

23 No place like it
Six-page special section sheds light on home improvements.



29 Titanic Players
Patrick O'Donnell helps create wave of interest in Irish theater.



33 Tourney time
CDH, Sibley girls win squeakers to gain state basketball berths.



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VILLAGER

MARCH 11-24, 1998

VOLUME 46, NUMBER 1

45,400 COPIES



Gao Yang, 11, takes a spin during open skating at the new Highland rink. Photo by Brad Stauffer.

Cutting a fine figure County proudly unveils new Highland rink

by John Wadell

Mike Mattson is one proud papa. As director of operations for Ramsey County Parks and Recreation, he has spent the past several months overseeing the delivery of the county's new pride and joy—the recently expanded Highland Ice Arena at Ford Parkway and Snelling Avenue.

"We finally have a building people can be comfortable in when they sit and watch their

kids," Mattson said. "There's no perfect building, but we came as close as we could."

The \$2.8 million arena project included replacement of the concrete floor and refrigeration system in Highland's old rink, which was built in 1973, and construction of a second enclosed rink just to its north. The new 85-by-200-foot rink has seating for 500 spectators and radiant heat in the bleachers. It is only one of two of the county's 11 ice rinks that is equipped to be

used year-round.

The arena project also included the addition of eight team rooms, a Learn-to-Skate office, an expansive lobby with a viewing area of the new north rink, restrooms, a concessions stand, a meeting room with a view area of the old south rink and parking for 166 cars.

"We're really proud of this arena," said Mattson, standing amid the bleachers in the north

New rink/see page 5

Catch a falling STAR

Council maintains annual cycle for awarding most of sales tax funds...

by Jane McClure

Fairness appears to have won out over flexibility in the debate over changes in the city of St. Paul's Neighborhood Sales Tax Revitalization (STAR) Program.

The City Council decided on March 4 to make 25 percent of the neighborhood STAR loans available for year-round disbursement. The remaining 75 percent of loans and all of the grants will continue to be awarded annually through a competitive process.

The STAR Board, the citizens advisory group that oversees the program, had recommended that all of the STAR loans be available year-round. However,

Ward 3 City Council member Mike Harris argued that such a method would not be fair to neighborhood groups and less experienced developers. Harris contended that seasoned developers would be able to act more quickly and use up the STAR money before other neighborhood groups and businesses could apply.

"I think we need to maintain the competitive character of the STAR Program," Harris said. According to him, the annual cycle encourages long-term strategies for neighborhood investments and gives project sponsors time

STAR/see page 2

...while legislators seek to chisel fund's 'original intent' in state law

by Celeste Riley

While the St. Paul City Council was going about making changes to the city's Sales Tax Revitalization (STAR) program, area legislators were preparing changes of their own.

Senators Richard Cohen (District 64), Sandy Pappas (District 65) and Ellen Anderson (District 66) have all added provisions to this year's omnibus tax bill that they say will preserve the original intent of the 5-year-old STAR Program.

Cohen's provision would prevent the

10 percent of the STAR funds earmarked for cultural projects from becoming what he called a "slush fund for developers." Cohen said he is responding in particular to the \$1.1 million of STAR money that was used to lure Lawson Software to downtown St. Paul. "It was absolutely contrary to what I felt was the legislative intent," Cohen said. "That's what drove me over the edge."

Under his provision, 80 percent of the STAR money set aside for cultