \$400,000 in small grants through the STAR program.

Seven of the proposed projects are from the Villager area, including improvements at the Edcumbe Recreation Center, Mattocks Park, Linwood A+ Elementary School and Adams School. Each of the four projects are seeking \$20,000 for new playground equipment. The Adams project includes rectifying drainage problems on the playground.

The Highland Business Association is seeking \$20,000 for the fourth phase of its Highland Village improvement project. This phase would include the installation of new benches and improvements to the medians and planters in that commercial district.

The Summit Court Homeowners Association at 442 Summit Ave. is seeking \$16,000 for porch renovation, tuck-pointing and the rehabilitation of window trim, soffits and fascia.

Artscrap, an art education program and art supply store on St. Clair Avenue, is seeking \$13,000 to install new flooring, signs and a handicapped-accessible bathroom and to repair a water-damaged wall.

Of the 42 requests for small grants, 18 are for parks, playgrounds or other outdoor facilities, 12 are for housing projects, and 12 are for business or economic development projects.

City crackdown on problem rental properties proposed

A proposal calling for the inspection of one- and two-unit rental properties that have generated neighborhood complaints has been introduced by St. Paul City Council President Dan Bostrom. It will be the subject of a public hearing at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 14, at City Hall.

Under the proposal, rental units would not be inspected unless there were excessive police calls to that address, exterior property code violations such as trash in the yard, or a petition with at least five signatures. However, all landlords would be charged an annual fee of \$20 in addition to a one-time fee of \$100 for a single-family house and \$125 for a du-

plex. The fees are partly why the ordinance is opposed by the St. Paul Association of Responsible Landlords.

The ordinance would affect about 9,100 rental properties citywide. Owner-occupied properties would be exempt.

The proposal is similar to one brought forward in 1997 by Bostrom and then-City Council member Bobbi Megard. The Merriam Park Community Council and the University of St. Thomas supported that ordinance as a way of cracking down on problem property owners in the neighborhood surrounding the campus.

The original ordinance, which called for the inspection of all one- and two-unit rental properties, was passed by the City Council but vetoed by Mayor Norm Coleman, who objected to penalizing all landlords, not just those with problem properties.

Utility easements hold up Crocus Hill townhouse plan

Mendota Homes' plan to construct eight townhouses at 5 Crocus Hill has been put on hold. Two adjacent properties hold utility easements on the lot in question and the owners of one of them, James and Bonnie D'Aquila, have indicated they will not allow construction on their easement, according to their attorney, Robert Hensley.

Erin Mathern of Mendota Homes said the company is willing to work with neighbors and modify its plans. However, Hensley said he sees no way that the project can be built without encroaching on his clients' easement.

Nearby residents have been fighting the development since late last year. Their request for a site plan review was rejected by the city. The Board of Zoning Appeals approved several variances for the project, and its decision was upheld upon appeal to the City Council in January.

The proposed townhouses would be built on a steep slope between Crocus Hill and Grand Avenue. Neighbors have cited concerns about the loss of green space and trees, the likelihood of soil erosion, the size of the project, the possibility of spillover parking in the neighborhood, and the need for a driveway entrance on a curve of Grand Avenue. The neighbors have argued that the variances and site plan should be reviewed as a package rather than approved piecemeal.

Mendota Homes had intended to return to the BZA in March for additional variances,

but those plans have been postponed, Mathern said.

Highland council complains about newspaper dispensers

The proliferation of outdoor newspaper dispensers along the thoroughfares of St. Paul has raised the hackles of at least two district councils in the area. The Highland District Council has sent a letter to city officials complaining about the dispensers. The Summit Hill Association has discussed the issue but has not taken any action.

The city has also been fielding complaints about the appearance and placement of the newspaper boxes. City staff members are now reviewing the regulations governing the boxes, according to Dan Smith, legislative aide to City Council member Mike Harris. They are also trying to determine whether all the boxes have the required \$5.00 permit.

A recent count turned up more than 100 newspaper boxes on the streets of Highland Park. The number of boxes along Grand Avenue has also increased in recent months, although no count was available.

Area residents have complained that the newspaper boxes are ugly, impede pedestrians and obstruct the vision of pedestrians and motorists, according to Highland District Council member Greg McGee. Others have complained about some boxes being chained to light posts and other street fixtures.

The Highland District Council passed a resolution on March 18 asking the city to verify that all newspaper boxes in Highland have the required permits and are placed appropriately. The resolution asks the city to prohibit chaining boxes to public property or placing boxes where they impede access to businesses. It also asks the city to limit the number of boxes to six per block and to three at any one location.

Senior housing group plans to buy Merriam Park site

Episcopal Health and Housing Services (EHHS) plans to purchase 2.4 acres of vacant property at the southwest corner of University and Fairview avenues in order to expand its services to elderly people. The property had been the site of car dealerships for many years. Most recently a furniture store occupied the site, but the building was torn down

months ago.

EHHS is the parent company of the Episcopal Church Home, which has been located in the Merriam Park neighborhood since 1894. The company provides housing, nursing home care and other services to the elderly.

Company representatives have been discussing a possible office-residential development with city staff in recent months. On March 24 the St. Paul City Council, acting as the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) board, approved financing for the project and St. Paul's participation in a revenue bond issue of up to \$18.25 million. That amount will be divvied up among EHHS and similar facilities in Minneapolis and Fargo.

The St. Paul portion of the bond issue will be no higher than \$7 million. About \$5 million will be used to refund bonds issued in 1991 for the 40-unit Iris Park Commons senior housing facility at 490 E. Lynnhurst Ave., which is run by EHHS. Iris Park and the 131-bed Episcopal Church Home at 1879 Feronia Ave. would also get some needed building improvements, new equipment and furnishings with the funds.

Part of St. Paul's bond proceeds would be used to acquire the University Avenue property and pay some of the construction costs.

Council to reconsider joining lawsuit against gun makers

The St. Paul City Council will reconsider a proposal to join in a national lawsuit against gun manufacturers on April 14.

Ward 1 council member Jerry Blakey introduced the measure in March, asking St. Paul Police Chief William Finney and City Attorney Clayton Robinson to research the matter and report back to the council. Chicago, New Orleans, Atlanta and Miami have filed similar lawsuits and Minneapolis is considering doing the same.

The lawsuit is being staunchly opposed by the firearms industry and gun owner groups. A bill pending before the Minnesota Legislature would make it illegal for any city in the state to file such a lawsuit. Blakey has been among those testifying against the bill.

In their individual lawsuits, the cities claim that gun manufacturers have failed to incorporate adequate safety devices in their products. Blakey is also concerned about the proliferation of guns. According to him, federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms statistics indicate that states with weak gun control laws have higher gun sales, and many guns sold there make their way to states with more stringent controls.

News briefs compiled by Jane McClure.

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City policy for leasing parks gets hearing

by Jane McClure

Whether or not St. Paul park land should be leased to private organizations will be discussed at a public hearing before the St. Paul Parks and Recreation Commission at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 14, at the Wilder Recreation Center, 958 Jessie St.

The commission will review the work of the Mayor's Leasing Committee, which has recommended that leases of one year or longer be approved by the City Council and that leases of five years or longer receive a more extensive public review. The current use of a park, the public purpose of the lease and its possible benefits and drawbacks should be considered in the process, the committee stated.

The city currently leases East Side, Frogtown and West Side recreation centers to the Boys and Girls Club. The city also leases land along the Mississippi River to the St. Paul Yacht Club. The Circus of the Star youth performance group has proposed leasing park land near the Highland Park pavilion if it succeeds in raising \$1.6 million for a practice and performance facility there.

Peggy Lynch, executive director of the Friends of the Parks and Trails of St. Paul and Ramsey County, said the city needs a consistent policy on leasing. Lynch said her organization is concerned about the lack of public involvement in leasing decisions, the rationale for current leases and their excessive length, which in some cases extends for 30 to 50 years.

For a copy of the proposed policy, call 651-266-6447.



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Shepard-Davern /from page 1

now home to 1,800 US Bank employees. "We've told the city that we also may have an interest in that site," Trooien said of the triangular area that Christenson is considering buying.

The Highland District Council will hear comments and vote on the Shepard-Davern plan, which will function as a blueprint for future redevelopment in the area, at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, April 8, at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. The council postponed action on the plan in March because of the concerns of Shepard-Davern residents over the loss of housing.

Christenson has been receptive to early criticism of his plans and has already made changes to them, according to Highland District Council representatives and staff from the city's Department of Planning and Economic Development (PED). Early versions of the plan were "very suburban-looking," with buildings surrounded by a sea of parking, said PED Southwest Team leader Amy Filice.

Christenson's plan seems to fit with the proposed Shepard-Davern plan, which calls for the redevelopment of part of the neighborhood for commercial uses, according to Shawn Bartsh, president of the Highland District Council. "The small area plan has already had an effect on the proposed development," she said, "which is what you want a small area plan to do. But we haven't adopted the plan yet."

"We've made it very clear to the developer that we're still in the middle of a process," Filice said. "The plan is in the hands of the district council, and then it has a process to follow (before being adopted by the City Council)."

Shepard-Davern area homeowners say they have been approached by several real estate agents and developers in recent months.

They have mixed feelings about the Small Area Plan and Christenson's proposal.

Graham Avenue resident Cliff Nash has indicated he would like to write an alternative small area plan that would preserve housing in the area.

Munster Avenue resident Terry Dempsey does not want to move. "A Dempsey has lived in this house since 1914, ever since it was built," he said.

Sue Bielinski and her family recently renovated their Graham Avenue home after a fire damaged it last year. She said they have postponed any additional improvements until they know what will happen to their neighborhood.

The Shepard-Davern plan is expected to be approved by the City Council and Planning Commission this summer. The city intends to use the plan and other zoning mechanisms to guide redevelopment in an area bounded by West 7th Street, the Mississippi River bluffs and Homer Street. However, it will be up to individual developers to buy up parcels and assemble a site.

Christenson and real estate agent Ken Brooks of the C. Chase Company have met with area homeowners and hope to send out purchase offers on their properties any day now. Christenson concedes that his plan is only a concept at this point. Though he is free to buy the property, zoning changes and city code variances would likely be required before any buildings are demolished or new structures built.

Another issue still to be hashed out is the amount of public subsidy Christenson will ask for to carry out his project. The developer has discussed public subsidies with PED staff members and City Council member Mike Harris, who represents the area, but none of the parties to those discussions was willing to



Christenson Building Corporation has proposed replacing 40-plus single-family homes and two businesses with this \$50 million office and retail development.

say how much money was mentioned.

Christenson said the project will need some level of assistance. Harris' legislative aide, Dan Smith, said that Harris is concerned that the project not require a large public subsidy. "Mike has said that he will not take anything to the Housing and Redevelopment Authority that requires a large amount of public assistance," Smith said.

Meanwhile, Trooien intends to begin work this spring on a parking ramp adjacent to his

RiverBank Business Center, and in the months ahead he hopes to announce other plans for Shepard-Davern. In the past year he has considered expanding his office building and constructing a hotel and service station on property he owns east of the Shepard-Davern intersection. Trooien said that from what he has seen of Christenson's plan, it complements his own. However, he questioned whether the area could support two hotels.

Chemical emission from Co-operative Plating causes evacuation /from page 1

to evacuate the homes and businesses in an area bounded by Concordia Avenue, Asbury Street, Marshall Avenue and Fry Street. By 7:00 p.m., a hazardous materials team determined that it was safe to return to the area.

Traffic was blocked in the area from Marshall to University avenues, which in turn backed up traffic for more than 2 miles on I-94. The streets and freeway exits were not reopened until 7:30 p.m.

After investigating the incident the following day, the St. Paul Fire Department ordered Co-Operative Plating to load its corrosive

materials into clean 55-gallon plastic drums and dispose of them properly. None of the plating company's facilities nor equipment were damaged.

Owner Victor Rosenbloom did not return calls to comment on the incident.

Neighbors have wrangled since the mid-1970s over contamination problems at the plating company, which uses acids, solvents and caustic sodas to electroplate different types of metals. Hazardous materials discharged by the company in the past eroded storm-sewer lines around the plant. In 1988,

the company was fined \$162,500 by the Metropolitan Waste Control Commission after 90 local and federal sewer discharge rule violations were discovered. A few years ago, neighbors, the MPCA and Co-operative Plating began working together to monitor air emissions and water discharges and to test soil around the plant.

"I think we anticipated that sooner or later there'd be a spill or emission," said Carroll Avenue resident Doni Hamann, who was returning home from the grocery store when the incident occurred. Hamann said the up-

coming meetings will give residents a chance to get more details about the incident.

"I think we need to be able to ask questions and see if there are ways to prevent this from happening again," she said.

No workers or neighbors were injured as a result of the incident. One police officer suffered throat and eye irritation and was treated at a local hospital. Bataglia said neighbors were evacuated in the event the emission levels escalated. At no time during the incident did the emissions exceed thresholds for toxicity, he said.

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VIEWPOINT

MISCH-MASCH

MICHAEL MISCHKE

The new tool for economic growth

In an all-too-rare example of a pressing public policy need being met with a creative solution forged by industry, labor, public and private education and city and state government, the new \$8.3 million training center at Ford Motor Company's Twin Cities Assembly Plant opens this month in Highland Park. One can't help but believe it represents the wave of the future for business, education, and quite possibly even government.

What is the pressing need? It was identified succinctly in the title of a report issued earlier this year by the Citizens League, a Minneapolis-based "public policy think tank where regular folks do the thinking," as League finance director Phil Jenni put it. Entitled "Help Wanted: More Opportunities Than People," the report delved into the causes of the current labor shortage in the Twin Cities. The League found that the problem is far more complex than you might think. Rather than merely the product of a booming economy of late, the labor shortage is expected to be with us for decades due to record low unemployment rates, changing demographics in the working-age population, and wide discrepancies between the skills people have and the skills employers need—whether in high-end or low-end jobs.

In an era when a continually changing economy is likely to be chronically short of workers, the report states, the most effective step we can take to maintain economic growth is to improve worker productivity. And the surest way to do that is to provide workers with the skills they need, both today and tomorrow as the workplace continues to change.

"It is widely believed that workforce training and development will be the tool for economic development in the future," according to the League, "and it is particularly critical in the new economy, which puts a premium on high-tech and other advanced skills."

Recognizing that the report identifies the problem without recommending specific solutions, the Citizens League recently launched a follow-up study that will attempt to answer these questions, among others:

- Why are the demand and supply systems for trained workers not better aligned today?
- How can we realign the workforce training system to be demand-driven (i.e., by employers) rather than supply-driven (i.e., by training providers)?
- What alternative strategies are available to complement or compete with the existing workforce training system?

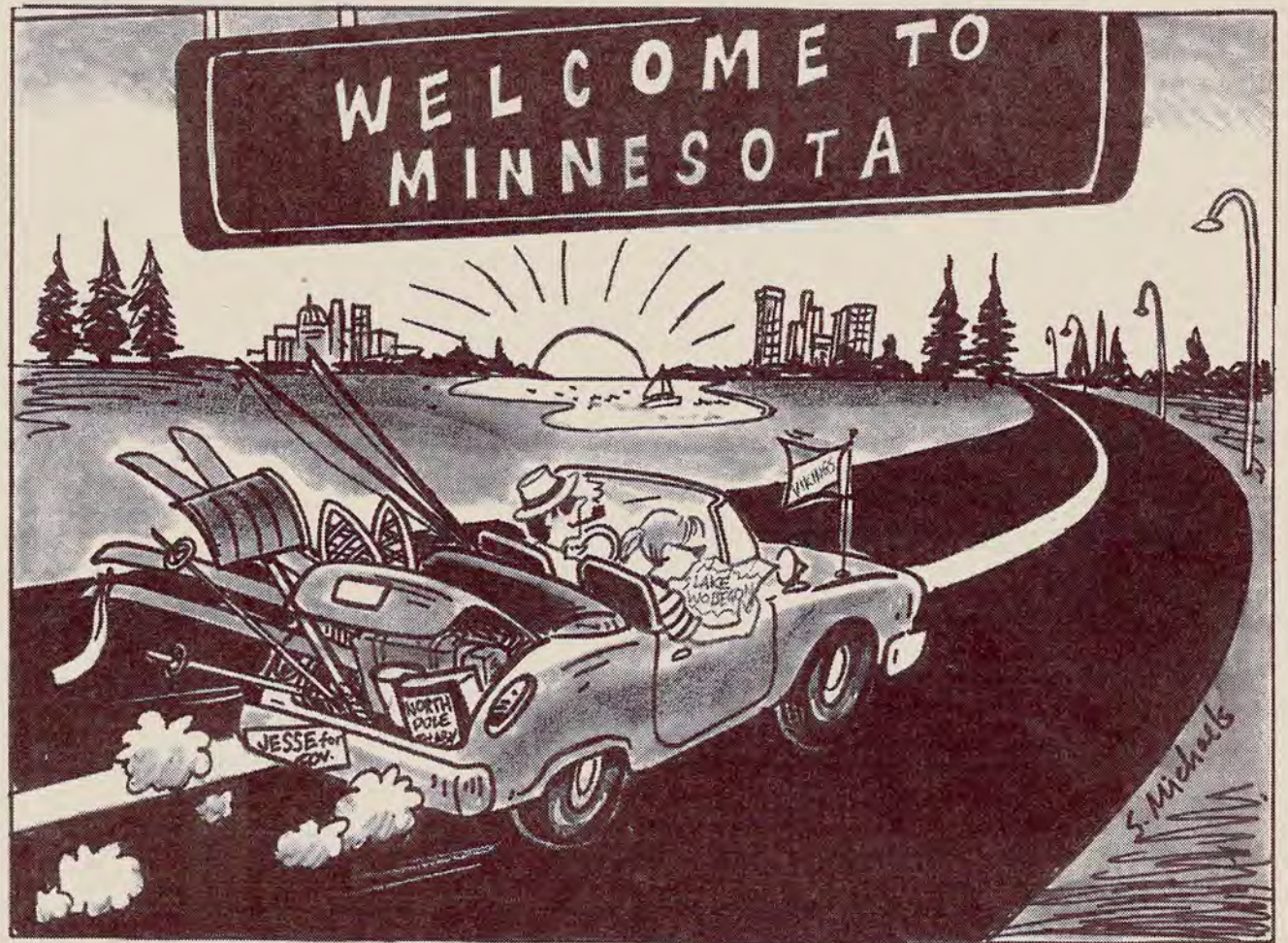
One of those strategies is Ford's new training center. After three years of planning and construction, the 39,000-square-foot facility will mark its grand opening on April 26.

The unusual partnership that created the training center includes Ford, the United Auto Workers, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, the University of St. Thomas, the city of St. Paul and the state of Minnesota. MnSCU will conduct courses there for Ford workers as well as students at 36 colleges around the state. UST will conduct undergraduate and graduate courses for Ford employees as well as for its own students, there and on both its St. Paul and Minneapolis campuses. The facility will be owned by the state and maintained by Ford. It was built with \$5 million from the state, \$800,000 from Ford and \$200,000 from the city. It was furnished with the latest in audiovisual, teleconferencing, computer and robotics equipment with \$2.3 million from Ford and the UAW.

The new training center does far more than answer Ford's need to continuously upgrade the skills of its 2,000 workers, as important as that is to Ford, its employees and the Twin Cities economy. It gives tens of thousands of students from here and across Minnesota an opportunity to augment their education with training that cannot currently be found anywhere else in the state.

"The days of going to college and then going to work are over," said John Povolny, University of St. Thomas associate director of manufacturing systems and engineering. "You're going to go to high school, to college or to any other school, and then you're going to continue lifelong learning."

Ford's new training center is a giant leap forward in answering the needs of employees and employers alike well into the future. We all benefit by its opening this month.



Minnesota: Love it or you're sure to leave it

by Neal C. Bernards

If you're new to the state of Minnesota, welcome to our humble home. You've undoubtedly come because of our hot job market and vaunted standard of living. Well, to help you adjust to your new environs, here's a brief overview of the native populace.

We Minnesotans are a well-mannered, nicely groomed, industrious sort who thrive on caffeine, pan-fried walleye and the notion that quality of life is actually something tangible.

We're proud of Minnesota. We've produced Hubert Humphrey, Post-It Notes, Judy Garland, Cheerios, The Artist and the firm belief that sitting on an overturned pail on a frozen lake over an open hole attempting to snare a 14-ounce fish is a noble pursuit.

For this, we're ridiculed. Soon you'll be too. Your friends back home will question your sanity for having moved to such a place. You'll soon be joining us while we silently endure Hollywood's jabs about our icy aquatic obsessions (*Grumpy Old Men*), our accents (*Fargo*) and our football teams' travails ("Coach").

Truth be told, we enjoy the attention. Without it, we'd be a forgotten place, like North Dakota. Learn to revel in it.

Our communal sense of inferiority is so ingrained that some people yearn to have Minnesota's capital city considered a "big city." Still, St. Paulites enjoyed the uproar over the governor's comments to David Letterman about the confusing street system. Hey, at least we got mentioned.

But if being a "big city" involves surly service, gridlock and corruption, then forget it. In fact, we recently bounced our Department of Natural Resources commissioner for having fished once without a license. In other states, such propriety is laughable; we think it's laudable.

Unlike other cold, windswept states (Montana comes to mind), no one comes here to "get away from it all." That's fine. This area hasn't been a hideaway for anyone since John Dillinger and his ilk took shelter in the Wabasha caves. And even then, the gangsters only came for the summer. It's a matter of civic pride that cold weather tends to drive out the riff-raff, the malcontents and the mystic ne'er-do-wells. Only the stoic need apply for Minnesota residency.

We, transplants and natives alike, remain unflappable in the face of horrendous weather. Straight-line winds down Highland Parkway? Mow around that downed tree for a month or two and fix the roof when you can. High winds, snow and cold? Stay inside by the fire and shovel when the snow stops and the wind dies down. We recover. No hysteria. No cries for federal aid. That's life in Minnesota. Learn to embrace it.

Because of our thick-headedness, Minnesotans make good adventurers. Will Steger battled his way across the arctic by dog sled. Ken Storm clambered over untold stretches of the Nepalese wilderness and found Shangri La. Gerry Spies sailed *Yankee Girl* solo across the Atlantic.

Thousands of other Minnesotans crew tramp steamers, labor aboard Alaskan fishing trawlers, repair oil rigs in Kuwait or pilot riverboats down the Mississippi. It's not that we come from good stock. We are good stock.

On the political front, Minnesotans said no to government handouts, stadium subsidies and lifelong welfare with the election of Governor Jesse Ventura. Yet, as any taxpayer can confirm, we continue to pay for schools, infrastructure and aid for those less fortunate.

Through a deep-seated sense of social justice, we cling to the outdated concept of a functional government. We cannot comprehend Detroit's

inability to plow its streets, Orange County's empty coffers or California's deteriorating public school system.

As for sports, Minnesotans never saw a bandwagon they didn't like. We are inveterate fair-weather fans. Overpaid athletes-for-hire and stadium-grubbing team owners don't merit our devotion. Chuck Knoblauch? Hope you're enjoying those Bronx cheers. Tom Gugliotta? See ya—and take your double-dealing agent with you to the desert. Stephon Marbury? You should've left before Googs packed his bags.

No, if you want to be a diehard pro sports fan, move to Hudson and become a Packer backer.

So, yes, send us your huddled, your tired, your teeming masses from Laos, Central America and Somalia, but have them bring parkas, shovels, grim determination and a thick skin because the weak do not survive for long here.

Go ahead, neighbor—catch the fish, shovel the walk, pay the tax man. It's what makes us who we are.

Unlike other cold, windswept states (Montana comes to mind), no one comes here to "get away from it all." That's fine. This area hasn't been a hideaway for anyone since John Dillinger and his ilk took shelter in the Wabasha caves.

The folly of city planners

To the editor:

"Denser housing, calmer streets." Isn't the oxymoronic nature of that phrase self-evident to the planners of the Shepard-Davern redevelopment? (*Villager*, March 10) That plan calls for expanding the number of people living and working in the area but then reducing access by eliminating lanes of traffic, adding stop lights on Shepard Road and eliminating the Edgcombe Road overpass at Highway 5/West 7th Street. Isn't this a recipe for increased congestion?

I'm worried about the wisdom of city planners. Common sense reveals that when you have more people, you have more traffic. Unless the goal is to attract new residents who don't work, shop or otherwise leave their homes, the folly is apparent. The proposal to scrap the overpass is particularly puzzling. Traffic planners consider intersections a hazard. Overpasses improve highway safety and improve traffic flow. Having spent millions to build this highway improvement, why would we tear it down?

There appears to be a disturbing trend developing in neighborhood planning. We're trying to eliminate the arterial road. The recent reduction of Fairview Avenue from two lanes to one, together with plans for Shepard Road, reflect this pattern.

I'm fortunate to live on Mississippi River Boulevard. Would I like to have less traffic past my house? Of course, but I realize that it is only because of main roads that I am able to easily get to and from work. If we continue reducing the capacity of our roads, we'll correspondingly increase all of the disadvantages of increased congestion, including pollution, frustration and longer commuting times.

David Glaser
Highland Park

Shelve the Shepard-Davern plan

Dear editor:

It's best to modify or shelve the Shepard-Davern Small Area Plan. People living on and around West 7th Street object to running Edgcombe Road across West 7th with a traffic signal there, saying that during peak times this would back traffic up to Shakopee. As things are now, at peak times it takes a half-hour to get from Snelling Avenue to Davern Street just a few blocks away.

The beautification plan includes tearing out garages in front of Sibley Manor and replacing them with a row of shops. Driving along West 7th past the garages, what you actually see is a vine-covered wall. Personally, I opt for a vine-covered wall to a row of businesses when I'm thinking of beauty. It's also planned to take out 50 affordable apartments on the north end of Sibley Manor's playground, exposing the young children to the backside of commercial buildings. Beautiful?

Ken Ford of the St. Paul Department of Planning and Economic Development states that we need increased housing density if the neighborhood wants to grow commercially. Increased housing density can increase social problems. In all of this, consider the families with children.

V.J. Luckey
Highland Park

VILLAGE POST

Put tobacco money to good use

Dear editor:

Minnesota's tobacco settlement was a landmark in legal history. At the Legislature, we have an opportunity to continue to make history with the proceeds from it.

I am advocating two initiatives. The first is to use the "ongoing dollars" from the settlement to eliminate the tax on health care providers and establish a long-term funding source for MinnesotaCare, the sliding-fee health insurance program that provides coverage for over 106,000 working Minnesotans. Currently, the state assesses a 1.5 percent tax on medical services to cover the cost of this program. We could cover the cost well into the next century by using the annual payments from the tobacco settlement.

The second initiative creates several endowments using \$1.3 billion in "one-time" tobacco dollars: \$100 million for a Medical Education and Research Endowment to support teaching hospitals and clinics and medical research at the University of Minnesota; \$600 million for a Minnesota Families Foundation to help people become self-sufficient; \$350 million for a Health Professional Education and Medical Research Endowment to support programs at the U of M and Mayo Clinic; and \$260 million for a Local Public Health Endowment to support public health initiatives.

Although the House Republican majority wants to use these "one-time" dollars to finance tax cuts, I think this plan, initiated by Governor Ventura, is one that has a far better chance of leaving a legacy for future generations.

Michael Paymar, State Representative
District 64B

Test scores and classroom size

Dear editor:

Increased money to reduce class size is not the solution to declining test scores. Class size is no more a learning factor today than it was in 1940, when I graduated from St. Matthew's Elementary School with 102 other students in two classrooms taught by two dedicated nuns.

All of the students were successful products to the extent of their ability and choice. We were inspired to learn and had fun learning. We were even challenged to take books home and do homework.

E.L. Minea
Macalester-Groveland

The law is enough

Dear editor,

I take exception to Douglas Zang's letter: "Law alone isn't enough" (*Villager*, March 24). In Los Angeles, drivers know they'll get nailed if they don't stop for pedestrians in crosswalks. The result? They stop—even traffic traveling

Village Post/see next page

Which of these costly homeseller mistakes will you make, when you sell your home?

A new report has just been released which reveals 7 costly mistakes that most homeowners make when selling their home, and a 9 Step System that can help you sell your home fast and for the most amount of money.

This industry report shows clearly how the traditional ways of selling homes have become increasingly less and less effective in today's market. The fact of the matter is that fully three-quarters of homesellers don't get what they want for their home and become disillusioned — and worse — financially disadvantaged when they put their home on the market.

As this report uncovers, most homesellers make 7 deadly mistakes that cost them literally thousands of dollars. The good news is that each and every one of these mistakes is entirely preventable. In answer to this issue, industry insiders have prepared a free special report entitled "*The 9 Step System to Get Your Home Sold Fast and For Top Dollar.*"

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"Differences Celebrated Here"

BY SHARON M. BOGNER

Some people have asked me, some seriously, some jokingly, what's a "nice Catholic girl like you" doing going to Joyful Church, a non-Catholic church? Does this mean I'm not a Catholic anymore? I've had a feeling for a long time that organized religion and true spirituality do not always go hand-in-hand. Often, ... but not always. To me, the differences in man-made religions sometimes serve to separate people, not bring them together. So imagine my amazement in finding Joyful Church. Here is a place where our differences are celebrated, not looked upon with scorn. What a concept! Isn't that what God/Jesus/angels/saints, etc. intended?

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What are the most common causes of back pain?

- TEARING OF FIBERS within muscles or ligaments.
- MISALIGNED SPINAL VERTEBRAE produced back pain or pain radiating to the leg by irritating nerves within the structures which surround spinal joints.

- PROTRUDING or RUPTURED SPINAL DISC can exert pressure on the sciatic nerve and cause intense pain to radiate down the leg.
- SPINAL ARTHRITIS of the wear and tear variety (osteoarthritis or degenerative arthritis) develops as part of the aging process, but can also occur with poor posture, scoliosis, misalignment of vertebrae or continued improper use of the back.
- POOR POSTURE, which can have a number of causes, results in a spinal joint strain and abnormal muscle tension, and is usually accompanied by misalignment of vertebrae.

What are the measures commonly taken?

- Corrective spinal manipulation along with improving posture and the way the back is used;



Jeff Ewald, D.C.
Faculty Clinician



Kevin Kalb, D.C.
Faculty Clinician

- Stretching and strengthening exercises;
- Back supports may be appropriate;
- Physiotherapy;
- Traction therapy.

Additionally, doctors of chiropractic refer to and work in cooperation with all other health care providers when indicated for patients' conditions.



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Crocus Hill School's Kate Tanner dies

by Cynthia Bend

Kate Tanner, a pioneer in the education of young children and the founder of Crocus Hill School, died on March 17. She was 70 years old and taught up until she was hospitalized in January. Preschoolers and graduates of Crocus Hill from ages 3 to 40 crowded her room at Shalom Home during the days before her death. The walls were filled with pictures and posters by her school children.

More than a thousand Twin Cities preschoolers received their first schooling in the stimulating environment and warm embrace of Crocus Hill School. Tanner had been the school's owner and director for 38 years, watching it grow from an enrollment of 26 children to 60 today.

Tanner attended Summit School, a girls school that later merged with St. Paul Academy, and earned a B.A. in sociology at Carleton College. She received her teaching degree at the University of Minnesota. For three years, she taught 3rd grade in the St. Paul Public Schools. She bought the Morning School in 1961 and moved it from

the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood to her three-story home at 19 Crocus Place, and rechristened it Crocus Hill School.

From 1969 to 1972, Tanner was president of the Minnesota Association for the Education of Young Children. In 1987, the association presented her with its Evelyn House Award for outstanding contributions to the lives of young children. She was involved in many civic activities, including the Junior League, the Century Club and the Children's Theater board.

During the baby boom years of the early '60s, more than 100 children crowded into the house at 19 Crocus Place and Tanner moved the school to a larger house at 4 Crocus Hill. In 1974 the school moved for a third time to rented space at St. Paul Academy and Summit School's lower-school campus on Goodrich Avenue.

In 1984, SPA's need for space prompted another move, this time to St. Luke's School on Summit Ave. There, under the direction of eight teachers, the joyful sounds of discovery still fill the sunny rooms.

Now there is the sound of sadness as well. A child in Tanner's class of 5-year-olds expressed the loss this way: "Last year's class



For this 1992 photo, Kate Tanner wore her Valentine's Day specs while reading to her young charges at the Crocus Hill School. Photo by Mike Long.

had Kate for a whole year, but we only get her for part of the year." Another child said, "Kate is alive. Her spirit is alive in me."

Though the teaching staff mourns her loss, they also believe that Kate's spirit will continue with them in teaching the young children. Under acting director Kathy

Hopkins, a teacher at Crocus Hill for 13 years, the school is prepared to continue providing a loving place for children to learn.

Editor's note: The writer, Kate Tanner's sister, lives in Afton.

Village Post: Our readers write in/

from previous page

faster than 35 mph. In L.A., the law alone is enough.

Minnesota limits drivers to a speed at which they will not hit pedestrians, and pedestrians have to cooperate by letting close traffic go by before crossing. All other traffic must stop.

That's the law. Passing a vehicle that has stopped for a pedestrian also is against the law. These are things all drivers should know, but apparently need a few traffic tickets to remind them. Even in Minnesota, the law is enough.

John Kaplan
Highland Park

Highland cleans up April 17

To the editor:

Spring is sprung. Soon it will be time to witness Mother Nature awakening from a long winter's sleep and sending forth new leaves, grass and flowers. However, the melting winter snow also reveals a collection of unsightly litter in our parks and along our streets and walking paths.

From 9:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday, April 17, the Highland District Council will sponsor its fifth annual cleanup targeting several Highland Park areas: the wooded bluff just north of West 7th Street between St. Paul Avenue and Montreal Avenue, the south end of Hidden Falls Park, and Crosby Park. The St. Paul Division of Parks and

Recreation, as always, contributes significantly to this effort.

Please join us in celebrating Earth Week by making a positive difference in your neighborhood. Volunteers will meet at the Dakota Bank on West 7th, at the main entrance to Crosby Park and at the south entrance to Hidden Falls Park. For more information, call me at 651-690-1717.

Larry Hampel
Highland Park

Bullying behavior at Sibley

To the editor:

As a teacher who has worked in several school districts, in two states, in public and parochial schools, preschool through high school, I am well aware of just how unfriendly schools can be. Sibley High goes well beyond the norm.

I encountered harshness and rigidity when I had children at Sibley. The majority of the staff did their jobs well, but some created a hostile environment that served no purpose other than to publicly humiliate students and their families. For instance, there's the physical education teacher who vandalizes combination locks. During the first days of school in the 9th grade, each of my children had virtually the same experience with this teacher. Both had mistakenly placed their locks on the wrong locker. Both came back to find their

locks cut off. The teacher was untroubled that he had destroyed their personal property or that the contents of the lockers might have been stolen.

Administrative and professional support staff stand by, encourage, join in and even initiate such behavior. Add to this an unresponsive and complacent school board and you have an unfortunate mixture.

I have been a resident here for 24 years and have watched School District 197 lurch from one crisis to another. The district's current budget problems come as no surprise. Arrogance and contempt are a natural breeding ground for such things.

Mike Kluznick
Mendota Heights

Bravo, Highland Junior High

To the editor:

Sweet music was in the air on the evening of March 18 at Highland Park Junior High School. The student choir and accompanying string section were absolutely fabulous. These young people worked very hard to prepare for their spring concert. Just as important, it was obvious by the smiles on their faces that they were having fun. Thanks to two dedicated teachers, Mr. Tiede and Mr. Zweber, who orchestrated this wonderful event for all of us to enjoy.

Pat Leseman
Highland Park

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St. Paul, So. Mpls. residents brace for summer of unparalleled airport noise

by Jane McClure

Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport's busiest construction season ever began this week and will continue through September. More than \$500 million in work is planned, including runway reconstruction, new parking ramps, new access roads and the expansion of the terminal.

This is the second consecutive season for the reconstruction of the south parallel runway. The northwest end of the runway was rebuilt in 1998; the southeast end is being done this year.

St. Paul residents who already have been complaining about increased aircraft noise this spring are concerned about what another season of construction will bring. According to St. Paul Avenue resident Susan McDaniel, airport noise levels continue to increase, especially late at night and early in the morning. "You'd swear the planes were going to come through the roof," she said.

McDaniel is among a growing number of airport neighbors who are also concerned about the low-level ground noise generated by planes at the airport. "There's just this constant rumble," she said. "Sometimes my apartment vibrates from it."

With last summer's noise still ringing in their ears, the Macalester-Groveland Community Council will discuss airport construction and noise issues at its annual meeting at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, April 15, at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 104 S. Snelling Ave. Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) officials have been invited to attend, as have anti-noise activists. The meeting is open to the public.

According to MAC deputy director of operations Nigel Finney, the noise impact on St. Paul during this summer's construction is expected to be minimal. However, more noise will be heard over South Minneapolis, Richfield, Bloomington and Burnsville.

That is not something Dean Lindberg wants to hear. The South Minneapolis anti-noise activist said he is concerned that MAC is minimizing his neighborhood's concerns. "There's an assumption that because we get

so much noise already, more noise won't matter," he said, "but that's an incorrect assumption."

Lindberg, a member of the South Metro Airport Abatement Committee and Metropolitan Airports Sound Abatement Commission, said last summer's complaint levels in South Minneapolis were among the highest he had ever heard, especially from the

area north of Lake Nokomis.

During reconstruction of the south parallel runway last year, traffic was shifted to the crosswind runway and the north parallel runway. As a result, the northern end of the north parallel runway had up to 210 landings and 180 take-offs a day. It is expected to handle up to 300 landings and 200 take-offs a day during the 1999 construction season.

Suburban cities affected by the use of the south end of the crosswind runway also will be affected even more this year, Finney said. Up to 250 jets will use the crosswind runway this spring and summer. That runway usually carries about a dozen jets a day.

Updates on the runway reconstruction project will be posted on MAC's Web site at www.mspairport.com. Noise complaints may be directed to MAC by calling 612-726-9411.

"There's an assumption that because we get so much noise already, more noise won't matter, but that's an incorrect assumption."

Riverview Corridor /from page 1

improvements in bus service, the study is considering the feasibility of light-rail transit along West 7th Street, Shepard Road, I-35E and the Canadian Pacific railroad right-of-way between West 7th and the river.

The Riverview study is taking place at a time when city and county officials are debating whether Riverview or the Central Corridor between the downtowns of Minneapolis and St. Paul should be St. Paul's transit priority. Ramsey County is seeking \$69 million in transit funding from the Minnesota Legislature this spring. The Riverview Corridor would receive the largest portion of that allocation. However, state Senator Randy Kelly of St. Paul is pushing for the Central Corridor and has asked for \$33 million for that project. Kelly amended a transit bill on March 31 to give priority to the Central Corridor, specifically along University Avenue.

According to Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority director Kathy Despiegelaere, there is a great demand among business people in downtown St. Paul to have a transit connection to the airport. The Riverview Corridor could also serve people who live in St. Paul and work at the airport or Mall of America, she said.

Several people at the hearing questioned why the county was looking at the Riverview Corridor rather than at routes to move suburban commuters. They raised concerns about the potential for commuter parking in neighborhoods along the transit line. They asked

why the bus system is not enough of a connection to the mall and airport. And as for the \$40 million per mile cost of light-rail transit, West 7th area resident Ray Boyens said, "We'd be better off using rickshaws."

Many people questioned how a light-rail line would cross the Mississippi River. "I want to know how not to be scared to death of this," said Virginia Bisanz, who lives on Mississippi River Boulevard. A previous study had suggested building a transit tunnel beneath the boulevard. The transit line would have exited the bluff above Hidden Falls Park before crossing the river. That plan has since been shelved.

"The only river crossing we're looking at now is the Trunk Highway 5 (West 7th Street) crossing," Valdez said. Options include using space on the existing bridge

for buses or light-rail transit or building a new bridge on the north side of the existing bridge.

That plan also raised questions. Highland District Council community organizer Gayle Summers asked how the Highway 5 tunnel beneath the Fort Snelling bluff would be widened and how nearby highway ramps would be reconfigured.

Valdez said the river crossing is just one of several sensitive issues that must be addressed in the study. Others include light-rail transit's affect on riverfront development, the historic Irvine Park neighborhood, the West 7th commercial district, Fort Snelling and Fort Snelling State Park.

As for the \$40 million per mile cost of light-rail transit, West 7th area resident Ray Boyens said, "We'd be better off using rickshaws."

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- Canola oil

Combine tuna, mayonnaise, egg, oats, onion, and green pepper in bowl and mix with a spoon. Shape into patties. Spread wheat germ on waxed paper. Place patties in wheat germ, turning to soak both sides. Heat a small amount of oil in skillet. Add patties to skillet. Fry until light brown on both sides, turning once with pancake turner. Serve on buns with lettuce or sprouts and tomato.

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Highgrove, Authentic share Grand locale

by Chris Smith

When officials at Highgrove Community Federal Credit Union decided it was time to open a branch east of their existing office in Highland Village, they investigated several possibilities. However, when they saw what Authentic Construction was planning to do to the former auto repair shop at 740 Grand Ave., they looked no further.

"We'd been looking for at least two years, but the right kind of space is very hard to find in this area," said Highgrove president Jill Nordquist.

Then Authentic Construction owner Mike Killa showed Highgrove officials the building the had bought—before its renovation.

"We were excited, strange as it was, even with its big pits in the ground and the auto shop feel," Nordquist said. "Mike helped us see what it could be like. It was one of the only spots on the avenue that needed a facelift, so we were happy to be part of that."

Killa said having the credit union as Authentic's tenant was vital in making the project possible. "We needed someone to rent some of the space in order to make it work," he said. "We're thrilled it's someone who will add to the thriving business community here."

Nordquist said the renovated 1937 art deco building is in just the right place for Highgrove, which plans to open on April 5. "We added the Summit-University and Summit Hill neighborhoods to our charter and we felt we needed to open a branch here," she said.

Highgrove began 52 years ago as the credit union for United Auto Workers Local 879. In 1991, it became a community credit union, meaning that anyone living, working or going to school within its boundaries is eligible to become a member. It now serves all of St. Paul west of downtown and south of I-94.

All customers of the credit union become owners and can hold membership savings accounts in addition to checking and other accounts. The credit union also offers a full range of other financial services, including personal and home equity loans, credit cards and IRAs.

"The big difference is that we're a cooperative," Nordquist said. "Since our members are the owners, profits go into better rates and services, instead of dividends to stockholders."

Authentic Construction, which was formerly located on Grand near Cleveland, has been up and running in its newly refurbished building for a little

more than a month. Killa and his crew worked for a year to renovate the structure, which previously housed the Auto Clinic. Fulfilling pollution-related mandates took much of that time, Killa said.

The restored building is now full of fine-grained woods and period details, including a spectacular meeting room with curved glass walls facing Grand Avenue and a coved ceiling painted to match the sky. "It's really a fun building and it shows what our firm can do," Killa said, "although 1937 is a pretty new building to us."

Authentic Construction specializes in renovating or expanding older structures. "People in this area shy away from stark newer homes in the suburbs," he said. "Once they decide to stay, they see that rehabilitating their homes—and doing it right for the period—really pays off."

Killa said he is happy to have Highgrove join Authentic in the building. "I live in this neighborhood and I was hoping we could find a local organization that is really valuable to the neighborhood," he said.

Nordquist feels the same way. "We think Mike is going to be a great partner," she said, "and we have a lot in common in our feelings of being a good partner with the community."



Highgrove Community Federal Credit Union staff show off the lobby of their new Grand Avenue office. Pictured, from left, are (front row) Amber Miller, Brenda Beyer and Mahita Sathyakumar; and (back row) Renee Miller, Patty Wolters and Beth Ledger. Photo by Mike Long.

Smith & Hawken takes root on avenue

by Chris Smith

Some businesses work for years to build a reputation that will bring the ultimate in advertising—word-of-mouth. For Grand Avenue's newest major retailer, building that reputation took just a few days.

"By the end of the first week we had people coming in telling us their friends had been in and told them they just had to see it," said Theresa Hurlburt, manager of Smith & Hawken, the new upscale gardening store at 799 Grand Ave. "We've really had an incredible response."

Smith & Hawken laid the groundwork for that fast start through years of catalog sales. "Most of the people who came in at first had seen a notice printed on their catalog," Hurlburt said, "but we've also had neighborhood residents and people shopping other stores on Grand. (Actress and Stillwater resident) Jessica Lange has been in twice in the first

week and a half."

As is the case in some of its other 40 locations across the country, the Smith & Hawken store on Grand is located next to Restoration Hardware, an upscale retailer that is also based in California's Marin County.

"We're independent businesses," Hurlburt said. "The fact that we locate close to each other has more to do with the kinds of neighborhoods we seek. This is the kind of neighborhood, for example, where people want high-quality items and good service."

The Smith & Hawken on Grand has an airy feel, large garage-style front doors that will open in warm weather, and floors that are part wood, part cement. Though it is a garden center, the store is unlike most others that people around here have seen. It is swept frequently, only the best plants are placed out front for sale, and it features garden clothing and furniture in addition to plants, seeds, tools and gardening books.

"People like the fact that they can come here and get the things they need for their garden, but also find practical and comfortable gardening clothing," Hurlburt said. "We've also got teak outdoor furniture, which can be quite an investment, but has a 75-year guarantee. It'll outlive most of us."

A stroll through Smith & Hawken turns up many surprises. Blooming orchids fill one table, while the next contains signed copies of gardening books by local authors and a schedule of upcoming seminars. Just past that is a table of "heirloom" seed packets in varieties unavailable at most other garden centers.

The store may not have as big a selection as others—there are not 30 types of pruning shears or gardening gloves, for example—but Hurlburt said the items it does have are the finest it can find.

Smith & Hawken started more than 20 years ago in the suburbs north of San Francisco when Dave



Store manager Theresa Hurlburt arranges some of the organic inventory at Smith & Hawken, 799 Grand Ave. Photo by Brad Stauffer.

Smith and Paul Hawken began importing hand-forged gardening forks and spades for the Bay Area's organic farmers. The company has kept its "highest-quality" philosophy as it has expanded to other products in the belief that something that lasts a lifetime saves natural resources.

The company's corporate philos-

ophy also extends to involvement in the neighborhood. Hurlburt is planning to enlist support for a park cleanup for Earth Day in April and hopes to lend support to an area gardening project.

"This neighborhood has been so welcoming to us," she said. "We really want to be an active part of this community."

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SCHOOL NOTES

SPA mathletes win state tourney

St. Paul Academy outscored teams from 50 other high schools on March 22 to win its fourth state math tournament. The Spartans, who are coached by Bill Boulger, had a combined score of 88 to edge out Wayzata (86) and John Marshall (83).

Central High School finished fourth in the state with a score of 81 after having won the regular math season for the third year in a row with 502 points. It was the first time in the 15-year history of the league that a team broke the 500 mark. Highland Park placed 14th overall with a 64.

Jon Moon, a senior from Central, was the individual winner out of the 400 mathletes competing in the tournament. A four-way tie for second went to seniors John Gregg of SPA and Stewart Williams of Wayzata and juniors Sam Lindsay-Levine of Central and Andrew Gacek of Totino-Grace.

Moon also was the top individual overall for the tournament and season. He received a \$700 scholarship from Unisys and the St. Paul Foundation. Gregg was second overall and was awarded \$500. He also won the state's "fun only" math bowl.

Macalester College computer science students Tamas Nemeth, Vahe Poladian and Karim Farouki will compete in the 23rd annual ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest on April 8-11 in the Netherlands. The Macalester students won local and regional competitions to advance to the international round, which will feature 62 teams from around the world. Macalester is the only liberal arts college from the United States and Canada competing in the so-called "Battle of the Brains."

Mary Des Roches has been named the new vice president for finance and business operations at the College of St. Catherine. She previously was director of central services for Catholic Charities. She has a master's degree in art from St. Louis University and a master's degree in public administration from Harvard University.

Highland Park Junior High School 7th-grader Mehmet Berker has qualified for the state geography bee to be held on April 9 at Macalester College.

Highland Park Elementary School, 1700 Saunders Ave., is looking for volunteers to assist with the construction of a new playground on Saturday, April 17. Call Carolyn Tilford at 651-690-0142.

Four IHM-St. Luke's School 7th-graders received honors at a regional science fair last month and will advance to the 62nd annual Minnesota Academy of Science State Fair from April 9-11 in Bloomington. Paul Leiviska and Chris Peltier worked on a project dealing with the effects of carbon dioxide on plants, Dylan France's project explored the importance of planting depth in seed germination, and Robert Farnham's project looked at the preference of yeast for different types of sugars.

Henry Sibley High School will host its eighth annual father-daughter dinner and

dance at 6:00 p.m. Friday, April 16, at the Airport Hilton Hotel. The cost is \$23 per person. Call the school at 651-681-2350.

Cretin-Derham Hall, 550 S. Albert St., will host its 10th annual "Hearts of Gold" live and silent auction on Saturday, April 10. An Italian buffet will be served beginning at 6:00 p.m. The cost is \$35 in advance. No tickets will be sold at the door. The live auction will start at approximately 8:30 p.m. For reservations, call 651-696-3309.

Homecroft Elementary School, 1845 Sheridan Ave., will hold a roundup for its all-day kindergarten program at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 8. For details, call 651-293-8955.

District 197 Community Education will offer homeowners a class on how to sell their home from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, April 15, at Friendly Hills Middle School, 701 Mendota Heights Road, Mendota Heights. The cost is \$15 and includes a 50-page manual. To register, call 651-681-2389.

School District 197 will hold kindergarten registration from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. and from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the following elementaries: Moreland on Thursday, April 15; Mendota on Tuesday, April 20; Pilot Knob on Thursday, April 22; Somerset on Tuesday, April 27; and Garlough on Thursday, April 29. Early childhood screening is required in District 197. For an appointment, call 651-905-9196.

Twin Cities Academy, a new charter school for grades 6-7, will open this fall in the former St. James School at 486 View St. Open houses will be held from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. on April 20 and 29, and May 4, 18 and 27, and from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. on April 17 and May 15. The academy plans to offer the nationally proven Core Knowledge curriculum as well as a program for the gifted and talented. Spanish will be a required subject and tuition is free. For information, call 651-205-4797.

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To build or not to build: Ayd Mill's fate in hands of council

Ward reps suffer the slings and arrows of public opinion on both sides of debate

by Jane McClure

The people have spoken on the future of Ayd Mill Road. Now it's time for the city to talk back.

A joint St. Paul City Council-Planning Commission public hearing on the six alternatives included in the Ayd Mill Road environmental impact statement (EIS) drew more than 120 people to City Hall on March 24. About three dozen people spoke.

Proponents of replacing Ayd Mill Road with a linear park presented the city with a petition signed by more than 1,200 people. They repeatedly stressed at the hearing the improved quality of life a park would bring. "Parks make cities a more desirable place to live," said Merriam Park resident and Neighborhoods First! member Jean Madden.

Petitions with more than 500 signatures were presented by people who support the two- or four-lane alternatives for connecting Ayd Mill Road to I-94 and I-35E. "More and more cars are using Lexington Parkway today as a de facto freeway connection," said Summit Hill resident and Citizens for Safe Streets

member Charlie McManus. He urged the city to connect Ayd Mill and "disconnect Lexington."

"Nobody lives on Ayd Mill Road, but thousands of people live on or one block away from Lexington Parkway," said Brian Horrigan of Summit Hill, also a member of Citizens for Safe Streets.

Midway Area Chamber of Commerce executive director Ellen Watters said that Ayd Mill Road is one of the most critical economic development issues facing the Midway area. An Ayd Mill Road connected to the freeways, she said, would provide a much needed north-south access for Midway employees and customers.

Advocates of the no-build option argued that Ayd Mill Road already serves as that north-south street and should be left as is. "It may not seem like a bold move to do nothing, but it might be in this case," said Macalester-Groveland resident Susan Gretz. She said that connecting Ayd Mill Road to the freeway system "would wreck the neighborhood and drive people out of the city."

Concordia University president Robert Holst told the City Council and Planning Commission that the university would lose a baseball field, maintenance building and parking lot if Ayd Mill Road were extended north to I-94 and a Selby Avenue access was maintained. He said the school has invested more than \$15 million in facilities in recent years and does not want to jeopardize that in-

vestment. "To take our property would deeply hurt us," he said.

Supporters of the Transportation System Management/Travel Demand Management (TSM/TDM) alternative said the city should spend more to manage traffic flow in the neighborhoods around Ayd Mill Road instead of spending millions to rebuild the road. "Don't spend \$30 or \$40 million to achieve nothing and hurt our city," said Snelling-Hamline resident Jeff Stites.

According to Margaret Martin of Lexington-Hamline, the TSM/TDM alternative "did not receive the attention it deserves" in the EIS and should be looked at more seriously as a way to alleviate congestion.

Longtime Snelling-Hamline resident George Jurgenson said that a linear park would meet his neighborhood's need for more park space.

Summit Avenue resident Steve Kluz said that replacing Ayd Mill Road with a linear park was "the only way to keep this issue from coming up again and again." According to him, the traffic generated by an Ayd Mill Road connected to the freeways would force the city to adopt noise abatement measures, including the construction of noise walls on the bluff along the road.

Horrigan disputed the contention that a connected Ayd Mill Road would become a freeway, and accused linear park and no-build advocates of spreading misinformation. He pointed out that the road would have

stop lights at entrance ramps and other intersections. "This would not be a freeway, it would not be a highway," he said. According to him, the neighbors who are concerned about traffic on Lexington Parkway are tired of being portrayed as "pro-suburban, anti-green space, anti-transit."

Speakers on all sides of the issue agreed on the need for traffic relief on Lexington Parkway. "We're the folks you've heard about on South Lexington Parkway, in the very high traffic area," said Macalester-Groveland resident Kate Schultz. She and more than 40 of her neighbors support rebuilding Ayd Mill Road as a two-lane parkway. They oppose the linear park, arguing that it would only cause more congestion on Lexington. "Put the traffic where it belongs," Schultz said.

The statements of those who testified and any written comments on the Ayd Mill Road EIS that are received by the city by April 12 will be reviewed by city staff. All comments, along with the city's responses to those comments, will be reviewed by the Ayd Mill Road Task Force, which will recommend its preferred alternative sometime this spring. The Planning Commission and Mayor Norm Coleman will also make a recommendation. A final decision by the City Council is not expected before July.

The Ayd Mill Road EIS is available at most of the city's public libraries. A summary of the EIS is available on the city's Web site at www.stpaul.gov.

For Lexington Pkwy., relief may only come with connection

by Jane McClure

If there is one issue in the Ayd Mill Road debate that nearly everyone can agree on, it is this: The residents of traffic-clogged South Lexington Parkway need immediate relief.

Several district councils, including those representing the Highland, Macalester-Groveland, Merriam Park, Lexington-Hamline, Summit Hill and Summit-University neighborhoods, are asking the city to adopt traffic calming measures for Lexington independent of the Ayd Mill Road study.

The Lexington-Hamline Community Council, which voted on March 29 to support replacing Ayd Mill Road with a linear park, is the latest to make a pitch for reducing traffic on Lexington. According to coun-

cil member Cecily Laing, the group does not believe that any of the options for the roadway will alleviate congestion on any of the streets in the area.

"We believe that the City Council and Planning Commission should deal with Lexington Parkway now rather than letting the traffic problems there continue to fester," Laing said. "Lexington should be addressed immediately and separately from Ayd Mill Road."

The community council has suggested restriping Lexington to allow for one traffic lane in each direction plus a center turn lane. The council would also like to see better enforcement of traffic laws, the installation of a concrete median, a lower speed limit and restrictions on turns between Lexington and Randolph Avenue.

However, Al Shetka of the St. Paul Department of Public Works said the only way to effectively implement traffic calming on Lexington is to reduce the traffic volume. According to him, that would most likely entail connecting Ayd Mill Road to I-35E. Vehicles now travel along Randolph, Lexington and Jefferson to make the link between Ayd Mill Road and the freeway.

"If we knew that there was something we could do for South Lexington, we'd do it," Shetka said, "but there's just too much traffic on there now." About 20,000 vehicles per day travel on the street.

The Merriam Park Community Council had previously raised the idea of opening Ayd Mill Road to the freeway system at the south end only. However, a 1988 City Council resolution states that no connection

should be made on the south end until a decision is made on what to do at the north end. Shetka said opening the south end and not the north would cause major traffic tie-ups in the Selby-Snelling area.

At several neighborhood meetings in recent months, Fairview Avenue has been cited as a model for Lexington Parkway. Fairview south of Summit Avenue was restriped in the past year with a traffic lane in each direction and a center turn lane. However, Fairview's traffic volume is only 14,000 vehicles per day.

"When your traffic volume hits 17,000 to 18,000, your ability to use traffic calming breaks down," Shetka said. "If we restriped Lexington, we're concerned that we'd be forcing more vehicles onto neighborhood side streets."

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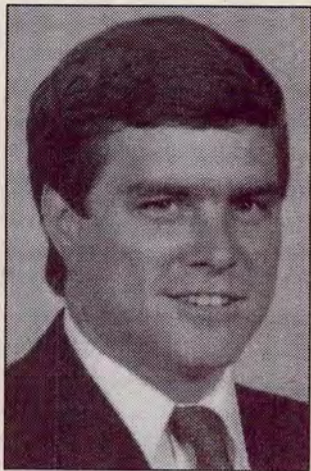
Re/Max Crossroads now calls Grand home with opening of new branch

by Chris Smith

With business booming, mortgage rates at the lowest percentages in years and interest in local neighborhoods running at an all-time high, Re/Max Crossroads co-owners Pat Wiebusch and Jim Swift have opted to expand once again.

Re/Max Crossroads has doubled its number of Twin Cities offices to six over the past year. Its latest branch opened in mid-March in the US Bank building (formerly First Bank) at 1071 Grand Ave. According to Wiebusch, the new branch satisfies the top three criteria of the real estate industry: location, location and location.

"This spot gives us great visibility in a great neighborhood," Wiebusch said. "Grand Avenue is very heavily trafficked and is such a nice area that we really wanted to be here. We have a



Pat Wiebusch

According to Wiebusch, Re/Max Crossroads is able to attract high-producing agents because it offers them a strong support staff and an international network of franchises, yet it does not tell them how to run their business. He said the company's agents also have a greater incentive to sell homes since they keep everything above a flat office fee.

"Our agents average \$3 million in sales a year," said Wiebusch. "They are very good agents and very smart business people. They know what they're doing and have the incentive to get it done. That translates into an important advantage to clients."

Being located in the US Bank building is just a coincidence, Wiebusch said. "Five of our six offices are in bank buildings," he said. "They have nice space, parking and usually aren't busy on evenings and weekends."

lot of customers in the neighborhood and this will be very convenient for them."

Wiebusch said the new office has enabled several experienced agents to join Re/Max. "Our agents average 13-14 years of experience," he said. "All of the agents in this office really know the neighborhood and many of them live right in the community."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Stephanie Shimp, co-owner of the Highland Grill in Highland Park, the Groveland Tap in Macalester-Groveland and the Blue Plate in Red Wing, has won the Minnesota Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award for 1999. She will receive the award at a U.S. Small Business Administration banquet on May 21 at the DoubleTree Park Place Hotel in St. Louis Park. According to Edward Daum, district director of the SBA, the Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award is a "recognition of success as a small business owner and a reflection of integrity, enthusiasm

and creativity." Shimp, 28, was nominated for the award by Gregg Schneider, director of the Small Business Development Center at the University of St. Thomas, where Shimp is a junior.

"An Insider's Look at the Tobacco Settlement" will be offered by the St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce at a breakfast meeting from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. on Friday, April 23, at the Sheraton Midway, 400 N. Hamline Ave. Guest speakers include Michael Ciresi of the law firm Robins Kaplan Miller and Ciresi, who represented the state in the lawsuit, and Minnesota

Department of Commerce commissioner David Jennings. The cost is \$20 for non-members. To register, call 651-223-5000.

The Snelling-Selby Area Business Association is seeking donations for its annual silent auction to be held at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 13, at O'Gara's Bar and Grill. Proceeds from the auction will be used for new bike racks and beautification projects in the commercial district. All contributors will be recognized at the auction. For more information, call Michelle Galarneau of the SweatShop at 651-646-8418.

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Houses of hope

New coalition offers sorrowful a safe place to feel their way through tragedy

by Leslie Walters

When Darlene Stensby's and Lois Knutson's young daughters died, the two women were wracked with an aching emptiness, a bottomless well of loneliness, depression, anger and, ultimately, confusion over their conflicting feelings.

They wouldn't have had it any other way.

Denying the painful feelings surrounding the death of a loved one can prolong the grief, they said, or it can force the grief to manifest itself in sickness. "It can also come out in anger that keeps your other relationships from being all they can be," said Stensby, associate pastor of House of Hope Presbyterian Church.

The two women benefited tremendously from a grief support group that met at the Colonial Church of Christ in Edina, and they have now used that model to start the Capital City Grief Coalition.

The new coalition is a cooperative effort on the part of Macalester College and five area churches—House of Hope Presbyterian, Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic, St. Paul Reformation Lutheran, St. Paul's United Church of Christ and the St. Paul Cathedral. The coalition's first meeting will be held from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 8, at House of Hope, 797 Summit Ave.

The coalition will offer education, support and, most important, a safe place for people to grieve. People who are grieving need a safe place to talk about it, Stensby said. Many discover that they can no longer find that kind of support among their friends, who may be intimidated by the depth of the grief.

"Sometimes it's easier for someone who is grieving to go to another church rather than run into people they know at their own," Stensby said.

"We'll encourage coalition participants to talk about their feelings," Stensby said. "They may feel really confused at first—anger at doctors, anger at loved ones, anger at the person who drove the car that hit their loved one." Eventually, however, "they will come to a place where they say, 'I'm not the same, but life is still good,'" Stensby said.

Stensby lost her daughter Robin at age 24 to anorexia and bulimia. Knutson lost her daughter Lindsay at age 12 to a rare form of throat cancer. Both women discovered that the world does not allow people to grieve very well or for very long. People get one year at the most and then it's back to life as usual, Stensby said.

Stensby recalled visiting a widower who had become increasingly depressed because his late wife's friends became less and less comfortable talking about her. "Their attitude was, 'You should be over this,'" Stensby said. "He lost his permission to talk about her."

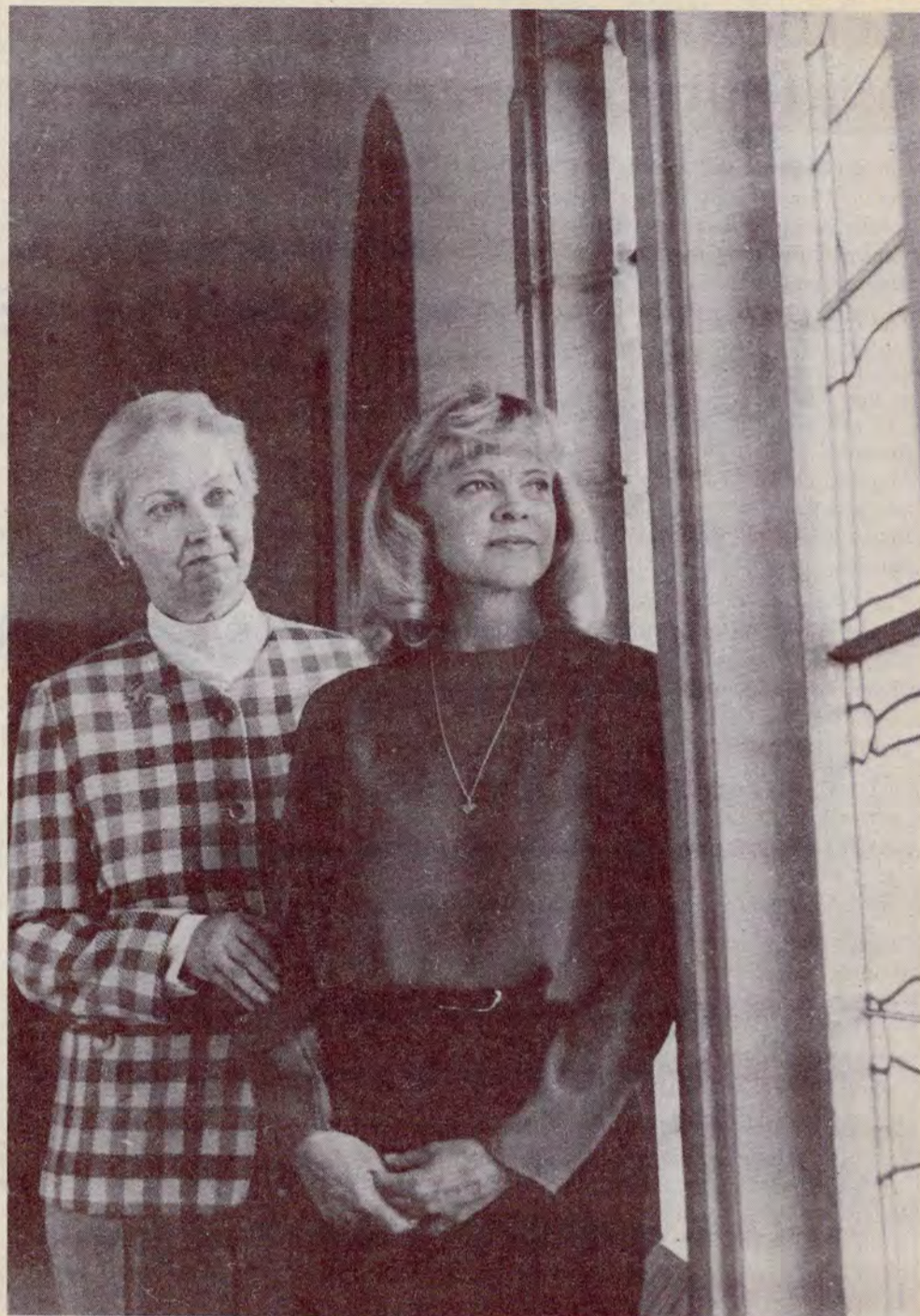
Men often have a more difficult time grieving than women, according to Knutson. When she was grieving, "I sat in my office and cried a lot," Knutson said. "People were good to me. But my husband said, 'You know, if I sat in my office and cried, within a week they'd be telling me to get out or get help.'"

The Grief Coalition is free and open to all. Participants will be asked to sign up for 13-week sessions. The weekly meetings will offer practical information from psychiatrists, ministers and other guest speakers and support groups led by professionally trained facilitators.

Most people need at least a year to work through their grief, Knutson said. When a person's grief is really intense, Stensby said, he or she may not feel like talking but may attend coalition meetings just to absorb what others are saying. Those comments can serve as a trigger to get the grieving person thinking, she said. "We encourage people to be however they need to be," Stensby said. "And that will change as the weeks go on."

"This is some of the most heart-wrenching work you'll ever do," Knutson said. "You can go (to the group) forever."

"It isn't time that heals; it's the process," Stensby said. And according to her, the model is not quite as tidy as Elisabeth Kubler-Ross' five steps to accepting death and dying—denial, depression, anger, bargaining and acceptance. "The journey has lots of switchbacks and meanderings," Stensby said. "You may pass through the anger stage and then return to it somewhere down the road, but you don't



The Capital City Grief Coalition will hold its first meeting from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 8, at House of Hope Presbyterian Church, 797 Summit Ave. Pictured at the church are coalition founders the Reverend Darlene Stensby and Lois Knutson. Photo by Mike Long.

ever go back in quite the same way. You always bring something of recovery with you."

Stensby and Knutson treasure the memories of their daughters. "My goal is to not remember Lindsay as defined by cancer," said Knutson, who still takes part in a grief support group. "I still need to hear Lindsay's name. I go to the cemetery every day with flowers. That's my time."

"It was devastating," Stensby said about her daughter's sudden death from cardiac arrest.

Though she did not live at home, Robin spent a lot of time with her mother. They ate dinner together on Sunday nights and got together for frequent shopping trips.

A parishioner once said that she was drawn to House of Hope by its lighted steeple, Stensby said. "It provided a house of hope for her that became very real," she said. "My desire is that we provide that in this community. (The Grief Coalition) is one of the very best things we ought to be doing as a church."

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by John D. Rice, M.D., Eye Physician and Surgeon

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RELIGIOUS NOTES

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 S. Snelling Ave., will present its third "Jesus and All that Jazz" worship service at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, April 11. Music will be provided by pianist Laura Caviani, percussionist Craig Hara, saxophonist David Milne and bassist Peter Olson.

The Temple of Aaron, 616 S. Mississippi River Blvd., is offering a Learner's Minyan at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, April 10; and a Shabbat Lunch and Learn following services on Saturday, April 10 (\$5.15 for lunch). Call 651-698-8874.

Mount Zion Temple, 1300 Summit Ave., will continue its Mazal Mondays with "Jews, Gender and the Anxiety of Assimilation in America-Part II" at 7:00 p.m. April 12; and "Talmud Study: Jews, Gender and the Anxiety of Assimilation in Ancient Palestine" at 7:00 p.m. April 19. Call 651-698-3881.

The Twin Cities Jewish Healing Program will present a workshop on "Spiritual Care of People Who Are Ill and Their Caregivers" from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Sunday, April 18, at the Temple of Aaron, 616 S. Mississippi River Blvd. A panel discussion will be followed by small-group sessions. For information, call Shayne Karasov at 612-542-4864.

"A Taste of Judaism," an exploration of Jewish ethics, spirituality and community, will be offered from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Mondays, April 12-26, at Mount Zion Temple, 1300 Summit Ave.; and on Wednesdays, April 14-28, at the Temple of Aaron, 616 S. Mississippi River Blvd. To register, call 612-542-4878.

"Limb-Walking: What Are We Afraid Of?" a program on abandonment from the experiences of women, will be presented from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on four Fridays, April 9-May 7, in the Jeanne d'Arc Auditorium at the College of St. Catherine. The cost is \$28 for the series or \$8.00 per session in advance and \$9.00 at the door. To register, call 651-690-8830.

Groveland Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 1671 Summit Ave., will feature the following during its 10:45 a.m. Sunday services: the Reverend Dena McPhetres will speak on "Don't Judge a Book by Its Cover" on April 11, pharmacist Peter Anderson will talk about the impact of drugs on AIDS and other diseases on April 18, and painter Ceile Hartlieb will offer a peek into her life as an artist on April 25. For information, call Sandy at 651-699-3823.

"I Do, I Do," a celebration of Christian marriage for married, engaged and single adults, will be presented by the Reverend Ron Clubb at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, April 24, at Bethel Lutheran Church, 4120 S. 17th Ave., Minneapolis. Donations will be taken. For information, call 612-724-5465.

SENIOR NEWS

The Merriam Park Senior Program will offer the following programs in the next two weeks: an exercise class at 10:00 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; a blood pressure clinic from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 7; foot care clinics from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 7, and Tuesday, April 20 (\$17 for a half-hour session); line dancing on Mondays, April 5-26; a trip to the Titanic exhibit from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Thursday, April 8 (\$20); and a walking tour of historic Excelsior with lunch at Lord Fletcher's from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 20 (\$25). Call 651-645-7424.

Rivercreek HandyWorks (formerly Longfellow Handy-Works) will hold its annual "Rake, Rattle and Roll" on Saturdays, April 17 and 24. Volunteers are needed to rake yards and wash windows at the homes of elderly residents in South Minneapolis. For details, call Liz Bilotta at 612-721-8687, ext. 329.

Driver improvement programs for those 55 and older will be offered from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday, April 12-13, at Nativity Catholic Church, 324 S. Prior Ave., and from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday, April 14-15, at Montcalm Estates, 535 S. Lexington Pkwy. The cost is \$16.50. The first four hours of each full course may be taken as a refresher. For information, call toll free 1-888-234-1294.

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Mother load

Bobby Cotie sets out in search of his birth mother and turns up a whole family of siblings as well

by Catherine Condon

Late last February, while holding a copy of his birth certificate, Bobby Cotie spoke on the telephone with a Jacksonville, Florida, man whom Cotie had learned may be his brother. "Well," Cotie recalled the man saying, "you're my half-brother, but you have two full brothers and two full sisters. And your mother wants to talk to you."

Thus ended Cotie's roundabout and ultimately joyous search for the mother he had never met. She had given him up for adoption two days after his July 1947 birth in the east Texas town of Crockett.

"I called her the next day," said Cotie, the golf pro and manager of the Highland Park 18-Hole Golf Course. "I was nervous. But we started laughing. We laughed and we giggled. I didn't sleep at all that night. The next morning I called her again right away. And we started laughing and talking, right from where we left off."

The conversation, he said, was as happy and easygoing as his upbringing in New Orleans with his adoptive parents, Wilfred and Hilda Cotie, and their three other children.

Cotie's desire to search for his birth parents surfaced shortly after his father died in 1997, nearly 30 years after Hilda Cotie and daughter Marie were killed in an auto accident. "I thought that my (birth) name was McGowan," said Cotie, who has made his home in St. Paul with his wife Vicki since 1990. "I got on this computer and started looking (in phone directories on the Internet) for any

McGowans in east Texas."

After his phone search proved fruitless, Cotie called Texas officials to inquire about researching adoption files. Told that it would involve a complex legal process, "I just never did anything with it," said Cotie. "When you're living in Minnesota and everything is in Texas, you feel so far away."

In time, however, his urge to find his birth mother intensified. Last February, he drove to Palestine, Texas, where he first lived with his adoptive family. "I knew the adoption was handled through the Catholic church there," he said. "I was hoping I could find one of the church elders who might know something."

Those efforts also were fruitless. He then drove to the courthouse in Crockett, 45 miles away, and searched in vain through birth certificates, hoping to locate one with the McGowan name. At the town library, he scrolled through microfilm of newspaper birth announcements, again with no luck.

However, on a second trip to the courthouse, a supervisor directed him to another batch of records.

"What I knew from my adoptive parents was that I'd been born in Crockett and that my mother's name was Mildred," Cotie said. "They thought that my mother had named me Luke, and that Mildred had told the priest that the father's (first and middle) name was Jack Maverick."

He hit pay dirt. "I came across a birth certificate that had 'Luther McGarraugh, illegitimate, mother Mildred Lee,'" he said. "I left there with that, and I really felt good, like,

"That's how he's been since he found them," Vicki Cotie said. "He's never laughed so much. He's found something that's been missing all these years. He's been on the phone every night."



Bobby Cotie (second from left) poses with his newfound family—mother Mildred, full siblings Janet, Ellen and Billy and half-brother Jack.

"Now, I've got something."

On the way back to St. Paul, Cotie stopped in Chicago to visit his daughter Jennifer and hopped on the Internet again. "I found a Jack Maverick McGarraugh in San Antonio," he said. "I called, but it was his widow, his second wife. She hung up on me. I found another McGarraugh, the brother of Jack. He said, 'I really don't think he's your father. But Jack and Mildred did have a son before they were divorced and his name is Jack. I don't know what Mildred changed her name to, but I can find out.'"

Ten minutes later, McGarraugh phoned back with the news that Cotie's mother, Mildred Caulkins, was living near Jacksonville, Florida, and that she had changed the last name of the son she had had with Jack Maverick McGarraugh to Caulkins.

On the Internet, Cotie found a listing for a Jack Caulkins in Jacksonville. He called him up. "I said, 'I think I'm your brother,' Cotie said. "He said, 'Oh, my God! Oh, my God! Let me talk to our mother. I'm not going to call her on the phone. I've got to go up to her house.'"

Jack Caulkins called back to inform Cotie that his birth mother, Mildred, was awaiting his call and that Cotie had full siblings since after divorcing McGarraugh and giving Cotie up for adoption, Mildred had eventually married Cotie's birth father, Vance Caulkins, and had four more children with him. Jack Caulkins, whose birth father was Jack Maverick McGarraugh, was Cotie's older half-brother.

"I found this out on a Thursday and I was

on a plane Saturday," Cotie said.

Arriving at his mother's home, he saw his brothers and sisters in the front yard. "I met each one of them," recounted Cotie, whose photographs from that reunion show a striking resemblance to family members. "And then my sister went in and brought my mother out. We just hugged and stared at each other."

By telephone from Jacksonville last month, Mildred Caulkins said that she had worried in silence about her son every day since his birth. However, Vance Caulkins, who died 20 years ago, had kept in touch with the priest who arranged the adoption and knew that Cotie had fared well.

"Bobby is the nicest thing; I've never known such a nice person," Mildred said. "I'm so proud of him."

Mildred, who is 85 and in excellent health, also praised Hilda Cotie. "I just love that woman who raised him," she said.

Vicki Cotie listened to her husband laugh during a recent phone call with his mother. "That's how he's been since he found them," she said. "He's never laughed so much. He's found something that's been missing all these years. He's been on that phone every night. AT&T is going to love us!"

This July, Cotie and his wife, their three grown daughters and all six of their grandchildren will attend a Caulkins family reunion in Jacksonville. "You know, I've taken some ribbing from people in Minnesota for being from the South," Cotie said. "The ironic thing is, I found out through all of this that my birth father was born in St. Paul."

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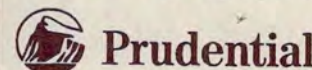
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Artgarbs serves as a showplace for Omodt's wearable masterpieces

by Catherine Condon

Standing amid the racks of hand-painted dresses, jumpers, sweaters, vests and jackets at her new Highland Park women's clothing store, Lisa Jane Omodt recalled a comment made by her aunt.

"Before we opened Artgarbs, she said she was going to write a book about my business and call it *The Mirror by the Sewer*," Omodt said with a laugh. "When we do the Uptown Art Fair, we're in the streets and we literally have the mirror by the sewer and all these women are taking their clothes off in the middle of the booth, trying on dresses and having a good old time."

Until recently, the Mendota Heights resident sold her creations mostly at juried art shows like Uptown. Now her customers can enjoy a more comfortable environment in which to try on the easy-fitting, hand-designed artwear for women.

"They (their art fair clients) kept saying, 'Where's your store? When can I come and see you?'" said business partner Shari Pope, the studio manager for L.J. Omodt Design Inc., Artgarbs' parent corporation. "You have to listen to your customers."

Artgarbs opened last November at 488 S. Hamline Ave. It features garments of original design that are individually handpainted and signed by Omodt.

"None of our stuff is tailored," said Omodt, who orders garments ranging from extra small to 2X from apparel manufacturers before adding her artwork.

"Everything's comfortable," said Pope. "We sell a lot to women who like to travel. Our designs are whimsical yet contemporary."

Omodt decorates the clothing with textile paint and dye, using either brushes or templates that she forges herself. She then sets the patterns with an old-fashioned cylinder-shaped presser. "I don't ever use my iron, even



Lisa Jane Omodt listened to her art fair customers and opened Artgarbs, where she can sell her unique women's clothing designs year-round. Photo by Kristine Heykants.

for my personal things," Omodt said. "You can put a shirt through and it's pressed just like that."

Prices range from \$68 for separate pieces to \$150 for a jumper and jacket set. Omodt creates two or three new patterns each season and has nearly 70 to date.

Each season also carries its own design themes at Artgarbs. This spring it's "Chicks Headin' South," featuring clothing with two whimsical birds; "Garbs on the Go," which includes cruise ships, airplanes and old-fashioned suitcases, hat boxes and luggage tags; and "Love Bugs," which carries a variety of crawling critters.

Omodt, 40, earned a bachelor's degree in applied design from the University of Minnesota and then did graphics work for Griggs, Cooper & Company. She developed a freelance graphics business on the side and following the birth of her first child went into freelancing full time. For fun, she began painting her children's and friends' clothing, which led to showing her work

at craft fairs.

Six years ago, Omodt formed L.J. Omodt Design with Pope, 35, who has a studio arts degree from the University of Minnesota. The two had met on the job at Griggs, Cooper. Since then, Omodt said, sales have grown tremendously.

The two women are now exploring East Coast markets as well as those in warmer climates, such as Fountain Hills near Scottsdale, Arizona, where they attended an art fair last month. "We picked up some jewelry lines for the store there," Omodt said.

The pair said their satisfaction as business partners is not measured so much in sales figures as it is in their clients' satisfaction.

"We're artists," Omodt said. "I'm not the type of person who sets sales goals. You need the dollars and cents to keep the company moving, but I get more excited if we sell a whole group of clothing. I look at it as, 'Oh, my gosh, that whole pattern went. The gals really like that one.'"



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Déva House fund-raiser set for April 16

The Ramsey Medical Society, the RMS Foundation and the RMS Alliance will host a black-tie dinner and dance on Friday, April 16, at the Town and Country Club, 2279 Marshall Ave. Proceeds will benefit Déva House, 260 Summit Ave., the nation's first comprehensive, freestanding hospice for terminally ill children.

Featured speakers include Déva House founder Mary Ann Boe and Dr. Art Kaemmer, a retired pediatric physician and co-chair of the capital campaign. Entertainment will be provided by Latin Sounds Orchestra and various Twin Cities children's groups.

According to director of development Chuck Peterson, an attempt is being made to raise \$6 million for the acquisition and

renovation of the Summit Avenue mansion, which was previously home to the Maryhill Renewal Center, and for programming. A little over \$700,000 has been raised so far, including contributions from the Minnesota Twins and Timberwolves and the Ronald McDonald House Charities. Hopes are to have the facility open by the end of this year.

The cost of the April 16 fund-raiser is \$75 for the social hour, dinner and dancing, or \$30 for dessert and dancing after 9:00 p.m. A silent auction will be held from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. More items are needed. For information, call Doreen Hines at 612-362-3705.

Donations to Déva House also may be sent to 260 Summit Ave., St. Paul, MN 55102. For information, call 651-602-0252.

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Summit Avenue Clubhouse
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Call 651-222-1751 for membership information.

Rates start as low as \$35 per month!



Village People Salon owners Jackie and Eddie Wangensteen show off their remodeled shop at Randolph and Cleveland avenues. Photo by Brad Stauffer.

Attentive flight attendant's beauty business is taking off on Randolph

by Kevin Dobbs

Four years ago, Jacquelline Wangensteen was a Macalester-Groveland mother of two looking for a new challenge and some extra income. She worked long hours as a flight attendant, but she also had long stretches of time away from work. Her husband Eddie was busy with his job at Albers Sheet Metal and both of their children were in school. So Wangensteen set out to start her own take-out soup operation, an idea that she had kicked around for some time.

Before that plan had a chance to materialize, however, "Eddie came home one day and asked, 'How would you like to run a beauty shop?'" Wangensteen recalled. "I said, 'Yeah, right.' I wasn't a beauty-shop person. I didn't even get my hair done."

Eddie convinced her to at least take a look at the former Village Coiffure Designers at 1044 S. Cleveland Ave. It wasn't long before Wangensteen saw in the store the challenge she was seeking. The owner at the time was terminally ill and the business had declined appreciably.

"It was in pretty rough shape," Wangensteen said, "but I started thinking about it and figured, 'this is workable. I can make something out of this.'"

Her plan was to buy the salon, fix it up and then sell it, using the profits to start her soup shop. However, once she had made the renovations and additions, Wangensteen had independent stylists looking to set up shop in her newly christened Village People Salon. Then came the customers.

"Once we got going, more and more people kept coming," she said.

Wangensteen went back to school to become a nail technician, and as she studied, her business blossomed—so much so that when the building housing her salon was bought a year ago, the new owner raised the rent.

Wangensteen set about looking for her own building. "Why pay all the rent?" she

asked. "I figured we might as well just find a place we could own. By then, I knew I was in this for the long run."

Last December Wangensteen bought the former SuperAmerica on Randolph and Cleveland avenues. She and Eddie spent the past four months transforming the convenience store into a 2,000-square-foot salon that offers hair styling, facials, manicures, pedicures and massages.

The new Village People Salon opened on March 29 with 14 stations—up from six at the original location. In time, Wangensteen expects her customer base to grow by as much as 80 percent because of the salon's full-service approach and prime location.

Landing a building across the street from the College of St. Catherine and its 3,000-plus women students required diligence and fortuitous timing. Wangensteen learned last summer from newspaper accounts that SuperAmerica intended to sell off its stores that did not sell gasoline. She made the Randolph Avenue location a frequent stop, and when the manager there learned in August that it would be sold, Wangensteen was the first person he told. Shortly thereafter the couple made an offer, and though it wasn't the highest offer, it was the first. More important, the Wangensteens were willing to buy the store as it was, with freezers, walk-in coolers and everything else intact.

The couple removed the coolers and the counters, redid the floor plan and redid the plumbing. Though she would not disclose figures, Wangensteen said she could sell the building at a profit today. But she has no plans on doing that. Business is too good, she said, and eventually it should make it possible for her to pursue her other passion.

"This is so I can retire early and fish," she said. "I'd rather be doing that than anything else."

How about getting her hair done? "My own hair? I'd still rather French-braid it or throw it up in a knot," she said. "I'm not a high-maintenance person."

Paint-A-Thon seeks homes needing fresh coat

The Metro Paint-A-Thon is now seeking applications from elderly, disabled and low-income residents who are interested in having their homes painted this summer.

Approximately 300 homes will be painted by more than 6,000 volunteers during the weekend of August 7. To qualify, a home must be a single-family dwelling that is owned and occupied by a person age 60

or older, or by someone of any age with a permanent physical disability. The house must be structurally sound and must not be in need of major repairs. The maximum monthly household income is \$1,207 for one person, \$1,460 for two, \$1,731 for three and \$1,994 for four.

The application deadline is May 1. For information, call 612-721-8687, ext. 303.

Snelling-Hamline COUNCIL CAPSULE

SNELLING AVENUE DESIGN WORKSHOP

Public Arts St. Paul is sponsoring a Snelling Avenue design workshop on Saturday, May 8, at Hamline University. Interested individuals are being invited to help create a common vision for Snelling Avenue that could be developed into an exhibit for this fall's Mayor's Design Forum. Those who attend the workshop will be provided with technical support to help

shape the exhibit, which may be used to attract funding for street improvements. For details, call Public Arts St. Paul at 651-290-0921.

SPEEDING ON SNELLING

Neighbors and business people worried about speeding on Snelling Avenue will hold a brainstorming session to develop solutions to the problem at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 20, in Room 103 at Liberty State Bank, 176 N. Snelling Ave. For information, call Sherilyn Young at 651-644-1085.

FRIENDS TREE SALE

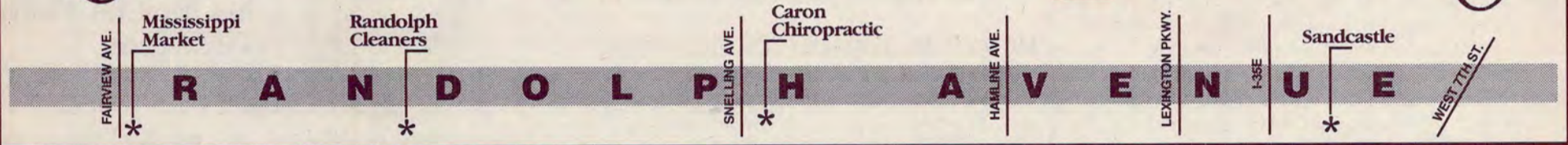
Friends of the Parks and Trails of St. Paul and Ramsey County is now conducting its annual spring tree sale. Some of

the trees available for purchase include northfire maple, heritage birch, bicolor oak, and Black Hills and Baker blue spruce. Prices range from \$18-40. The trees may be ordered for private use or they may be donated to a local park. Orders must be prepaid and placed by April 8. For information, call 651-698-4543.

CITYWIDE PARKS CLEANUP

The St. Paul Division of Parks and Recreation is sponsoring its annual spring parks cleanup from 9:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday, April 17. Participants will be treated to a free lunch from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. at the new Midway Pavilions at Como Park. To register and receive directions to a local park in need of help, call 651-266-6458

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Macalester-Groveland COUNCIL CAPSULE

ANNUAL MEETING SET

The Macalester-Groveland Community Council's annual meeting and board election will be held at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, April 15, in the Fellowship Hall of Immanuel Lutheran Church, 104 S. Snelling Ave.

The keynote speaker will be Jeff Hamiel, executive director of the Metropolitan Airports Commission, who will provide information on this summer's construction at the airport and the impact it will have on Macalester-Groveland. Hamiel also will discuss ways that citizens can influence airport policy. He will also answer any questions from the audience.

Up for election this year will be representatives of the council's odd-numbered grids, positions now held by Tom Moss, 175 Woodlawn Ave.; Renee Jensen, 2047 Grand Ave.; Philip Tesch, 132 S. Wheeler St.; Jay Dobberstein, 1459 Sargent Ave.; Sara Pillow, 2116 Jefferson Ave.; Susan Crumb, 1663 Wellesley Ave.; Roger Bromander, 1289 Stanford Ave.; and Bob Radspinner, 1206 James Ave. The seat for Grid 15, the area bounded by Jefferson, Fairview, Randolph and Snelling avenues, is vacant due to a recent resignation. Also up for election are the four at-large seats now held by Jane Jenkins, 1263 Palace Ave.; Leslie Harter-Ibanez, 1147 Palace Ave.; David Erickson of Highland Repair; and Mark Thompson of Immanuel Lutheran Church.

The annual meeting also will include a straw poll on the capital improvement projects that have been proposed for the area in 2000-2001. Projects that will be ranked by the community council include the renovation of the children's play areas at the Edgcombe Recreation Center and Mattocks Park, traffic calming measures on Fairview Avenue through the addition of a landscaped median, traffic signal revisions at Grand and Snelling avenues and the completion of the Grand Round bicycle route. For more information on the annual meeting and election, call Kathie Tarnowski at 651-698-7973.

UST'S BUILDING PURCHASE DISCUSSED

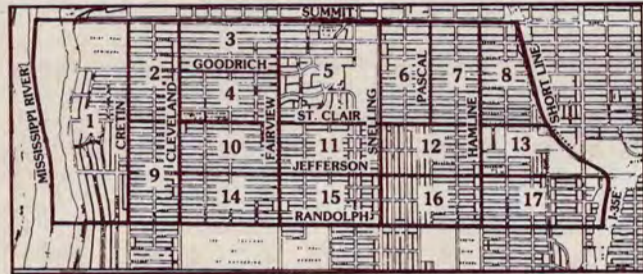
The community council's Housing and Land Use Committee will meet at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 7, at the Edgcombe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St., to discuss the University of St. Thomas' recent acquisition of the apartment building on

the southeast corner of Grand and Cretin avenues. Neighbors have expressed concern about the college owning property outside of its campus boundary. The committee will also discuss the work that is being done to lessen the noise generated by the ventilator fans on top of the university's new science building at Summit and Cretin avenues.

HOME IMPROVEMENT FAIR SET APRIL 17

The Highland/Macalester-Groveland Home Improvement Fair will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 17, at Cretin-Derham Hall, 550 S. Albert St.

Approximately 60 vendors will display a wide range of home improvement topics, and morning and afternoon workshops will be presented. Admission is free.



Macalester-Groveland neighborhood by grids

HOME IMPROVEMENT LOANS OFFERED

The owners of all single-family homes and owner-occupied duplexes in the Macalester-Groveland area may now borrow up to \$10,000 for home improvements through the community council's Middle Income Fix-Up Fund.

Also available to Macalester-Groveland residents is the new Moderate Income Fix-Up Fund. This program, funded by a grant and loan from the city's Sales Tax Revitalization (STAR) program, is available to households with maximum incomes ranging from \$22,500 for one person to \$36,900 for a family of six. Applicants may borrow up to \$10,000 and may receive a grant as well. For details, call Jessica Bakkene at 651-698-7973.

CONNECTION PUTS STUDENTS TO WORK

The Macalester-Groveland Job Connection matches students who are looking for a job with flexible hours near their home with local residents who have jobs that need to be done. The jobs may include lawn mowing, raking, gardening, house cleaning and minor home repairs. Area residents who want a job or have a job they want done are invited to call the council office at 651-698-7973.



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JIM SEABOLD
651-282-9611



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651-282-9636



KATHLEEN TURNER
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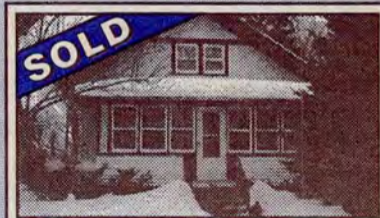
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The Highland District COUNCIL CAPSULE

ANNUAL MEETING

The Highland District Council will hold its annual meeting at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 21, at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. Up for election at that time will be representatives of the council's odd-numbered grids, including Susan Rose of Grid 1, Scott Bunin of Grid 3, Greg Kleindl of Grid 5, Mark Moeller of Grid 7, Sieglinde Bier of Grid 9 and Chris Berg of Grid 11. Also up for election will be the at-large seats held by John Grzybek and Angie Kline, and the representative for Grid 6, which is vacant.

To hold an election in a grid, at least three residents or property owners from that area must be present and willing to vote. At-large members are elected by all residents or property owners in the district who are present at the meeting.

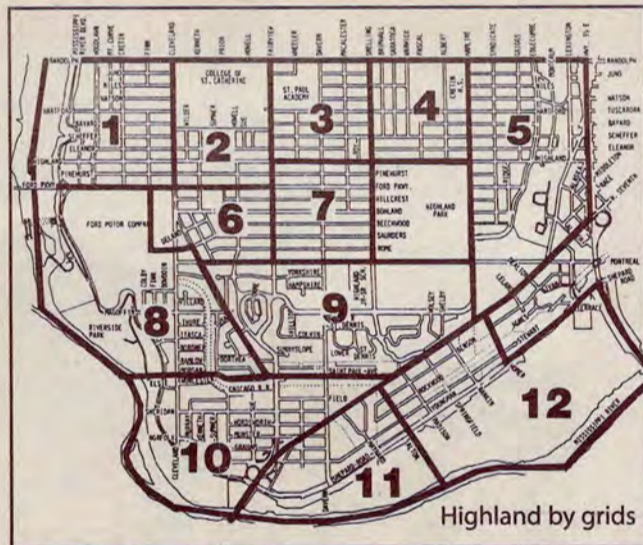
A discussion will be held during the annual meeting on light-rail transit plans for the Riverview Corridor between downtown St. Paul and Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. The Highland District Council has invited City Council members Mike Harris and Chris Coleman and County Board members Rafael Ortega and Tony Bennett to be the speakers for the evening. For information, call the district council office at 651-298-5138.

SHEPARD-DAVERN PLAN

The Highland District Council laid over a decision on the Shepard-Davern Small Area Plan in March. The board will make its recommendations on the plan at a special meeting at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, April 8, at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. For information, call 651-298-5138.

HOME IMPROVEMENT FAIR

The 7th annual Highland/Macalester-Groveland Home Improvement Fair will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Saturday, April 17, at Cretin-Derham Hall, 550 S. Albert St. Sixty exhibitors will be on hand to offer information on everything from new fences to landscaping, hardwood floors to energy-efficient windows. Workshops will also be offered and door prizes will be given away. The fair is free and open to all.



Highland by grids

TREE REPLACEMENT

The Highland District Council has established a tree replacement fund to help area homeowners replant yards that were denuded by last year's storms. The council will match one-half the price of the tree up to \$75 until the funds are gone. For information, call the council office at 651-298-5138.

APRIL 17 CLEANUP

Volunteers are being sought on Saturday, April 17, to help rid three areas of Highland Park of the debris that has accumulated over the winter. The areas are located on the north side of West 7th Street between Montreal and St. Paul avenues, the Shepard Road walking path and Crosby Farm Park. The cleanup will run from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Volunteers may show up at any one of the sites. For information, call Larry Hampel at 651-690-1717.

COMPOST SITE HOURS

The Pleasant Avenue compost site between Jefferson and St. Clair avenues is now open. Spring hours are 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturdays; and 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sundays.

RECYCLED REMINDER

The next recycling day in Highland will be on Monday, April 12. Recyclable items should be sorted, bagged and placed on the curb by 7:00 a.m.



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651-690-8596



SARAH KINNEY
651-282-9621



GARY FABEL
651-282-9613



BOB YANKOVICH
651-690-8570



DICK VOSS
651-690-8543



SANAE STOREY
651-690-8564

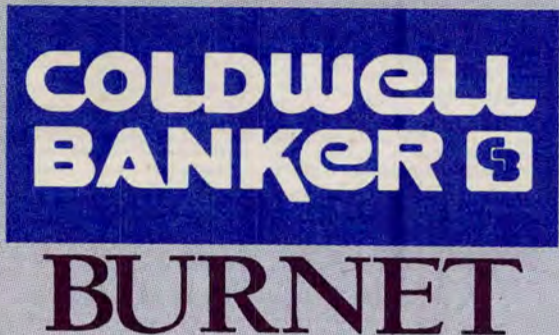


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Stunning views of river and Twin Cities skylines. Great floor plan for entertaining with privacy for overnight guests. Many extras, hardwood floors, fireplace, patio grill. Call for information/showing.
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Great 4-BR in Macalester/Groveland. Hardwood floors, formal dining, fireplace and wonderful 3-season porch. Stucco and maintenance-free exterior. 1592 Berkeley.
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or move up into this remodeled 5-BR south Highland home with 2 full baths, 2,000 finished square feet, new roof, new paint inside and out. Refinished hardwood floors.
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THE KIOSK

Wednesday/April 7

A **SIMPLE LIVING GROUP** for those who want to downsize their lifestyle will meet at 7:00 this evening at Minnehaha United Church of Christ, 4001 S. 38th Ave., Minneapolis. The topic of this month's meeting is Y2K preparedness.

Thursday/April 8

A **WORLD WAR II ROUNDTABLE** discussion will be held at 7:00 this evening at Historic Fort Snelling. The discussion will focus on "Merchant Marines: Delivering the Arms of Victory in Seven Seas." For information, call 612-726-1171.

A **TRAVELOGUE** and slide presentation will be given by Maribeth Clemente at 7:30 this evening at Books for Travel, Etc., 857 Grand Ave. Clemente will take participants on a whirlwind tour of the provinces of France in search of many of the country's most beloved goods. Admission is free. Call 651-225-8006.

Friday/April 9

AN **ASIAN FESTIVAL** will be held from 4:30 to 8:00 p.m. today in the Lutheran Memorial Center at Concordia University. Activities will include an arts and crafts exhibit, a fashion show and a buffet-style dinner and dance. Call 651-641-8851.

AWARD-WINNING JOURNALIST Allan Nairn will discuss his work covering the struggle for independence in East Timor, Indonesia, in a free talk at 7:30 this evening in Macalester College's Weyerhaeuser Chapel.

Saturday/April 10

EPWORTH UNITED METHODIST Church, 3207 S. 37th Ave., Minneapolis, will hold its annual auction beginning with a preview at 12:30 this afternoon. For information, call 612-722-0232.

Sunday/April 11

A **CHILI DINNER** will be hosted by Boy Scout Troop 243 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. today at Jehovah Lutheran Church at Thomas and Snelling avenues.

AN **ART AUCTION** featuring art valued from \$45 to \$1000 will be held from 6:30 to 8:00 this evening at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. The cost is \$10 and proceeds will go to the child care scholarship fund. Call 651-698-0751.

Monday/April 12

A **GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP** for all ages will meet from 6:30 to 8:00 this evening and will continue weekly for the next 10 weeks at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 S. Snelling Ave. To register, call 651-641-0177.

A **PROGRAM** to commemorate Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Memorial Day) will be held at 7:00 this evening at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. Cellist Janet Horvath will perform works by Bloch, Ravel, Ben Haim and John Williams.



Spring Fling. Alec Lane, left, got to pet a baby goat or two with the help of his mom, Tracy, during a spring celebration on March 29 at the Hillcrest Recreation Center. The event included a petting zoo, face painting and a visit from the Easter Bunny. At right, Scott Brook and his son, Mitchell, seem to have discovered the origin of the phrase "duck your head." Photos by Terry Faust.

Also the JCC's Senior Creative Writing Workshop will read original works. Admission is free. Call 651-698-0751.

Tuesday/April 13

THE **TWIN CITIES HOLOCAUST** commemoration will be held at 7:00 this evening at Beth Jacob Congregation, 1179 Highway 110, Mendota Heights. High school students will recite names of Holocaust victims and the St. Paul Talmud Torah Day School choir will sing. The annual commemoration also will include a candle-lighting ceremony featuring local Holocaust survivors and singing of a song of hope sung in the Warsaw Ghetto. Call Nancy Brown of the Jewish Community Relations Council at 612-338-7816.

THE **SNELLING-SELBY AREA** Business Association is seeking donations for its annual silent auction to be held at 5:30 this evening at O'Gara's Bar and Grill. All contributors will be recognized at the auction. Proceeds will go toward local beautification projects. For information, call Michelle Galarneau of the SweatShop at 651-646-8418.

THE **SIERRA CLUB** will hold its monthly membership meeting at 7:00 this evening at Hamline United Methodist Church, 1514 Englewood Ave. Debra Alper, chair of the club's Sprawl/Land Use Committee, will be the speaker. Call 651-647-4303.

A **NEW PARENTS AND BABIES GROUP** will meet from 9:30 to 10:30 this morning at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. This month's meeting will focus on infant massage. To register, call 651-698-0751.

A **PANEL** of parents, along with Governor Jesse Ventura and commissioner Christine Jax, will meet from 6:00 to 7:00 this evening

at the Fitzgerald Theater, 10 E. Exchange St. Kim Insley from KARE-TV will moderate the meeting and present feedback that *Minnesota Parent* collected from 1,300 families. A reception will be held from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Admission is free. Call 612-343-9517.

A **RUMMAGE SALE** will begin with a presale from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. today at St. Helena Catholic Church, 3200 E. 43rd St., Minneapolis. It will continue from 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. tomorrow and on Thursday a bag sale will be held from 8:30 a.m. to noon. The cost is \$1.00 for the presale and \$2.00 for the bag sale.

A **SELF-ESTEEM WORKSHOP** for teenage girls ages 12 to 15 and their mothers or primary female caregivers will be offered from 6:30 to 8:00 this evening and on April 20 at the Hiawatha YMCA, 4100 S. 28th Ave., Minneapolis. The cost is \$12 for both mother and daughter and \$3.00 per additional teen. To register, call 612-729-7397.

Wednesday/April 14

THE **LONGFELLOW GARDEN CLUB** will meet at 7:00 this evening at the Mother Earth Garden Center, 42nd Ave. S. and 38th St., Minneapolis. The discussion will focus on Japanese rock gardening.

Thursday/April 15

"**LABOR IN SCANDINAVIA** and Minnesota: An International Conference" will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. today and from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. tomorrow and Saturday at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. The lives, working conditions and issues facing laborers in Scandinavia early in the 20th century and the parallels and differences

Scandinavian immigrants encountered in Minnesota will be the focus of the conference. Admission is free. Call 651-296-6126.

LA LECHE LEAGUE (St. Paul Metro chapter) will meet at 7:00 this evening. The meeting will focus on the family and the breastfed baby. For meeting location information, call 651-645-3083.

THE **HIGHLAND MAC-GROVELAND** Family Center, 2390 W. 7th St., will offer a series of cooking and nutrition programs for parents of young children. "Get Active," winter activities for kids and parents as well as snacks, will be offered from 10:00 a.m. to noon today. Admission is free. To register, call 651-695-3790.

Saturday/April 17

FARM IN THE CITY, a garden-based summer program for children ages 7-12, will hold a community art event from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. today in the Student Union lobby at Concordia University. For information, call 651-641-8831.

A **LUNCHEON** will be held at noon today in Rowan Hall at St. Helena Catholic Church, 3200 E. 43rd St., Minneapolis. The cost is \$5.00.

A **SPRING PARKS CLEANUP** will be held from 9:00 a.m. to noon today in all of the park areas of St. Paul. A thank-you celebration and free lunch will be held from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. in the new Midway Pavilions at Como Park. To register, call 651-266-6458.

A **BOOK SALE** will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. today and from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. tomorrow at St. Gregory's Church, 1668 Montreal Ave.

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A TRAVELogue and slide show on Suriname, a small country on the north-eastern coast of South America where vast areas of undisturbed rain forest still cover the land and where people of many cultures live in friendship and harmony, will be given by Angelika Kimbro at 7:30 this evening at Books for Travel, Etc., 857 Grand Ave. Admission is free. Call 651-225-8006.

A CLASS on how to care for your family photos, films and videotapes will be offered from 6:00 to 7:30 this evening at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. The cost is \$5.00. To register, call 651-296-2143.

Tuesday/April 20
 A WATER EXERCISE CLASS for people with arthritis will take place from 1:15 to 2:00 p.m. today and every Monday, Wednesday and Friday through May 28 at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. The cost is \$52, or \$35 for JCC members. Call 651-698-0751.

A FAMILY ISSUES PARENTING GROUP will meet from 7:00 to 8:30 this evening at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. The topic of this month's meeting is the importance of fathers. To register, call 651-698-0751.

Sunday/April 18
 A SALAD LUNCHEON will be held at noon today at Minnehaha United Methodist Church, 3701 E. 50th St., Minneapolis. Prior to the lunch will be a bake sale and craft boutique at 10:30 a.m. The cost is \$6.50. For reservations, call Winnie at 612-724-0578.

DOUG SHIDEL, author of *Bike Trails of Minnesota and Wisconsin*, will speak at 2:00 this afternoon as part of the Savage Center Speaker Series at Historic Fort Snelling. For information, call 612-726-1171.

THE GREEN PARTY, a growing progressive political party, will continue its discussion forums from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. on Sundays at the Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave. "Ecological Wisdom: Questioning Genetic Engineering" will be the topic of discussion at today's forum. For information, call 651-698-5266.

Monday/April 19
 "HEALTHY CHOICES, Healthy Women," a seminar dealing with women's health and wellness issues, will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. today at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. Presentations and participatory workshops will cover topics such as stress management, exercise and osteoporosis, nutrition, and creative expression and journaling. The suggested donation is \$10. To register, call 651-698-0751.

"POETRY IN THE PARLOR," a poetry reading given by WCAL radio personality Christine Sweet, will be offered at 7:30 this evening at the James J. Hill House, 240 Summit Ave. House tours will be available

after the reading. The cost is \$12. For reservations, call 651-297-2555.

A WATER EXERCISE CLASS for people with arthritis will take place from 1:15 to 2:00 p.m. today and every Monday, Wednesday and Friday through May 28 at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. The cost is \$52, or \$35 for JCC members. Call 651-698-0751.


The Kiosk/from previous page

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ON THE TOWN

In the beginning there was the 'word from our sponsor'...

...and the commercial's influence on TV and culture just grew from there, says author and Macalester professor

I knew a very wise man that believed that if a man were permitted to make all the ballads, he need not care who should make the laws of a nation.

by Bob Gilbert

That statement by Andrew Fletcher (1653-1716) is as true today as it was in the 17th century, according to Clay Steinman, who quotes Fletcher in his new book *Consuming Environments: Television and Commercial Culture* (Rutgers University Press, 226 pages). Only today, Steinman says, the balladeer is television.

Most of the stories presented to the American people today come via television, he says, and as a medium it plays a more dramatic role in our lives than government because of its extraordinary power to shape our thoughts and values.

Steinman, a resident of Highland Park and professor of communication at Macalester College, co-wrote the book with Steve Craig and Mike Budd. The trio met in the 1970s when all three were assistant professors of communication at Florida Atlantic University. They began planning the book 10

years ago. Their goal was to put in book form the material they taught in the classroom.

Much of the book deals with the business of television which, Steinman says, can be reduced to taking from people the time they might otherwise spend with friends and family and convincing them to spend money on products and services they don't need. According to him, the goal of commercial television is to entice as many people to watch as much television as possible.

"I'm not against the medium," says Steinman, whose favorite TV show is "Homicide." "I think it has enormous potential. It's just how it's used that I have reservations about. What commercial television actually sells to advertisers is access to our brains. What the shows are there for is to corral as many viewers as possible so they'll look at the commercials."

The commercials not only interrupt the programming, but shape the programming as well, Steinman says.

He tells in his book about how executives from Proctor and Gamble, after seeing the pilot for "Northern Exposure," paid CBS extra money to get the program on the air because they knew it would attract the audience they sought to increase sales of Tide laundry detergent.



Macalester College communications professor Clay Steinman has put to print his consuming interest in television and American culture. Photo by Greg Helgeson.

How does Crest sell 50 million tubes of toothpaste a year? The book quotes another executive from Proctor and Gamble, one of television's most prolific advertisers, who stated that for people to buy Crest rather than a less expensive brand, they need to be exposed to six Crest television commercials a month.

"Television's success stems from having convinced people to get their identity from their purchases," Steinman says. "More and more people in this society find their identities through the brand names they buy, and every time they buy a brand they pay homage to the advertising gods."

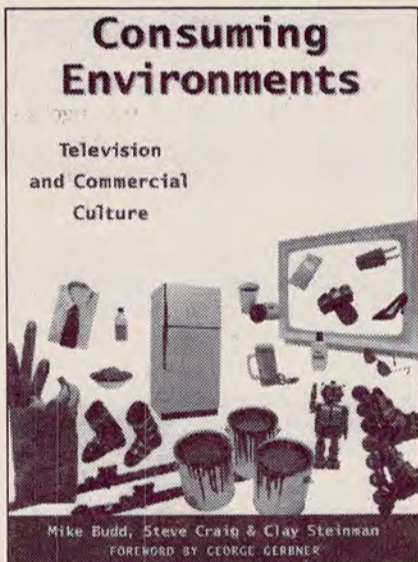
The downside, according to Steinman, is that it compromises television programming and leads to overconsumption. As an example, he cites the growing popularity of sport utility vehicles, which he says pollute the air far more than the cars they have displaced. "If sales trends continue, sport utility vehicles are expected to account for more than half of the United States' global warming gases by the year 2010," he says. "Ironically, the vehicles are usually advertised as wandering through beautiful wilderness landscapes. But literally, they are adding to the destruction of those natural landscapes."

One of the authors' biggest concerns is the proliferation of commercial environments. CNN news, Steinman points out, is now found in airport waiting areas not as a service to travelers as much as an opportunity to beam commercials at them. Public schools have welcomed Channel One into their classrooms, agreeing to show its news programs and commercials in exchange for free television sets. Steinman says he has seen new high school textbooks that use images of brand-name products to illustrate concepts in math.

"Our entire mental environment is saturated with commercial images," Steinman says. "There's no escape from it, and that's just what the television executives want. So the question arises: Are there going to be any non-commercial spaces available, or is our entire environment going to be shaped for commercial purposes?"

Steinman sees this question as an emerging political issue that will ultimately be decided by government.

Steinman will discuss *Consuming Environments* during readings at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, April 8, at Barnes and Noble, 2080 Ford Pkwy., and at 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 20, at the Hungry Mind, 1648 Grand Ave.




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Books



The Hungry Mind Bookstore, 1648 Grand Ave., will host the following readings at 8:00 p.m. (unless otherwise noted): Gina B. Nahai will read from her novel *Moonlight on the Avenue of Faith* on Wednesday, April 7; Molly McQuade will discuss her book *Stealing Glimpses: Of Poetry, Poets and Things In Between* on Thursday, April 8; Anthony Bukoski will read from *Polonaise*, a collection of stories on the passing way of life for the East End neighborhood of Superior, Wisconsin on Friday, April 9; Frederick Osten will read from his collection of poetry *Tool Chest* on Saturday, April 10; Christopher Buckley will read from his novel *Little Green Men* on Thursday, April 15; Duong Van Mai Elliot will discuss her book *The Sacred Willow: Four Generations in the Life of a Vietnamese Family* on Friday, April 16; Josip Novakovich will read from his new short story collection *Salvation and Other Disasters* at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, April 17; and Clay Steinman will discuss his book *Consuming Environments: Television and Commercial Culture* on Tuesday, April 20. For information, call 651-699-0587.

Barnes & Noble Highland, 2080 Ford Pkwy, will offer the following events for adults: Clay Steinman will discuss and sign copies of his new book *Consuming Environments: Television and Commercial Culture* at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, April 8; The Guthrie Book Club will meet to discuss Tennessee Williams *Four Plays* at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 14; Richard Bonk, an instructor at the Wellness Center, will teach the art of meditation, self-hypnosis and guided stress relief at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, April 15; and Neal Karlen will discuss his new book *Slouching Toward Fargo* at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 20. Admission is free. Call 651-690-9443.

Jeff Fredrick will read from his book *How the Pundits Stole Democracy*, a satirical look at the wheels that turned the Reformist party and their candidate, Jesse Ventura, into Minnesota's present-day political leaders, at 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 13, at Ginkgo Coffeehouse, 721 N. Snelling Ave.

Music



"Melodious Lunches," a noon-time concert series, will take place on Wednesdays and Thursdays at the Terrace Cafe in the St. Paul Student Center at the University of Minnesota. The schedule includes the following: contemporary folk guitarist Scott Marrs on April 7; jazz guitarist Matt Prudoehl on April 8; accordionist Mark Stillman on April 14; and acoustic guitarist Lisa Kane on April 15. Admission is free.

The Minnesota Orchestra, along with the Saint Olaf Choir, will perform Haydn's masterpiece "The Creation" at 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 7, and at 8:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday, April 9-10, at Orchestra Hall. For tickets, priced from \$18.25 to \$63.50, call 612-371-5656.

"Angelic Voices," will be performed by Lyra Concert and the Saint John's Boy Choir at 8:00 p.m. Saturday, April 10, and at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, April 11, in the Olsen Campus Center at Luther Seminary. Admission is \$16, or \$14 for seniors and \$6.00 for students. Call 612-404-9632.

The Orchestra of St. Catherine will perform music by Dvorak, Bartok and Saint-Saens at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, April 11, in the Jeanne d'Arc Auditorium at the College of St. Catherine. Admission is free. For information, call 651-690-6690.

Maria Jette and harpist Judith Kogan will perform the art songs of Gabriel Faure at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, April 11, at St.

ON THE TOWN
briefly



The St. Anthony Brass Quintet will perform everything from baroque music to Dixieland favorites at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, April 18, at St. Paul's Church on the Hill, 1524 Summit Ave. Admission is \$6.00 and \$10. For information, call 651-698-0371.

Paul's Church on the Hill, 1524 Summit Ave. Admission is \$6.00 and \$10. For information, call 651-698-0371.

The St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Bobby McFerrin, will perform the music of Beethoven and Prokofiev at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, April 11, at Orchestra Hall. For tickets, priced from \$15 to \$41, call 651-291-1144.

The Bel Canto Voices will perform at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, April 11, at Hamline United Methodist Church, 1514 Englewood Ave. Admission is free. For more information, call 651-645-0667.

Xylophonist Max Rudolph, a Highland Park resident, will perform in an honors recital

concert at 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 16, at MacPhail Center for the Arts, 1128 LaSalle Ave., Minneapolis. Admission is free.

The Minnesota Guitar Society will present fingerstyle guitarist D'Agostino Peppino at 8:00 p.m. Saturday, April 17, in Sundin Hall at Hamline University. For tickets, priced at \$10, or \$8.00 for students and seniors, call 612-418-6219.

Beth Nielsen Chapman will perform at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, April 18, at the O'Shaughnessy on the campus of the College of St. Catherine. For tickets, priced from \$18 to \$22, call 651-690-6700.

"Dease Tea," a free Sunday afternoon music event named for the University of St. Thomas'

president, will be held at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, April 18, in the O'Shaughnessy Educational Center at St. Thomas. The Prospect Players will perform the music of Gershwin, Brahms and Beethoven. A tea will follow the concert. For information, call 651-962-6035.

Minnesota Youth Symphonies will perform their annual concert at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, April 18, at St. Luke Lutheran Church, 1807 S. Field Ave. Admission is free. For information, call 651-699-5811.

The Musical Offering will perform the music of Scarlatti, Haydn and Franz Lachner at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, April 18, in Sundin Hall at Hamline University. For tickets, priced from \$5.00 to \$12, call 651-523-2459.

"Forever Ella and More" will be performed by Cleo Laine and the John Dankworth Group at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, April 18, at Orchestra Hall. For tickets, priced from \$19.75 to \$35.75, call 612-371-5656.

A recital of organ music by Minnesota composers will take place at 7:30 p.m. Monday, April 19, at the Cathedral of St. Paul. Admission is free.

A Clarinet Fête will be held at 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 20, in Brady Educational Center at the University of St. Thomas. The free program will feature clarinet faculty and students from St. Thomas and the College of St. Catherine. For information, call 651-962-5850.

Family



The Red Balloon Bookshop, 891 Grand Ave., will offer the following activities for children at 10:30 a.m. on Saturdays: David Wisniewski will sign copies of *Workshop*, a book written by Andrew Clements and featuring Wisniewski's intricate cut-paper artistry on April 10. Call 651-224-8320.

A book fair to benefit Highland Park Early Childhood Family Education will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Saturday, April 10, at Barnes & Noble Highland, 2080 Ford Pkwy. There will be special activities for children. Call 651-690-9443.

History Hijinx programs for children ages 3-11 will be offered from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Sundays at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. The line-up includes the following: learn about 19th-century gardening and design packets and planting stakes for the heirloom seeds that will be given out on April 11; and learn about the ancient art of origami, Japanese-style paper folding, and make some of your own on April 18. Admission is free. Call 651-296-6126.

"Sundays at Landmark," a family-oriented event series, will continue with the Twin Cities Horn Club and the Canon Choir of Brass at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 11, at the Landmark Center. Admission is free. For information, call 651-292-3225.

Barnes & Noble Highland will offer the following children's storytime activities for children ages 3 and older at 10:00 a.m. on Mondays: a poetry party will be held on April 12; and *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* will be read on April 19. Admission is free. Call 651-690-9443.

Central Touring Theatre will give its final performance of *Who Are We To Judge* at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 13, at Penumbra Theatre, 270 N. Kent St. Before the performance there will be a hip-hop demonstration, monologues, short skits and poetry. After the performance there will be a reception. Admission is \$5.00 for adults and \$4.00 for students.

The Nokomis Community Library, 5100 S. 34th Ave., Minneapolis, will offer storytimes for toddlers at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesdays, April 13, 20 and 27.

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Also the film *Velveteen Rabbit* will be shown at 10:30 and 11:15 a.m. Wednesday, April 7. Call 612-630-6700.

Preschool storytimes for children ages 3-5 will be held on Fridays beginning April 16 and continuing until May 21 at the Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave. There will be a storytime for day-care groups at 10:00 a.m. and one for families at 10:45 a.m. To register, call 651-642-0385.

Film

A film series will be offered at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays and at 7:00 and 9:30 p.m. on Fridays in the University of Minnesota's St. Paul Student Center, Buford and Cleveland avenues. The line-up includes the following: *Eat Drink Man Woman* on April 7 and 9; and *The Eel* on April 14 and 16. Admission is \$2.00, or \$1.00 for U of M students. Call 612-625-9794.

MIX, the New York Lesbian and Gay Experimental Film and Video Festival, will present two programs on Saturday, April 10, in Room 250 of Macalester College's Olin Science Hall. Highlights of the 1998 MIX festival will be shown at 6:00 p.m. Six short films from the MIX festival in Brazil will be shown beginning at 8:00 p.m. Admission is free and open to all. For information, call 651-917-0264.

Etc.

"Into the Light," a gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender arts and culture series co-sponsored by the Jewish Community Center and the St. Paul Companies, will take place through June 29 at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. The series will include "Friendship through Jacob Israel de Haan," a photo exhibit illustrating the activities of Jewish gay and les-



The American Craft Council will present the works of more than 250 artists Friday through Sunday, April 16-18, at RiverCentre. Included in the 13th annual juried show will be ceramics by Chuck Solberg of Highland Park (pictured) and mixed-media works by Brenda Griffin Wagner of Macalester-Groveland. The show will open at 10:00 a.m. each day. Tickets cost \$6.00, or \$10 for two days. Children will be admitted free. A preview to benefit Children's Hospital will be held from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, April 15. Reservations for the benefit are available for \$35 by calling 651-220-6641.

bian organizations in Amsterdam, London and Paris, which will be on display from March 16 to April 18. A film festival will also be part of the series. A series pass to all events will be available for \$50, or \$36 for JCC members and employees of The St. Paul Companies. Call 651-698-0751.

The University of Minnesota department of design, housing and apparel will host its 32nd annual clothing design show at 3:00 p.m. Saturday, April 17, in the North Star Ballroom of the St. Paul Student Center. Five student designers will present a wide range of clothing styles. The show will include a traditional tea with finger sandwiches and desserts. Admission is \$18 at the door. For tickets, priced at \$15, or \$13 for stu-

dents in advance, call 612-625-9794.

Dance

"Swing Night in the Caves" will take place from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. every Thursday at the Wabasha Street Caves, 215 S. Wabasha St. The line-up will include the following: Zoot on April 8; and The Beasley's Big Band on April 15. Free dance lessons will be given at 6:15 p.m. Admission is \$6.00. Call 651-224-1191.

A special "Swing Night" will be held from 8:00 p.m. to midnight on Friday, April 9, at the Wabasha Street Caves, 215 S. Wabasha St. The Minnesota Jazz Orchestra will provide the

music for the dance. Dance lessons will be given at 7:15 p.m. Admission is \$8.00. Call 651-224-1191.

The **TGIS Singles Social Club** will hold a smoke-free singles dance at 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 10, in the Grand Ballroom at the Sheraton Midway Hotel, 400 N. Hamline Ave. Dancer will provide the music for the dance. Admission is \$10, or \$8.00 for those arriving by 9:00 p.m. Call 651-644-3443.

Theater Mu will perform "Circle Around the Island," a combination of hula and modern dance with storytelling and soundscapes, beginning Saturday, April 10, at the Southern Theater, 1420 S. Washington Ave., Minneapolis. Performances will continue at 8:00 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and at 2:00 p.m. Sundays until April 25. For tickets, priced at \$14 and \$16, call 612-340-1725.

"Sunday Evening Dance," featuring the waltz, foxtrot, tango, hustle, Latin and swing dancing, will take place from 9:00 to 10:30 p.m. on Sundays, April 11, 18 and 25, at the Twin City Ballroom, 265 W. 7th St. Lessons will be given at 8:00 p.m. Admission is \$5.00. For information, call 651-771-4718.

Exhibits

An exhibit of contemporary clay vessels by Edward Eberle, Anne Kraus and Ron Meyers has opened at the Northern Clay Center, 2424 E. Franklin Ave., Minneapolis. All three artists are known for their use of myths, stories and narration as surface decoration on their pots. The exhibit will remain on view until April 17. Call 612-339-0592.

An exhibit of works exploring environmental issues by Marjorie Alexander, Roberta Allen and Thomasin Ringler has opened in the Catherine G.

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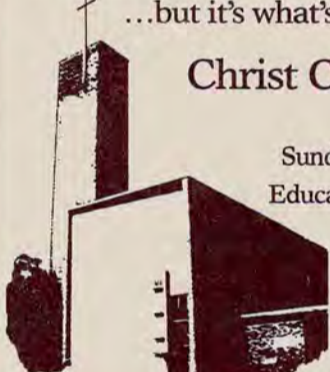
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Murphy Gallery at the College of St. Catherine. The exhibit will remain on view until April 11. Call 651-690-6644.

"Beijing Facing the 21st Century," an exhibit of 50 color photographs of the Chinese city's past, present and future, has opened in the Classroom Building at Concordia College, 275 N. Syndicate St. The exhibit will remain on view until April 16. Call 651-687-5537.

"Color Theory," a multi-media exhibit of works by emerging to established artists, has opened at the College of Visual Arts Gallery, 173 Western Ave. An opening reception will be held from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. Friday, April 9. The exhibit will remain on view until April 30.

"Minnesota Territory, Remembered and Recorded," an exhibit featuring paintings, drawings, prints and books from 1849 to 1900, will open with a champagne reception from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Friday, April 9, at the James J. Hill House, 240 Summit Ave. Reservations for the reception (\$12) are required and may be made by calling 651-297-2555. The exhibit will be open for viewing from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays until September 25. The cost is \$1.00.

An exhibit of new work by Andrea Woito will open with a reception from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Saturday, April 10, at the Beaumage Fine Art Gallery, 684 Smith Ave. The exhibit will remain on view until May 22.

An exhibit of new paintings by Larry Hoffman will open with a reception from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Saturday, April 10, at Groveland Gallery, 25 Groveland Terrace, Minneapolis. An exhibit of paintings by Michael Banning will also open in The Annex at Groveland Gallery. Both shows will remain on exhibit until May 8. Call 612-377-7800.

An exhibit of contemporary landscapes in pastels and acrylic by Steve Carpenter will open with a reception from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Friday, April 16, at the Art Resources Gallery, at 9th and Jackson streets, downtown St. Paul. The exhibit will remain on view until April 30.

Theater

Na Fianna Irish Theatre will perform Flann O'Brien's *Rhapsody in Stephen's Green, the Insect Play* at 8:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday, April 9-10, in the Weyerhaeuser Auditorium at Landmark Center, 75 W. 5th St. Admission is \$8.00 in advance and \$10 at the door. Tickets may be purchased at Irish on Grand, 1124 Grand Ave.

"The One-Act Celebration," an evening featuring two one-act plays, will open on Wednesday, April 7, at Penumbra Theatre, 270 N. Kent St. The plays featured will be *Hospice* and *Geneva Cottrell, Waiting for the Dog to Die*. Performances will be given at 7:30 p.m. on Thursdays, at 8:00 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and at 2:00 and 7:30 p.m. on Sundays until May 9. There will also be matinee performances at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. on Wednesdays. For tickets, priced from \$14 to \$25, call 651-224-3180.

Fully Reciprocal Theatre Company will open *The Maderati*, Richard Greenberg's madcap comedy about the lives of nine young, affluent New York artists, on Friday, April 9, at the Cedar-Riverside People's Center, 425 S. 20th Ave., Minneapolis. Performances will be given at 8:00 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays until May 1. For tickets, priced at \$10 and \$12, call 651-257-7265.

The Minnesota Opera will open Benjamin Britten's *The*

Turn of the Screw at 8:00 p.m. Saturday, April 10, at the Ordway Music Theatre. Performances will continue through April 18. For tickets, priced from \$23 to \$75, call 651-224-4222.

The joint theater department of the College of St. Catherine and the University of St. Thomas will perform Bertolt Brecht's *Mother Courage and Her Children* at 7:00 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, April 15-17, and Wednesday through Saturday, April 21-24, in Frey Theater at the College of St. Catherine. Admission is \$5.00. For information, call 651-690-6700.

The Real Community Theatre Company will perform Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew* April 16-25 at Central City Theatre, 343 E. Lake St., Minneapolis. Performances will be given at 8:15 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and at 2:15 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Admission is \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children. For information, call 612-869-5080.

Corcoran Park Players will open Woody Allen's *Don't Drink the Water* on April 16 at the Corcoran Park Neighborhood Center, 3332 S. 20th Ave., Minneapolis. Performances will be given at 8:00 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays through May 1. There will also be a 2:00 p.m. matinee on Sunday, April 25. For tickets, priced at \$7.00 for adults and \$5.00 for students and seniors, call 612-724-4539.

Swede Hollow: The Lost Immigrant Village of St. Paul will open at 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 17, at the History Theatre, 30 E. 10th St. *Swede Hollow* is a musical exploring the lives of the families who made Swede Hollow their first Minnesota home. Performances will run through May 16. For tickets, priced from \$17 to \$21, call 651-292-4323.

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SPORTS

CODY'S CORNER

TOM CODY



Baseball breaks down to haves and have-nots

Imagine if the Minnesota State High School League assumed control of major league baseball for the 1999 season. The first decision made by the new governing board would be to establish two separate classes of competition in order to "guarantee a quality experience for all participants."

The Class AA large-salary league would continue to play its World Series in October on the home fields of its contestants and the games would continue to be televised nationally on NBC. The Class A finals would be held in late August at old Dunning Field No. 4 on Marshall Avenue and would be shown (tape delayed) on the St. Paul Neighborhood Network.

The Class AA league would consist of the 15 teams that are most interested in remaining competitive at a time of soaring salaries. Here's a look at the field of high rollers:

1. New York Yankees. They'll be better on paper than last year, but manager Joe Torre's early absence will be significant. The Yanks won't win as many this season.
2. Cleveland Indians. The bullpen is great and the lineup is even better. The Indians have great team speed and solid defense up the gut. They'll win it all this fall.
3. Atlanta Braves. Pitching, pitching, pitching. Newcomer Brian Jordan will drive in 120 runs, but why is Otis Nixon leading off?
4. Los Angeles Dodgers. Kevin Brown will get them to the National League championship series, but no further—not with Gary Sheffield in the club house.
5. Anaheim Angels. With the addition of Mo Vaughn, the lineup is potent, but the pitching is paper thin. You can't win in the playoffs without a mounds corps.
6. Texas Rangers. See Anaheim above.
7. Seattle Mariners. See Texas above.
8. Houston Astros. Ken Caminiti is back home in the dome. The Astros are probably a 90-win team. They'll be on the golf courses by Columbus Day.
9. New York Mets. Ricky Henderson, Bobby Bonilla, Armando Benitez? No one deserves this crew more than Bobby Valentine.

Cody's Corner/see page 31

Play ball!

Area teams warm up for new prep baseball season

by Tom Cody

St. Thomas Academy's new head coach hates playing baseball in cold weather. "It stinks," said Eric Von Brocklin. "We used to finish our season by early May when I played (at St. Mary's University). At least in high school you play a few games in decent weather."

The prep baseball season gets under way this week whether the wind is blowing out of the north or not.

"We'll have all our kids on a pitch count at first," Von Brocklin said. "We'll let them throw maybe 40 or 50 pitches at the most if it's chilly. We want to break in the arms slowly. This is a marathon, not a sprint. I want fresh pitchers on May 21 when the playoffs begin."

St. Paul Academy solved the cold-weather problem by heading to Cocoa Beach, Florida. "The kids raise the money for the trip," said coach Mike Brown. "We practice down there every day and have our lineup set by the time we return."

Cretin-Derham Hall coach Jim O'Neill has more to think about than the weather right now. The three-time defending Class AA state champion Raiders went 29-0 in '98, but the pitchers who accounted for 28 of those wins have graduated. "We also lost 95 percent of our home runs and RBIs (from last year)," O'Neill said. "The front of the jersey still says 'Cretin,' but there's a lot of work ahead for this team."

Here's a sneak peek at what to expect on the high school diamonds this spring from Villager area clubs:

CENTRAL

League: St. Paul City Conference
1998 record: 12-10
Coach: Sean McKamie



St. Thomas Academy's R.J. Welsh stretches out prior to a scrimmage against Cretin-Derham Hall. Photo by Terry Faust.

Key players and their strengths:

- Chris Baile (senior LF). A smart outfielder who can drive the ball.
- Jay Johnson (senior P). Dominant lefty with a fastball that moves.
- David Meysembourg (junior CF). Covers center like Kirby Puckett did.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Adam Hunkins has graduated, leaving Central with an inexperienced mound corps. New coach McKamie likes what he has seen in the gym, but he expects that "it might take a while for us to get used to each other." There aren't any superstars returning to Central's squad, and the juniors did not get many at-bats or innings pitched last spring. Both defense and offense are question marks.

Outlook for 1999: McKamie sees his club somewhere in the middle of the

conference pack. He looks for Johnson and CDH to duel for the crown.

CRETIN-DERHAM HALL

League: St. Paul City Conference
1998 record: 29-0, City, Twin Cities, section and state Class AA champions
Coach: Jim O'Neill

Key players and their strengths:

- J.P. Gagne (senior P/3B). Throws strikes with good velocity.
- Jon Marzolf (senior P/IF). Another guy who can throw smoke.
- Dan Salmen (senior P). Trying to bounce back from an injury-plagued junior year.
- Mark Runyon (senior OF). A tough out.

Prep baseball/see next page

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Prep baseball preview / from previous page

Team strengths/weaknesses: Team defense should be as good as ever, and Marzolf and Gagne should be solid on the mound. Cretin-Derham's VFW team won the state baseball title last summer, so the juniors will be good. However, the Raiders hit 50 home runs last year; this year they'll have trouble getting 10. "This will be more of a hit-and-run, contact team," O'Neill said.

Outlook for 1999: Three of the top five teams in the state—CDH, Roseville and Hastings—play in Section 3AA. "We'll have to have some things go right for us to make it to state," O'Neill said. "Central and Harding will both be tough in the City Conference."

HENRY SIBLEY

League: St. Paul Suburban Conference
1998 record: 13-11
Coach: Greg Fuhrman

Key players and their strengths:

- Bubba Haugland (senior C). Excellent receiver with a strong throw to second.
- Ruben Ruiz (senior P). A control artist who can paint the corners.
- Brett Farrington (senior 1B). Left-handed contact hitter who'll get on base.
- Carl Bisciglia (senior OF). Good speed, good power. Will hit third.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Sibley is really young, but should continue to improve. Only three experienced players are back, so there will be a lot of at-bats to replace. "Our speed is average, pitching is questionable and hitting lacks power," said Fuhrman. "Defense is another concern."

Outlook for 1999: Hastings has solid senior athletes and Park has a Division I shortstop. They are the league favorites. "If we can manage .500 ball, we'll be happy," Fuhrman said.

HIGHLAND PARK

League: St. Paul City Conference
1998 record: 8-13
Coach: Lynn Nelson

Key players and their strengths:

- Rocky Markum (senior P). A 6-foot-2, hard-throwing left-hander.
- Nick Foster (sophomore P/OF). A good athlete who knows the game.
- John Mayer (junior SS). A third-year starter with a slick glove.
- Eric Kraushar (senior 1B). Can drive the ball with power.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Infield defense is good. Foster and Markum should win some games for the Scots, but the pitching beyond that is suspect. Team offense lacks punch, but outfield defense will be bolstered by speedster Heighlos Riser in center. "We've only got 30 kids in the entire program," Nelson said, "so the numbers aren't great."

Outlook for 1999: "Central will be good, and Johnson and CDH will be right in the mix," Nelson predicted. "Como will be better and Humboldt will be decent. The league is tough this year."

MINNEHAHA ACADEMY

League: Tri-Metro Conference
1998 record: 9-13
Coach: Dave Glenn

Key players and their strengths:

- Tim Hamburge (junior P). Good speed and control; came on strong in '98 playoffs.
- Josh Willett (senior P). Doesn't walk anybody.
- Tim Pederson (senior P/1B). Good glove at first. Will pitch the third game each week.
- Nick Hubbard (senior OF). Good all-around player.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Hamburge is a workhorse on the mound and Willett and Pederson also can get people out. Outfield defense is good. "We're just a shortstop away from being a really good team," Glenn said.

Outlook for 1999: Glenn thinks Prunty

makes SPA the conference favorite. He likes St. Bernard's and Mounds Park, too. "Our pitching might be good enough to make us a dark horse in the Tri-Metro," he said.

ROOSEVELT

League: Minneapolis City Conference
1998 record: 2-16
Coach: Jon DePerry

Key players and their strengths:

- John Schetner (sophomore 1B). Swings the bat with authority and has improved around the bag.
- Derek Ranum (senior P). A transfer who brings velocity and control to the hill.
- Brian Booth (junior OF/C). Has good power and a good arm.
- Jason Booth (senior IF). Will also pitch some innings. Hits the ball well.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Senior Steve Henderson will add depth to the pitching staff. Team speed is improved. "We were very young last year," DePerry said. "Our hitting was weak, but should improve this year." Infield defense and catching are question marks.

Outlook for 1999: "You've got to prove yourself by beating South in this league," DePerry said. "They won it three years in a row." The Teds hopes to reach the .500 mark this spring.

ST. PAUL ACADEMY

League: Tri-Metro Conference
1998 record: 18-4, Tri-Valley champions
Coach: Mike Brown

Key players and their strengths:

- T.J. Prunty (junior P). A great athlete who can do it all. One of the best hitters and pitchers in the metro area.
- Brent Lucas (senior 1B/P). Cleanup hitter who can pitch and play defense.
- Peter Skrief (senior P). Had an outstanding summer on the hill.
- Aaron Vanney (junior SS/P). A sneaky hurler who also has a good glove.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Prunty is a major strength. He hit .530 and led the metro in strikeouts as a pitcher. SPA brings back all four pitchers in their move to the Tri-Metro. "Our defense will be solid," Brown said, "but there's not a lot of punch in the lineup. We'll have to rebuild up the middle, so a lot of things are still wait-and-see."

Outlook for 1999: St. Agnes won the Tri-Metro last year and Blake will be a solid contender as well. However, Prunty and a deep pitching rotation should keep the Spartans in the thick of things. "If we can make the plays behind our pitchers, we'll be OK," Brown said.

ST. THOMAS ACADEMY

League: St. Paul Suburban Conference
1998 record: 5-15
Coach: Eric Von Brocklin

Key players and their strengths:

- Dusty Wilhelmy (senior CF). Hit .354 as a junior. Will drive in runs this spring.
- Mike Fretschel (senior IF). Another good stick for the Cadets. Hit .302 last year.
- Bob Deeb (junior IF). Solid with the mitt and bat. Hit over .400 as a sophomore.
- Bill Stoyke (senior P). Threw 28 innings in '98. Will be the mainstay on the mound this year.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Von Brocklin takes over a team that graduated most of its batting order. "I like what I see as far as the fundamentals," he said. "There are good athletes here." However, STA does not have much pitching depth.

Outlook for 1999: Von Brocklin likes Hastings and Park in the Suburban Conference. "South St. Paul was really strong last year, but it graduated a lot of talent," he said. "We were 3-13 in the conference last year, and that's not acceptable. Realistically, a .500 season would be a legitimate goal for us."

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Cody's Corner / from page 29

10. Colorado Rockies. They're still looking to win those mile-high slugfests. Colorado will hit 200 homers, but give up 190.
11. San Francisco Giants. They'll have a solid staff if Shawn Estes recovers. Barry Bonds and Jeff Kent are worth the dough, but J.T. Snow isn't.
12. Baltimore Orioles. Dish out \$80 million and this is all you get?
13. St. Louis Cardinals. Mark McGwire will get 68 home runs and the Cards will get 68 wins.
14. Arizona Diamondbacks. Randy "the Big Unit" Johnson is stranded in the desert with another noncontender.
15. Chicago Cubs. A giga-bucks cable deal forced them into Class AA. They have Sammy Sosa but not much else.

The key to qualifying for the Class A league involves not only economic disadvantage, but a demonstrated unwillingness to improve the team. Obviously, there'll be some controversy here with teams trying to sandbag their way into Class A rather than compete in the big leagues. This'll have to be closely monitored by league officials.

Here's a look at this year's junior league race:

1. Toronto Blue Jays. The Jays are spending some money, but the nucleus of the team is young and inexpensive: Shawn Green, Carlos Delgado, Jose Cruz and Shannon Stewart are the best of the worst.
2. Cincinnati Reds. They have more retreads than the junk yard. This is budget ball at its finest.
3. Boston Red Sox. Pedro Martinez will win the Cy Young, but Jose Offerman will bat third. The Bosox will go 81-81.
4. Oakland A's. Ben Grieve, Matt Stairs, A.J. Hinch and Jason Giambi are decent bargains in today's market. They will all have big years and then move on to Class AA teams.
5. Detroit Tigers. Another team that's still trying despite long odds. Dean Palmer will thrive in Tiger Stadium's swan-song season.
6. Montreal Expos. Vladimir Guerrero... quick, try and name another Expo.
7. Philadelphia Phillies. Curt Schilling is for sale. Once he goes, so do all hopes for respectability.
8. San Diego Padres. Garth Brooks will have more hits this

season than shortstop Chris Gomez.

9. Pittsburgh Pirates. This is where the list gets ugly. Skip ahead if you have a weak stomach.
10. Florida Marlins. Derrek Lee will hit cleanup. Raise your hand if you know who he is.
11. Milwaukee Brewers. Jim Abbott should have retired before Kent Hrbek did. He'll be the Brewers' third starter.
12. Chicago White Sox. Frank Thomas might set the American League mark for walks. Why would anybody pitch to him with the miserable supporting cast he's got?
13. Tampa Bay Devil Rays. Jose Canseco, Wade Boggs and Fred McGriff... at least there's something here for trivia buffs.
14. Kansas City Royals. Just a Kevin Appier trade away from becoming the Minnesota Twins.
15. Minnesota Twins. See below.

TWINS MARKET YOUTH MOVEMENT

Yes, the Twins have become the worst team in the major leagues. The only possible silver lining behind this dark cloud is that the Twins are at least headed in the right direction. After wasting last season with the likes of Bob Tewksbury, Mike Morgan and Otis Nixon, the team finally seems committed to a youth movement. There'll be some interest generated with these fresh faces. At the very least, it's nice to see that the team has finally stopped marketing Kirby Puckett as its main gate attraction.

The batting order will be a veritable spelling bee with the likes of Doug Mientkiewicz, Torii Hunter and Corey Koskie. There'll be more singles from this lineup than at Great Expectations. Home runs will be few and far between, especially if Marty Cordova is expected to be the chief power source. Todd Walker might hit .300, but he can't be considered a 100 RBI threat. Matt Lawton is the team's best player, but he couldn't have been a starter for the Twins a decade ago.

The pitching will be absolutely atrocious. It'll be difficult to develop the young hurlers in the ERA-unfriendly Metrodome. Manager Tom Kelly will just have to cover his eyes and keep running them out to the hill every fifth day.

Kelly's teams have always stayed competitive with solid defense. The youth movement will hurt the offensive output, but it'll hinder the defense even more. Last year's team was below average in the field and this year's will be far worse. The official scorer will have more difficult decisions than Kelly will this summer.

I don't see any way this team can win 60 games.

PATCHING THE TIRE

Suddenly, it's four years ago all over again for the Minnesota Timberwolves. No matter how the regular season turns out, the Wolves will be one-and-done in the playoffs—if they even qualify. The New York Nets' games have become more significant than the Wolves' since their June draft choice holds the key to Minnesota's future. We've been down this road way too many times before.

Injuries to Malik Sealy, Joe Smith and Anthony Peeler certainly didn't help, but the Stephon Marbury trade is what hurled the Wolves back through this time warp. Adding Dennis Scott and Hollywood Robinson in the backcourt did little to help. There's simply not enough firepower to help Kevin Garnett offensively.

Cheering against Marbury and the Nets has become the best option available. General manager Kevin McHale had better start practicing his Ping-Pong ball picking soon.

MINNESOTA HOOPS

Never has prep basketball been stronger in Minnesota. Khalid El-Amin's performance in the NCAA men's tournament gave state hoops a big shot in the arm. The University of Connecticut's championship run was keyed by the flamboyant, unorthodox point guard from Minneapolis North. Meanwhile, the Miller twins from Rochester Mayo took the University of Georgia all the way to the women's Final Four. Minnesota high schools continue to draw national recruiting interest from major college powers, but when was the last time Duke came calling in these parts?

Critics questioned whether or not El-Amin could succeed in Division I ball. Those people are now asking the same question about his future in the NBA. El-Amin will probably be a lottery pick come June. I can't see him staying on with the Huskies.

The Millers will remain at Georgia, but there are certainly bigger things ahead for both of them. They'll probably find roles with future Olympic teams. Here's hoping they eventually wind up with the Minnesota Lynx in the WNBA.

It'll be interesting to see if Moundsview star Nick Horwath can develop into a big-time player with Duke over the next few years. The 6-foot-10 forward has a lot of work ahead of him in the weight room, but he has the potential to succeed at that level.

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Prep softball preview

Local nines prepare to take on rivals old and new

by Bill Wagner

It's realignment time for two Villager area teams as high school softball gets ready for the start of a new season. Both St. Paul Academy and Visitation have switched from the Tri-Valley to the Tri-Metro conference in a move that both coaches endorse.

"Playing in the Tri-Valley was great," said SPA coach Bill Ross. "We had some natural rivalries there. However, I think the move makes sense from a geographical standpoint."

Visitation coach Jerry Tschida agrees. "I think the competition is going to be better," he said. "We don't have any more of those long bus rides and I hope to develop some good new rivalries. We're excited."

Local softball coaches are finding out this spring that not all of the competition is on the field. Though skill levels mean they are able to put better players on the diamond these days, attracting those good athletes has gotten harder. According to

Ross, there is a greater likelihood today that female athletes will specialize in only one or two sports and that softball might not be their first choice.

"Our game has really come on the last five or six years, what with fall leagues and indoor leagues in the winter," Ross said. "That means that coaching is made easier, because the kids are better going into high school. However, you can lose some kids (because of year-round programs in other sports). More athletes are specializing much earlier."

The coaches are managing, however, and they are all looking forward to the opening of the spring season. Here's how the area clubs stack up:

CENTRAL

League: St. Paul City Conference
1998 record: 8-6
Coach: Treacy Funk

Key players and their strengths:

- Anna McCormick (senior 1B). Very quick, strong defensive player.
- Jana Miller (senior SS). Out-

standing arm. Has plenty of power at the plate.

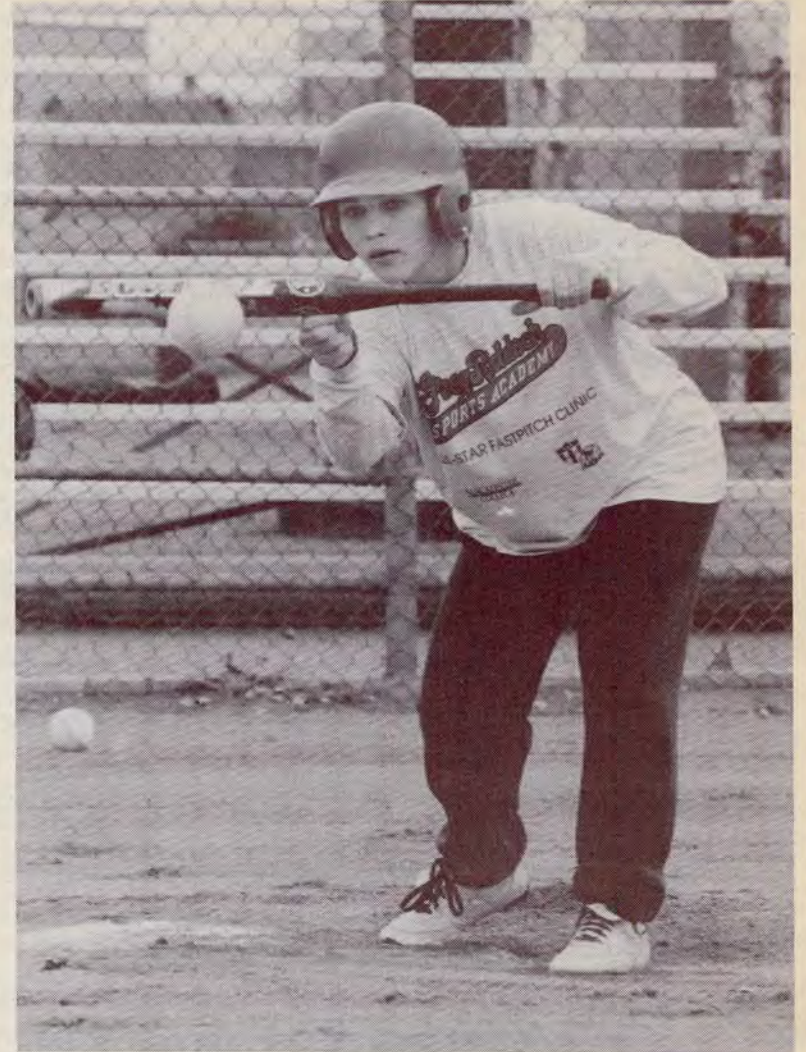
- Angela Machio (senior LF). Hits with power. Plays fine defense.
- Karina Magstad (junior CF). All-conference player with a good bat and glove.
- Jessica Dreis (senior C). Calls a good game behind the plate and throws well.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Central will have some offensive power and a decent defense. Depth could be a problem, especially against teams in the upper echelon.

Outlook for 1999: "We have all of our starters back except one," said Funk. She hopes her team can break into the group of conference contenders, including Cretin-Derham Hall, Johnson and Harding.

CRETIN-DERHAM HALL

League: St. Paul City Conference
1998 record: 13-6
Coach: Jodi McDonough



Central senior Jessica Dreis sharpens her bunting skills during practice. Photo by Terry Faust.

Softball/see next page

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Softball preview

/from previous page

Key players and their strengths:

- Kate Townley (junior SS). An excellent athlete who can hit over .500.
- Julie Berthiaume (junior P). Control hurler who saw some action last season.
- Maggie Skrypek (senior IF). Tabbed for either second or third base. A fine hitter.
- Sam Kronschnable (senior CF). Has outstanding speed. Makes great plays in the field.

Team strengths/weaknesses: The Raiders should have good pitching and hitting. However, inexperience may be a factor. Eight players graduated from last year's team.

Outlook for 1999: McDonough said Townley and Berthiaume will be the keys to CDH's success this season as the Raiders try to fend off the challenges of a field led by Johnson and Harding. "I think we'll be OK," McDonough said. "We have a young team, but we also have some good players."

HENRY SIBLEY

League: St. Paul Suburban Conference
1998 record: 12-11
Coach: Kathy Fletcher

Key players and their strengths:

- Paula Seiger (senior P). Hard thrower. All-conference two years running.
- Sarah Andrews (senior 2B). Solid defensive player who started last season.
- Nicole Hilo (senior OF). A third-year varsity player.
- Katie Otis (sophomore CF). An all-conference performer who has good speed, a good arm and good bat control.
- Angie Neska (senior 3B). Solid contributor who also may play other infield positions.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Sibley has solid pitching and a good blend of veterans and youth. The infield should be strong with Andrews and Neska, who will be joined by sophomore Joann Seidl and junior Katie Waltz. The team still needs to solidify its first base and catching slots.

Outlook for 1999: The Warriors are a good bet to be conference contenders along with Tartan, Park and Simley. "I think we can finish among the top three," Fletcher said.

HIGHLAND PARK

League: St. Paul City Conference
1998 record: 7-5
Coach: Julie Maidment

Key players and their strengths:

- Marnie Fitzgerald (senior P). A hard thrower who has improved her control.
- Katie Spiegel (senior C/OF). Good bat and good arm.
- Jill Reinhardt (senior C/SS). An outstanding athlete with a strong bat and a scrappy attitude.
- Labella Riser (senior CF). Quick on the bases. Can also hit and throw.
- Angie Sund (senior IF). Will help out with her batting skills.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Highland has good defense and decent pitching to go with a much improved offense. However, the Scots still need to nail down a few key positions.

Outlook for 1999: Maidment thinks this might be the year that Highland breaks into the contending ranks with CDH, Johnson and Harding. "I think we're going to do fairly well," she said.

MINNEHAHA ACADEMY

League: Tri-Metro
1998 record: 9-9
Coach: Steve Skytte

Key players and their strengths:

- Cara Jones (senior SS). A returning all-conference player.
- Jennifer Finell (junior P). Will handle most of the pitching duties for the Red Hawks. Keeps the ball down and throws strikes.
- Amy Engdahl (sophomore catcher). Had

a fine freshman season for never having caught before.

- Lee Durant (freshman IF). Hits well and has a cannon for an arm. Will cover second or third.
- Sarah Kron (junior OF). An all-state soccer player who is out for softball for the first time.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Minnehaha's infield is good and its offense is decent. Team speed is adequate. Depth may be a problem.

Outlook for 1999: The Red Hawks will have a tough time unseating perennial favorite Blake in the Tri-Metro. "We're looking at improving on last year's record," Skytte said.

ROOSEVELT

League: Minneapolis City Conference
1998 record: 1-12
Coach: Rodney Lossow

Key players and their strengths:

- Kurston Heltne (junior 3B). All-conference candidate. Has the best bat on the team. Also can do some pitching.
- Laura Leiss (senior SS). Switched over from second. Decent arm and a solid bat.
- Tracy Harris (senior CF). Outstanding fielder with a strong arm.
- Becky Johnson (senior P). Will be doing most of the mound work for the Teddies. Has shown improved velocity and control.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Lossow thinks the Teddies' pitching and team speed will be pretty good. He said he can fill seven spots with competent players; the problem is that he needs nine. Lack of experience, especially in the outfield, is the team's main weakness.

Outlook for 1999: Roosevelt's program is not going to turn around immediately. (The Teddies have had only one victory in the last two seasons.) Lossow said he'd be happy with four or five victories this season. "Our numbers are back up," he said. "We have about 25 out for varsity and junior varsity."

ST. PAUL ACADEMY

League: Tri-Metro Conference
1998 record: 13-7
Coach: Bill Ross

Key players and their strengths:

- Katy Gehrig (senior P). A control pitcher who will work most of the games for the Spartans.
- Alexa Gollinger (senior LF). An excellent defensive player.
- Katie Ross (junior C). A fine leadoff hitter and four-year veteran.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Pitching, outfield and middle infield are big pluses for SPA this season. First and third still need some fine tuning.

Outlook for 1999: The Spartans should do alright in their new league, with St. Bernard's and St. Agnes posing the biggest challenge. "We'll be competitive," Ross said.

VISITATION

League: Tri-Metro Conference
1998 record: 15-5
Coach: Jerry Tschida

Key players and their strengths:

- Christina Adams (senior 3B). Makes great contact at the plate.
- Molly Sutherland (senior 2B). One of the top second basemen in the league.
- Jenny Carnival (sophomore IF/OF). Great hitter and decent fielder.
- Kelly Fitzgerald (junior SS). Great range in the field and holds her own at the plate.

Team strengths/weaknesses: Visitation has good defense and pitching, but hitting and offense is a question mark.

Outlook for 1999: The Blazers will be right up there, Tschida said, despite the presence of always tough Blake. "I think we can be one of the top teams in the league," he said.



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SPORTS SHORTS

Becca Clauson was on a roll at the USA Gymnastics girls state championship meet on March 28 at the University of Minnesota. The 15-year-old Highland Park resident claimed the all-around title in Level 10 competition with a combined score of 37.50. It was the eighth consecutive year that she has won the state title for her skill level. She earned a 9.6 on the balance beam, 9.575 on the floor exercise, 9.2 on the vault and 9.125 on the uneven bars. Clauson, who is a freshman at Cretin-Derham Hall, will represent Minnesota in the Region 4 championships on April 15-18 at Concordia University. She is ranked first in her age division and sixth overall in the seven-state region. Fellow Thompson Academy of Gymnastics South (TAGS) member Katie Wild of Mendota Heights also qualified for the regional meet in Level 10 competition for 14 year olds, though she was unable to complete the state event due to illness. The top seven girls in each age group in the region will advance to the Junior Olympic Nationals on May 15 in Austin, Texas. Last year, Clauson finished 16th in the country. She has been training with TAGS since she was 2 years old.



Becca Clauson

The St. Paul City Conference will celebrate 100 years of interscholastic athletics with a Centennial Banquet on Monday, April 19, at RiverCentre. A social hour will open the affair at 5:00 p.m. followed by dinner at 6:30 and the program in which the top 100 male, top 25 female and top seven adapted-sports athletes of the century will be introduced. Attendees will re-

ceive a souvenir program with photos and biographies of all the athletes. Tickets must be purchased in advance for \$25. They are available at any conference high school or by sending a check payable to the St. Paul Conference 100th Anniversary to Ron Slotsve, Athletic Office, 360 Colborne St., St. Paul, MN 55102. Ticket orders must be received by April 14.

Highland Gymnastics has appointed Katherine Balzart as its new director. Balzart is a special education paraprofessional in School District 197 and coaches the Henry Sibley girls gymnastics team. She has 20 years of experience as a gymnastics coach and is certified by the Minnesota Girls Gymnastics Officials Association. Highland Gymnastics, which is part of St. Paul Highland Community Education, is currently offering classes for gymnasts age 3 through high school. The program offers competition against other teams in the Midwest Amateur Gymnastics Association. For details, call 651-293-8874.

The St. Peter's Women's Golf League will be playing the Highland Park 9-hole golf course at 9:00 a.m. on Thursdays for 16 weeks starting May 13. New members are welcome. For information, call Dorothy Petroski at 651-454-6340.

The Twin Cities Sport and Recreation Club is offering coed soccer and touch football starting April 17 at the Fort Snelling Fields. Bowling, softball and other sports will also be offered at various Twin Cities locations. Call 612-871-5000.

The Highland Park Men's Golf Club will hold its annual spring mixer at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 15, at the 18-hole clubhouse on Montreal Avenue. Members old and new are invited to register for the 1999 season. Dues are \$80. A catered meal will be served. Call John Landy at 651-917-3752.

The Highland Senior (Mixed) Golf League has openings for the 1999 season. The league plays at the Highland 9-hole course on Monday mornings for 16 weeks beginning May 3. A membership meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m. Monday, April 19, at the Highland 18-hole clubhouse on Montreal Avenue. Call Marlane Gallagher at 651-698-3246.

The Highland 18-Hole Women's Golf Club will have its spring meeting at 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 21, in the Highland clubhouse. The agenda will include discussion of the year's events and an update on the city's plans for renovation of the course. The league has reserved tee times at Highland from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. on Wednesdays and from 8:00 to 8:30



State champs. St. Paul's 6th-grade traveling basketball team captured first place at the season-ending MYAS state tournament. Pictured left are (front row) Chelsea Hernandez and Emily Bisanz of Nativity School; (second row) Emmy Delaney of Highland Catholic and Nicole Barghini, Molly Maguire and Katie Foley of Nativity; (third row) Maggie Stark of Highland Catholic and Annie Casper and Katie Rufener of Nativity; and (top row) Jenny Docherty of St. Luke's, Abby Misukanis of Nativity and Kelsey Huberty of Mann. The girls were coached by Midge and Tim Hernandez and Jennifer Tschida.

a.m. on Saturdays. Membership dues are \$40. The first league event is scheduled for April 28 and 30. Call 651-690-1213.

The St. Paul Midway Little League will hold registration for boys and girls ages 8-12 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. on Saturdays, April 17 and 24, at Dunning Field, Marshall Avenue and Syndicate Street. The cost is \$30. Players ages 10-12 should bring a glove and outdoor shoes. For details, call 651-659-1391.

Professional Directory

A guide to the services of area health, legal & financial professionals

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Garage/Moving/Misc.

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ST. PAUL ACADEMY SUPER SALE! 1712 Randolph Ave. Household goods, bikes, athletic equipment, toys, children & adult clothing, furniture, pottery. Saturday, April 17, 9-3. Sunday, April 18, 12-2 bag sale. **v**

RAIN OR SHINE Rummage Sale, 983 Selby; April 8, 9, 10, April 15, 16, 17. Open 10 a.m. **v**

Autos/Boats/Mtrcycles

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<input type="checkbox"/> Lawn & Snow	<input type="checkbox"/> Sewing	<input type="checkbox"/> For Rent Commercial	
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Please Note: Classified ads are 75 cents a word, \$7.50 minimum. All classified ads are payable in advance: cash, check, credit card. Mail, fax or deliver your ad to: *Villager*, 757 Snelling Ave. S., St. Paul, MN 55116. Fax: 651-699-6501. For more information, call 651-699-1462.

To charge your ad, please complete: Discover Visa MasterCard
Card # _____ Expiration Date _____
Signature _____ Phone _____

	7.50 minimum	8.25	9.00
9.75	10.50	11.25	12.00
12.75	13.50	14.25	15.00
15.75	16.50	17.25	18.00

EMPLOYMENT

Looking for uncommonly qualified employees?

The smart employer looks for a highly educated pool of labor.

If you had a hunch that the best place to look for good employees was in your own back yard, here's proof you were right. The 65,593 adults who receive the *Villager* on their doorsteps represent a highly educated labor pool you'd be smart to tap to fill your next job opening.

Educational attainment of Villager readers*

Less than 9th grade	1,762	2.7%
9th - 12th grade (no diploma)	3,373	5.1%
High school graduate	12,198	18.6%
Some college, no degree	16,605	25.3%
Associate degree	3,987	6.1%
Bachelor's degree	17,493	26.7%
Graduate or professional degree	10,175	15.5%
Total	65,593	100%

*Individuals who receive the Villager age 18 and over. Source: 1990 U.S. Census

Fence Installation

Established, Quality Company

Wood Set and Build Positions
Shop Production Coordinator
Training provided, experience a plus, full benefits package.
Full and part time positions.

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Conduct telephone surveys from our office. No selling. Hours 2-9 or 5-9 weekday evenings and occasional Saturdays, 10-4, 3+ evenings per week. (612) 729-2306 between 10:30 & 5:00. Apply: 5005 1/2 34th Ave. So. (Office located near Ford Bridge on 22 bus line).

Sales Associate

Full-Time - Mon thru Fri
8:30 - 5 pm
Downtown St. Paul Location
Call 651 227-4040

Full-time days, Highland Counter Help

M-F 7-3:30 pm
Will train, benefits.
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Good wages - nice place to work. Apply in person
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Interested applicants should contact a Jeane Thorne Staffing coordinator at (651) 223-8920. EOE
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TRAINING PROVIDED OR EXPERIENCE REWARDED

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We are seeking dedicated and professional individuals for full and part-time Teller positions in our Highland office. Previous customer service experience is required. Previous cash handling experience is a plus.

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Highland Office
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HOURS:
Full-Time
M-F 8:15-4:45
Part-Time
M-F 10:00-2:00
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If interested, please stop by our Highland Office and fill out an application or mail/fax your resume, cover letter and salary requirements to:

Firststar
Attn: HR-MS
101 E. 5th St. • St. Paul, MN 55101
Fax: (651) 229-6514



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AA/EEO

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CARPENTER (CRAFTSMAN). Dream job for experienced finish carpenter; interior restoration of fine historic buildings; 651-224-5845. v

CORPORATE LIBRARY. 12-month renewable part-time position. Shelve and file books/journals. Circulate materials and provide customer services. Keyboarding skills, accuracy and attention to detail are a must. No previous library experience required. \$9.50/hr. Call Michelle at 651-736-2932 for an application to a great job! v

SALES ASSOCIATE, full time, Mon. through Fri., 8:30-5 p.m. Downtown St. Paul location. Call 651-227-4040.v

SECRETARY, part time. Small law office, Highland area. Fax resume (651) 222-6300. v

PART-TIME in law office. Filing, correspondence, schedule management in home-based office. Mondays essential, other time flexible. 651-227-5363. v

BOOKKEEPER, part time, billing, invoice preparation in one-person contractor's office. Computer operated. Hours flexible. 651-487-9966. v

LILYDALE GARDEN Center needs experienced landscapers. Good wages, nice place to work. Apply in person. 941 Sibley Memorial Hwy. v

CUSTODIAN NEEDED for church in Mac/Groveland. Three evenings/wk. plus Sunday morning, starting at \$7/hr. Call Carol Coleman at 651-699-6886. v

TEACHER, Infant and Toddler. Visitation Child Care, Mendota Hts. seeks qualified teachers. One FT Toddler position open immediately. One FT Infant position open May 15. Exp. preferred. Full benefits. Competitive salary, \$9-11 hr. Newly finished facility, low ratios, high quality care. Call 651-683-1739 for interview. v

Help Wanted

TELEMARKETER: Mortgage Co. seeks motivated telemarketers. \$10 an hour, plus bonus. Please call 651-402-9577. v

\$9.50 PT/FT. Reg. pay increases. Family-owned housecleaning business needs honest, dependable, energetic cleaners for physical, fast-paced work. Training provided. Please call Housecare Extraordinaire at 612-724-2664 for more information. v

For additional job openings, turn to the Employment Opportunities ad section. For advertising information, call 651-699-1462.

Volunteers

FOSTER CARE: Feline Rescue desperately needs caring persons to VOLUNTEER to FOSTER kittens, pregnant/nursing cats, and recovering, injured cats. Time commitment varies. PLEASE help make a difference. VOLUNTEERS also needed to help at our no-kill shelter. 651-659-0902. v

Child Care Wanted

SEEKING loving, nurturing person to care for 4-year-old in our Mac/Groveland home. Mon-Fri., 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Needed immediately through mid-June. Transportation NOT necessary. 651-690-0428 after 6:00 p.m. v

Child Care

Parents are urged to exercise caution in arranging child care. Be sure to investigate references. To obtain a list of licensed day care providers in the area, call 651-641-0332. gv

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LICENSED DAY CARE, any age, full/part time, 35E and W. 7th area; nonsmoking; 651-224-2072. **v**

LILLY LICENSED day care, 24 hours, all ages, 612-724-0749; 4308 34th Ave. **v**

LICENSED DAY CARE, infants, \$120; preschool & schoolage, \$90/wk; food program; field trips, arts, crafts; 651-699-9049. **v**

LIVE-IN child care. Local au pair program is seeking qualified host families for summer arrival. Flexible, legal, 45 hours/wk. Average cost \$240/wk per family, not per child. 612-476-4236. www.euraupair.com **v**

Home Health Care Svc.

LOOKING FOR someone to help with your personal needs? I've had years of experience making that special difference. References available upon request. Call 651-647-3450. **v**

For Rent Residential

All real estate or rental advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Equal housing opportunity. **gv**

ROOM FOR RENT, across from St. Kate's, cable, furnished; available immediately; student preferred; \$275. 651-698-0908. **v**

DOUBLE BUNGALOW, two bedrooms, fenced yard, garage, near 35E and West Seventh, \$575 +; June 1; 651-292-8468. **v**

DUPLEX, 1-bedroom, clean, heated, parking area; near Victoria and West Seventh; perfect for one mature person, \$400/month; 651-292-8468. **v**

526 GRACE St., near downtown. Easy access to freeway. Share house with 3 young men. Offstreet parking. No pets. \$250 includes utilities. 651-224-2259. **v**

NEWER 1- & 2-bedroom duplexes, available May 1st. 651-406-8007, Jim. **v**

BEAUTIFUL 1-bedroom apartment, natural woodwork, hardwood floors, fresh paint, quiet, Randolph-Hamline; \$550, heat paid, storage, laundry. No pets/smoke. 612-619-4718. **v**

SMALL APT. on Summit Ave., near Mitchell; two rooms and bath, \$400. 612-961-4103. **v**

HOUSEMATE WANTED: near St. Kate's; \$375 plus 1/2 of utilities; laundry; prefer male, but open. Nonsmoking. (Terry) 651-698-6278. **v**

For Rent Commercial

MASSAGE ROOMS for rent. Great space. Ample parking. Call 651-222-2525. **gv**

GRAND AVENUE office/small business spaces for rent. Prime location adjacent great shops and high traffic volume. Rates begin at \$275; 612-835-1718, x101, Jane. **gv**

GRAND & 35E, nice, quiet, cozy office, beautiful, historic building; \$395/incl. utils.; 651-222-4567. **v**

E. MINNEHAHA Pkwy., Mpls. Sparkling clean, sunny spaces up to 1,170 sq. ft. @ \$8-10 sq. ft. St. James Church 612-724-4095. **v**

OFFICE SPACE, 9XX Grand Avenue, elegant double office, 270 sq. ft., includes utilities + parking, contact Sue at 651-771-3578. **v**

Wanted to Rent

OH MY GOD! Astonishingly bargain-priced unique living space sought by single professional male. 651-641-1856. **v**

RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUAL seeks nice apartment near St. Kate's/St. Thomas for beginning/end May; \$300-400; 651-690-1439. **v**

Garage/Storage

SELF STORAGE, 10' x 25' units, \$89/month, University/Prior, secured, lighted; 612-943-9053. **v**

MAC-GROVELAND garage; storage or one vehicle; Ron, 651-224-7687; 651-690-5221. **v**

16XX ASHLAND, large one-car garage for storage. \$60 month. 612-619-4718. **v**

Lost & Found

FOUND: Two bikes, Edgumbe/St. Paul Ave. Identify, pay for ad. 651-450-6459 **v**

Free! Free! Free!

WOODEN OUTDOOR GYM SET! Need immediate removal. Jeannie: 651-690-8571 (days), 651-698-9573 (eves). **v**

FREE STORAGE SHED, wood, w/shelves 6' x 8', excellent condition. 651-224-2534. **v**

Restaurants

BREAKFAST STARTS March 1st. Trotter's Cafe and Bakery, 232 N. Cleveland (near Marshall); 651-645-8950. **v**

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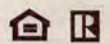
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Great Starter Home!

2 BRs, 2 baths in a nice neighborhood close to everything. New windows, new siding, new 2-car garage, newer kitchen, fenced in yard, porch in back. Must see today.

651 696-0865 \$69,900



Bob Boland



Home and Income!

New on the market, this Duplex has great ANI, or live in total renovated upper unit and rent lower unit to tenant of 5 years. 574 Cook Ave. CD considered.

651 686-8895 \$85,000



Randy Brown



Huge Condo Opportunity

Summit "European Villa" condo of palatial design & size features exquisite crystal chandeliers, ornate artistic mill work, marble fireplaces, grand stone staircase. A lot of wow!

651 696-0851



Bob Doffing



1st Time Home Buyers!

Wonderful 3-BR twin home with Pergo and ceramic in kitchen, fireplace in family room, and vaulted ceilings! Lower level walks out to fenced yard and 2+ car garage!

651 696-0876 \$112,900



Cathy Smithknecht



Roseville Condo

Affordable 2-BR, 2-bath condo in Roseville. Heated parking, pool, game room, close to everything! MUST SEE Rosewood Village, 1620 Highway 36.

651 696-0866 \$61,900



Marc Swanson



Just Listed!

Great family home in historic West Side Bluffs area. 3 BRs, 2 baths, hardwood floors, leaded windows. 1 block to Cherokee Park.

651 696-0895 \$99,900



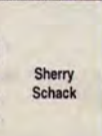
Orrin Jenstad



*** Just Listed ***

3 BRs, 2 full baths, formal dining with built-in buffet, hardwood floors, open staircase, new plumbing, newer furnace ('97) and water heater; new soffits, fascia & gutters.

651 490-1234 \$85,000



Sherry Schack



SOLD: 2127 Bayard Ave.

Lovely 3-BR English Tudor in the heart of Highland with a fantastic master suite, lots of charm, beautiful woodwork and hardwood floors.

651 699-4269 \$199,900



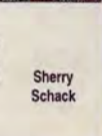
Gloria Smith



*** Money-Maker ***

Up/down duplex — upper unit is mint! Lower unit needs much T-L-C. Live up/fix down @ \$84,900 — hard to lose! 522 Galtier Street.

651 490-1234



Sherry Schack



Spectacular Home!

Stunning just begins to describe this wonderful 4-BR home! This "Crocus Hill" style home is located in Mounds Park. Call today for a private showing. Showings begin 4/12.

651 696-0879 \$179,900



Scott Brownlee



Historic Summit Avenue

residence — unmatched quality and charm. Handsome woodwork dominates this 8,400 sq. ft. mansion featuring massive fireplaces, 11 BRs, 7 baths, situated on 6 city lots!

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Bob Reidell



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Bob Reidell

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New on the Market

1509 Carroll — great starter home, beautiful woodwork and hardwood floors, updated kitchen, 3-season front porch, close to shopping of all kinds!

651 696-0855 \$73,500



Bob Reidell



New on the Market!!

1259 Ashland in the Lex/Ham neighborhood. Special 4+ BR 2-story. Very charming, golden oak wdwk., fireplace, hwdwd. floors, new kitchen & baths. Two porches, too!

651 696-0855 \$164,900



Bob Reidell



Wooded Private Lot!

Gorgeous English Tudor with 3 beautifully finished levels, 5+ BRs, 1st floor library plus family room with FP, huge master and more! www.twincities-realestate.com.

651 251-4888 \$279,900



John Otteson



Sold Before Print!

Highly sought-after St. Anthony Park home with hardwood floors, leaded glass windows, inviting front porch, 3 BRs, and a 2-car garage are highlights!

651 696-0857 \$115,000



Liz Flynn



A Highland Classic!

Formal living room and dining room, eat-in kitchen, main floor bedroom/den, 2 baths, sunroom, 2 fireplaces, 2-car garage. Close to the river — it's darling!

651 696-0857 \$188,500



Liz Flynn



*** Prime Highland! ***

Formal living room, and dining room, eat-in kitchen, master suite, 2 spacious BRs, recreation room, attached garage, and fenced yard — a steal!

651 696-0857 \$177,900



Liz Flynn



**** Price Reduced ****

Lovely 3-BR Mendota Heights townhouse loaded with extras! Large family room, 4 separate baths, large eat-in kitchen, double attached garage and much more!!

651 696-0888



Mitch Fink



Charming 1.5 Story

Merriam Park location, stone entry, newly sanded floors up, 3 BRs, 2 brick fireplaces, new roof 1997, garage! www.twincities-realestate.com

651 251-4888 \$124,900



John Otteson



Nokomis 1-1/2 Story

3-BR, 2-bath home near Morris Park. Exceptional expansion with separate den or office! 4-season porch off kitchen, 1-car and 2-car garages. Double lot!

651 696-0856 \$169,900



Beth Johnson



SOLD: 2176 St. Clair Ave.

Live in your own investment! Spacious duplex in a great Macalester/Groveland location. 3+ BRs on the first level and 2+ BRs with a walk-out deck on the second level.

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All under one roof

Annual fair offers residents everything they need to know about making, financing home improvements

by Chris Smith

There are several signs of spring in Minnesota: robins, daffodils and open water on the lakes. In the Villager area, there's also the Highland/Macalester-Groveland Home Improvement Fair.

The seventh annual fair is set for Saturday, April 17, at Cretin-Derham Hall, 550 S. Albert St. It promises to bring back most of last year's favorites plus several new workshops and exhibitors. The fair is sponsored by the Macalester-Groveland and Highland district councils and the Twin Cities Fair Housing Partnership. Its goal is to provide a solid foundation of resources for local residents who are interested in improving their homes.

"The age of our houses means many people are looking at household improvement projects," said Gayle Summers, community organizer for the Highland District Council. "The Home Improvement Fair gives residents a one-stop shop with good information on a wide variety of topics."

The event, which will run from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., will feature a home trade show with about 60 exhibitors—10 of whom are new this year—as well as morning and after-

noon workshops.

"We try to keep all the favorites from the past and add new features each year," said Jessica Bakkene, fair coordinator for the Macalester-Groveland Community Council. "We especially try to keep the local focus."

The cafeteria at Cretin-Derham will be filled with the booths of exhibitors who will cover everything from financing to landscaping, and remodeling to interior design. Though they are there to promote their businesses and programs, Bakkene said the vendors also are there to answer questions from homeowners.

The fair is expected to draw nearly 2,000 visitors again this year, most of whom come from the host neighborhoods. "The vendors really like the localness of this fair," Bakkene said. "And as neighbors talk with the vendors, it gives them a chance to share their own experiences and ideas with each other."

Bakkene has lined up several new exhibitors in response to suggestions from previous fair-goers. One is AccuSpec Home Inspections of Highland Park. "A lot of people want to have an expert come in and look at their house to tell them what really needs to be done," she said. "Sometimes it's because they're thinking about selling and other times it's because they want help prioritizing projects."

Another is Highland Hardwood Floors. "There are a lot of wooden floors in the homes in this area," Bakkene said. "People are coming back to the beauty of those floors."

Among the other returning vendors are representatives from the county

assessor and city building inspection offices. One of last year's exhibitors was so popular that he will be conducting one of the workshops this year. Ed Locke of the St. Paul Office of License Inspections and Environmental Protection will educate do-it-yourselfers and

others on the city permits and the proper processes to follow when undertaking home improvements.

"When we go out into the community, we're able to talk with people before they have plans in hand," Locke said. "It's a lot smoother if they know the criteria and can use that in planning, rather than having to change plans."

"It's one of the few times we can actually give advice rather than simply state the rules," he added. "Also, we're less intimidating when we're out in the community."

Industry experts will lead seminars on such topics as using native perennials to create a low-maintenance landscape, encouraging bird diversity, remodeling from start to finish, planning a patio you can really live with, creating and maintaining a healthy urban lawn, building a dream kitchen without going broke and doing it yourself the smart way.

The workshops will be held from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. and from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. There is no advanced registration, but some of the workshops can end up being standing-room-only so people are encouraged to arrive early.



Steve Abbott of Abbott Paint and Carpet discussed the many hues of interior and exterior paint with Tom Yuska of St. Paul during last year's Highland/Macalester-Groveland Home Improvement Fair. This year's event will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Saturday, April 17, at Cretin-Derham Hall. Photos by Mike Long.

"One of the ways to maintain neighborhood vitality is to make sure the housing stock is kept up to date, is kept in great repair and serves the needs of the neighborhood."

Home/see next page

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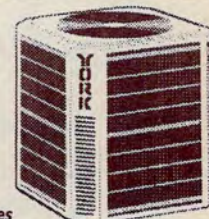
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Home fair seminar schedule

10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Encouraging Bird Diversity (Room 164)

Dawn Graber of Wild Birds Unlimited in Highland Village will educate homeowners on ways to encourage more and varied bird populations in their yards and neighborhoods. Bird baths, feeders, food and other merchandise will be available for purchase.

Native Planting and Perennial Favorites (Room 168)

Roy Robison of Landscape Alternatives of Roseville will discuss the use of a wide variety of natural plants to create a landscape that requires a relatively low amount of upkeep. Ann Pink of Gerten Greenhouses of Inver Grove Heights will provide information on hearty, low-maintenance perennials.

Securing the Appropriate Building Permits for Your Remodeling Project (Room 161)

Ed Locke of the St. Paul Office of License Inspections and Environmental Protection will educate homeowners on city licenses they need to complete home projects.

Remodeling Made Easy (Room 166)

Peter Maul of Moose Construction and Macalester-Groveland resident Dave Herreid of Wichser & Herreid Architects will discuss remodeling from start to finish. Emphasis will be given to additions and the remodeling of kitchens and bathrooms.

1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Patio Design and Construction (Room 164)

Jeff Timm, a designer with Werni, Timm & Associates, a Macalester-Groveland-based landscape and "hardscape" contractor, will speak and show slides in addressing such issues as privacy, upkeep, utility and budget when it comes to selecting a patio design.

Kitchen Remodeling for Less (Room 168)

Jennifer Anderson, a designer for Kitchen Wizards of St. Louis Park, will describe a multitude of kitchen refacing, recoloring and other revitalization techniques for homeowners who want to build a dream kitchen without breaking the bank.

Low-Maintenance Lawn Care (Room 161)

Shelly Schreffler of the St. Paul Neighborhood Energy Consortium will offer ideas on how to create and sustain healthy urban lawns.

Do-It-Yourself Home Improvement (Room 166)

Tom Searing of the Home Depot in Inver Grove Heights, a popular community education speaker, will offer tips for those who are interested in doing home improvement projects on their own the smart way—from electrical work to plumbing and sheetrock.

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Angie Hanzel-Palomo of Room to Grow is one of the many exhibitors who will be available at the fair to answer homeowners' questions.

Home Improvement Fair /from previous page

One area Bakkene has tried to address with mixed results is getting more roofers and chimney specialists to exhibit at the fair. "There's still a lot of pent-up demand in those areas as a result of the storms last spring," she said. Bakkene said the difficulty homeowners are having in lining up a contractor has translated into an increased demand from homeowners for learning how to make the improvements themselves.

That do-it-yourself impulse will be addressed by Tom Searing, who was also a workshop presenter last year. Now with Home Depot, Searing has years of experience helping people figure out the steps, materials and tools needed for a wide variety of home improvement projects.

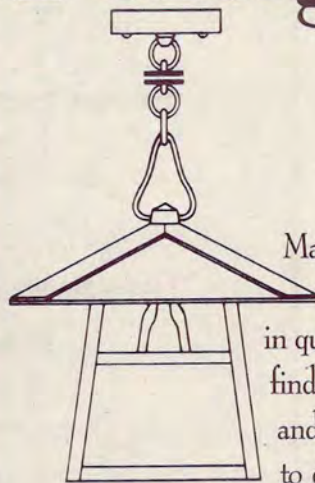
Admission to the fair is free thanks to the contributions of eight local financial institutions: Cherokee State Bank, Firststar, High-

grove Community Federal Credit Union, HighlandBank, Liberty State Bank, Midway Bank, Norwest Bank and TCF Mortgage.

"We, like the city of St. Paul, are very proud of our neighborhoods," said Ron Whitcomb, president of HighlandBank. "One of the ways to maintain neighborhood vitality is to make sure the housing stock is kept up to date, is kept in great repair and serves the needs of the neighborhood. We're a community-based bank and supporting the home improvement fair is supporting a better community."

Lunch, bakery items and refreshments will be sold during the fair as a fund-raiser for KidsPark, a drop-in child care center operated by the Macalester-Groveland Community Council. Visitors can park in the lot on the Albert Street side of Cretin-Derham Hall and enter through the west doors. For more information about the fair, call 651-698-7973.

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Making wishes come true

Home fair exhibitor shows how a little modern wizardry can transform kitchens for those on a budget

by Janet Lunder Hanafin

A year ago, Anna Pribyl's kitchen consisted of old almond-colored appliances, a floor with many layers of tile, dated wallpaper and discolored maple cabinets. So when she attended last year's Highland/Macalester-Groveland Home Improvement Fair, she made a beeline for Kitchen Wizards' workshop on building a dream kitchen without going broke.

"The kitchen was dark," said Pribyl, a Highland Park resident. "We were out to redo our kitchen economically. Kitchen Wizards had before-and-after pictures of work that showed pretty impressive results."

Today, she and her husband, Don, and their two daughters have a modern, updated kitchen thanks to the wizardry of Kitchen Wizards. With its help, the Pribyls extensively redecorated their 14-by-16, former 1940s-style kitchen. They considered having their cabinet doors cleaned and refinished. However, the doors did not clean up well, so they colored the cabinets white, replaced a couple of standard doors with glass ones and added brass hardware.

The home's previous owners had done some updating, leaving the Pribyls with mismatched countertops. In their case, recoloring was a less expensive option than installing new counters. The redone countertops are a creamy beige to coordinate with the kitchen curtains. The walls were repainted and the Pribyls hired an artist to add a custom border around the soffit. The border contains the prayer that the family says together at dinner-time, with the words tied together by a vine, flowers and fruit.

For the floor they chose a cherry wood laminate that can stand up to children and pets and harmonizes with the red oak of the adjacent hallway and dining room. They kept the stainless steel sink, but bought new white appliances and new light fixtures. The entire project took about six months.

Other homeowners who are interested in updating their kitchens will be able to get a few economical pointers from Jennifer Anderson, an interior designer with Kitchen Wizards, during an afternoon seminar at this year's Home Improvement Fair on April 17. Anderson said she will provide eager fixers-uppers with information on "how to do the

basics, what you can do to create a fun-looking kitchen that's inexpensive."

The focal points of most kitchens are the cabinets and countertops, Anderson said. Homeowners who want new countertops may be pleasantly surprised that the task is not as daunting as they might have thought. A new high-gloss finish with a beveled edge can change the whole look of the kitchen, Anderson said. To finish things off, she said, "new hardware can pull the entire kitchen together."

Cabinets and countertops can be recolored for considerably less than putting in new ones. Kitchen Wizards uses a spray system that is five times stronger than paint, according to Anderson. Homeowners can choose from an almost limitless palette of colors, though the most popular are almond and white. Recoloring costs about half the price of new laminate.

Several other options are also available for cabinets. If the cabinets are in good condition, homeowners may choose to revive them with a thorough cleaning and a wipe-on finish. Cabinets can also be refaced by having the frames either painted or veneered and

adding new doors. "We have cabinet makers who can do any type of door," Anderson said, "though it does get a little more expensive."

Cabinets can also be updated by adding new molding on the top. If a kitchen has enough floor space, a small work island can be designed to match or complement the existing cabinetry, perhaps with a coordinating butcher block, tile or granite top.

"Lighting in the kitchen is critical," Anderson said. "You need both general and task lighting." The condition of existing wiring will determine the cost.

Floors also can be redone for a reasonable cost. A new tongue-in-groove tile comes in stone or marble and goes well with older homes. Original wooden floors, often found under layers of aging linoleum or vinyl, can be refinished, though Anderson said that the cost of sanding, repairing, staining and sealing can be higher than new flooring.

Small accents such as tiled back splashes or a simple bead board painted with a waterproof paint can give a kitchen a visual pickup.

For window treatments, Anderson said the



Anna and Don Pribyl take a break with daughters Katie, 7, and Charlotte, 4, to show off the newly remodeled kitchen of their Highland Park home. Photo by Brad Stauffer.

Kitchens/see next page

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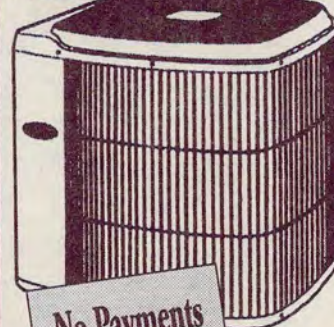
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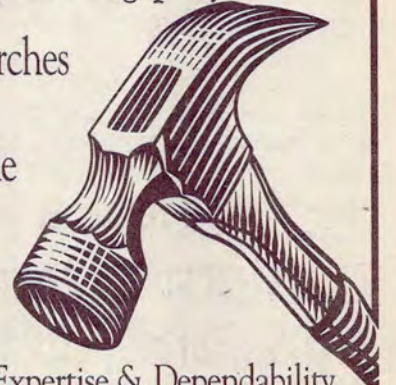
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This is how the Pribyls' kitchen looked before the folks from Kitchen Wizards weaved their magic.

Kitchens

“in” look is go “very small, simple, for a nice natural look. Keep blinds toward the top.”

If privacy is not a problem, homeowners can scrap outdated mini-blinds and go for a simple valance at the top of the windows, perhaps in a homespun-style fabric, Anderson said. The valance can hang from the curtain rod with simple ties or loops that attach with buttons.

To further personalize the kitchen, Anderson recommends stenciling a design around the ceiling, as the Pribyls did, and carrying the motif to the backs of chairs, placemats or dishes. If carrying the designs is like a pain in the neck, a wide variety of wallpaper borders is available.

The Pribyls, who did some of the work on their kitchen themselves, are delighted with the results. “Things are much brighter,” Anna Pribyl said. “We’re really happy with the way it looks. It really met our expectations and fit into our price range.”

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Birds of a feather

Wild Birds co-owner reveals secrets of creating a backyard bird sanctuary

by Catherine Condon

Neither the most rustic cedar birdhouse nor the most succulent tray of mealworms will attract bluebirds to urban backyards. The problem? The brightly feathered birds, which generally return to Minnesota in late March, nest only in wooded areas.

"We don't get them here in Highland Park," said Dawn Graber, who joined Anne Schmauss last year as co-owner of Wild Birds Unlimited in Highland Village. "They don't like the city. They need plains, prairies, woods."

However, there are steps that homeowners can take to attract cardinals, orioles, chickadees, goldfinches, woodpeckers, hummingbirds and other wild birds to their yards, said Graber, a resident of Minneapolis' Longfellow neighborhood. She will offer her expertise in encouraging avian diversity during a workshop at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 17, at the Highland/Macalester-Groveland Home Improvement Fair.

Graber said now is the perfect time for homeowners to install the right birdhouse. While staining them with a non-toxic varnish is acceptable, "You never want to paint birdhouses," she said. "You don't want to have anything that could be toxic to birds that might peck at the paint."

Birdhouse perches are also a no-no. "That just encourages predators, like cowbirds or sparrows, that will kill other birds and eat their nests," she said.

Mountain ash, elm, birch and crab apple trees, as well as raspberry and other berry-bearing bushes, are beacons for many Minnesota birds, including the berry- and insect-dependent robin and the goldfinch.

"You also want to provide a lot of different levels of cover," Graber said, adding that those

with barren yards should "start planting." (Until trees and plants become dense enough, window feeders can fill the gap.) Graber recommends *Landscaping for Wildlife*, a Department of Natural Resources publication available through Wild Birds Unlimited, as an excellent guide for bird-friendly landscaping.

For seed, Graber said, "One rule of thumb is more black seed than white. Black oil sunflower is a favorite of most birds."

She recommends shunning seed made of oats, milo or grain products. "That's just waste seed that's going to fall to the ground," she said, "and it'll sprout. Nothing's going to eat it. It's just a waste of your money."

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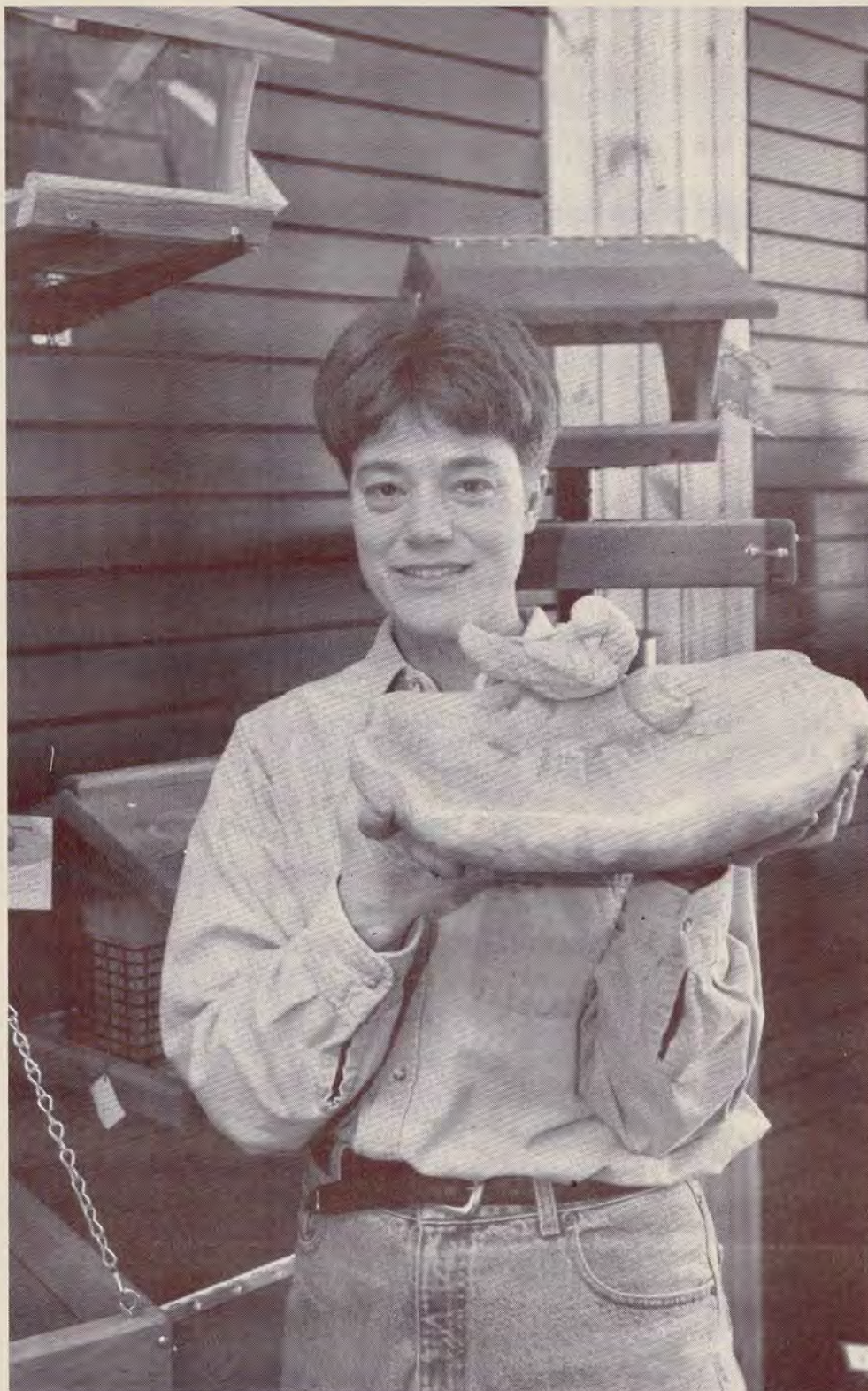
While some people put bread crumbs out, Graber said "that really attracts starlings and grackles and blackbirds, and it's just not very nutritious."

The problem with black oil sunflower seeds is that you end up with a mound of shells that kill the grass, Graber said. She recommends a warm-weather mix of hulled sunflower chips, cracked corn and peanuts as a "great, no-mess seed for the summer."

Outdoor birdbaths, drippers, misters and fountains also are a key to enticing birds. "They're attracted by the sound of water," Graber said. "They need to be able to bathe and drink."

Certain plants also help attract certain species of birds. Graber said nectar-rich flowers like zinnias, azaleas, petunias, honeysuckle, geraniums and fuchsias are magnets for hummingbirds, which first appear in May. "We don't have a lot of flowers out then," Graber said. "Hummingbirds are attracted by red. A good thing to do is get your hummingbird feeder out in the first part of May and hang a fuchsia plant right next to it."

Cardinals thrive on seeds, especially black oil sunflower and safflower seeds. "They're



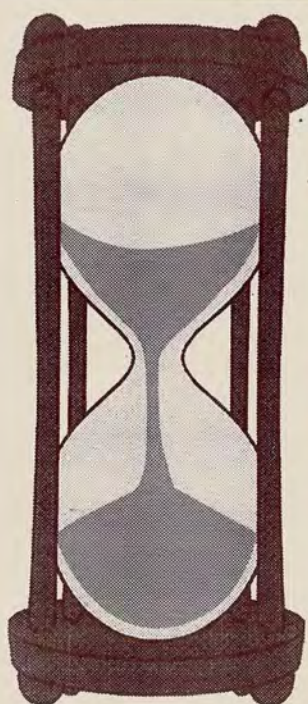
Dawn Graber, co-owner of Wild Birds Unlimited in Highland Village, says birdbaths are key to attracting feathered friends to the backyard. Photo by Kristine Heykants.

ground feeders," Graber said. "They're not going to come to a narrow little tube. To attract them to your yard, you need a tray-type feeder. A lot of it depends on what kind of cover you have."

Cardinals eschew birdhouses in favor of nests no higher than 10 feet from the ground. "Cardinals love evergreens," Graber said. "They also like dense shrubbery to build their nests."

Suet, made of kidney fat and put out in special feeders, is a staple for woodpeckers, nuthatches and chickadees. Graber said it also is easy to draw robins and orioles to backyards. According to her, a tray of fruit on a picnic table or feeder is the perfect lure for these birds. "Right now you can put out cut-up apples and raisins," she said. "The first

Attracting/see next page



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Recovering the canopy

Help is available for those replacing lost trees

by Leslie Walters

Replacing trees from last year's storms continues to be a priority for area residents who are making home improvement plans this spring.

The Highland and West 7th Street neighborhoods of St. Paul were among the hardest hit by straight line winds on two occasions last summer, while the Nokomis neighborhood of Minneapolis also took a beating.

The city of St. Paul is still replacing the trees that were lost on public property, according to St. Paul arborist T.K. Walling. Many local homeowners are still dipping into their own wallets to replace trees on private property.

Highland Nursery manager Scott Endres said he received a torrent of calls last year from people who were wondering what to do with that "shade garden that's suddenly a sun garden" as a result of the loss of their stately shade trees. For those who intend to replace those trees this spring, Endres advises waiting until April 15 or even until mid-May.

When planting trees, it is always wise to develop a landscape plan. "Some people rushed into replanting last year and their placement was bad," Walling said. According to him, people should be especially careful not to plant what will become a large tree too close to the house.

Trees can be costly to replace. Large spaded trees can run \$600 or more, Walling said, while large spaded evergreens can cost more than \$1,000. Of course, smaller trees cost considerably less. Tree prices at Highland Nursery range from \$69 to \$400.

The Highland District Council has established a tree replacement fund to help area homeowners replant on private property. "We'll match one-half the price up to \$75 until the funds are gone," said Gayle Summers, community organizer for the Highland District Council. "The fund has helped make a difference. Streets like Highland Parkway and Pinehurst Avenue are starting to look better again."

The Macalester-Grove-



Michael Burt begins working the earth near ash trees waiting to be planted in the front yard of his home on Highland Parkway and Edgcombe Road. Photo by Mike Long.

When planting trees, it is always wise to develop a landscape plan. "Some people rushed into replanting last year and their placement was bad," Walling said.

land neighborhood sustained nowhere near the damage that Highland did and thus did not establish a special fund, said community organizer Kathie Tarnowski. Still, both Macalester-Groveland and Highland residents are eligible for a city program to replace boulevard trees. A tax-deductible donation of \$35 will support the planting of a 1½-inch diameter bare-root tree, while \$100 will help pay for the planting of a 2½- to 3-inch diameter balled-and-burlapped tree. The city will pick up the difference between the donation and the actual cost of the tree.

The trees will be planted by the city, are guaranteed for one year and will be the type specified for that particular block by the city's master tree plan. For more information, call the Macalester-Groveland Community Council office at 651-698-7973 or the Highland District Council office at 651-298-5138.

Friends of the Parks and Trails of St. Paul and Ramsey County has been holding

spring tree sales since 1992 as part of its ongoing efforts to reforest the city. Trees and shrubs may be purchased for private use or they may be donated to area parks. According to executive director Peggy Lynch of Highland Park, the trees range from \$10 for a lilac to \$45 for a Japanese larch, Baker blue spruce, northfire maple, Petmore ash or heritage birch.

Orders for the trees will be accepted through April 8. Park staff will plant the donated trees, while people who order them for personal use will pick them up at the Highland Park Pavilion on May 1. For information, call 651-698-4543.

The Friends raised \$6,000 following last summer's storms and has started replanting trees at the corners of Highland Parkway and Hamline Avenue, and on the Highland Parkway median between Snelling Avenue and Fairview Avenue.

Many people are anxious to buy the biggest tree they can afford, but that is not always the best choice, Endres said. A smaller tree will

take root faster and in five to 10 years it will catch up with the larger trees.

He said it is important for homeowners to buy trees from a reputable garden center or nursery so they know how the tree is grown and harvested. The roots will continue to grow in a circle if not pruned. "You don't want it to girdle," Endres said.

Most traditional trees are still popular with homeowners, including maple, oak, linden ash and other shade trees, Endres said. Interest in crab apple trees remains strong and hybrids of American and European elms are showing strong resistance to Dutch Elm Disease. He listed a variety of less common trees that also grow well in Minnesota, including hickory, service berries, Japanese tree lilac, blue beech, hawthornes and magnolias.

Endres advises homeowners to avoid planting a tree in the same place where the old one stood. "The roots underneath can settle and the ground will be void of nutrients," he said.

He also recommends digging the hole 2½ times the diameter of the root ball or container. "This breaks up compaction and allows mending of the soil around the plant," he said. "It should also be well watered while the roots are getting established."

Attracting birds to the backyard

from previous page
week in May, start putting out orange halves."

Contrary to popular belief, neglecting to refill a bird feeder does not mean birds will never return.

"It's a myth that birds become depen-

dent on feeders," Graber said. "Your feeders are a small portion of a bird's diet, especially in the spring and summer. In the dead of winter, when it's really cold out, they kind of see (feeders) as an easy food source. You want to keep

it up. If you stop for a couple of weeks and start up again they may not come around right away, but they'll come back. The more consistent you are, the wider the variety of birds you're going to get."

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Many people complain of feeling down, having less energy and more difficulty getting up in the morning on gray, cloudy days. Sunlight has proven to increase our energy level as much as 24 percent, according to *Current Health* magazine. It also activates the Vitamin D in our systems. Vitamin D helps



Sunrooms are said to yield up to a 110 percent return on a homeowner's remodeling dollar.

keep teeth and bones healthy. It is often referred to as the "sunshine vitamin" for its many therapeutic benefits.

Sunrooms not only alter

our moods, decrease our stress levels and improve our health, but according to *Prevention Magazine*, bright light can calm hunger cravings and help you lose some

of the extra pounds you might have put on during the winter. According to Dr. Norman Rosenthal, senior researcher at the National Institute of Mental Health, people tend to eat more sweets and carbohydrates when they are lacking sunshine—two ingredients for weight gain.

Sunrooms are not only rewarding to your health but to your financial well-being. Sunroom additions yield a 70-110 percent return on investment, according to the National Association of the Remodeling Industry, depending on the area of the country.

For a free booklet on the various types and styles of sunrooms, call 1-800-480-1966.

Courtesy of Article Resource Association.

Time to spring into household paint projects

In the words of decorators and do-it-yourselfers, the kitchen is "hot." It's so hot in fact that those who can't stand the heat are not getting out of it, but are warming up to its versatility. As it has evolved from a merely utilitarian room to a home's nerve center, the kitchen is taking on new looks. And now with the mercury starting its climb, there's no hotter time to turn the kitchen into a work of art.

"Renovating and redecorating kitchens and baths rank among the most popular do-it-yourself projects today," said Tom Rapps, manager for Dutch Boy Paints. "People spend more time in the kitchen and, as a result, they're changing the look to make it a more livable room."

Most kitchens rarely veered from the tried-and-true color scheme of white on white in days gone by. But today it's not unusual to see creative themes, cheerful colors and other creations that make the kitchen more of a setting than just a room.

To shake a dull bath or tired kitchen from its doldrums, use paint to create the atmosphere you want by adding charm, playing up architectural details or conveying a mood. Your first and most important decision is color. Creating a mood is as easy as choosing the right hue. Remember that each color

evokes a different emotion. For instance, yellow warms, cheers and stimulates; purple comforts, assures and relaxes; neutrals (brown, taupe, gray) blend and cooperate, neither activating nor pacifying a space.

When choosing your kitchen or bath color, keep in mind the room's "color givens"—fixtures, tiles, flooring, appliances—and let any fabrics, colorful dishes or rugs work as your "decorator." Don't forget to bring color swatches into the room and see how they look under different lighting conditions. After you've settled on a color, make sure you buy a paint that is formulated to withstand high humidity and constant cleaning. You'll want a tough, durable coating, but also a semigloss finish that brightens up the decor of these high-use areas.

Right before you're about to paint, prepare the room and surfaces. Remove as many furnishings, outlet plates, curtains and wall vents as possible. Mask around tiles and over any exposed outlets and switches, as well as entire windows. To prepare the surface, scrub away dirt, scrape loose paint, patch holes and sand rough spots. You'll also want to dust the room thoroughly right before painting because paint adheres best to clean surfaces.

When it's time to paint, there are ways

to make it look like anything but a typical paint job. You can sponge, rag, comb or stencil-pattern your walls without the effort that goes into hanging wallcovering. You can also add a self-adhesive border to give a wall a finished look. In the kitchen, if your cabinets are old and worn, you can do a crackle technique to create a country farmhouse look.

Rapps offered the following helpful hints for those who are about to tackle a paint project:

- To determine if a primer is needed, mist an area of a wall. If the wall absorbs the water quickly, you'll need to prime.
- Use natural-bristle brushes with oil-base paints, but never with latex paint because the bristles absorb water.
- One gallon of paint should cover a 400-square-foot surface.
- Spackling compound works well on filling nail holes and hairline cracks. For bigger holes, use drywall joint compound.
- When painting, start in an uncoated spot and roll toward wet paint.

As more homeowners turn their creative talents to two of the more overlooked rooms in the house, they're finding that by simply adding a few interesting touches, they're able to add life and style to their home.

Courtesy of Article Resource Association, www.aracopy.com

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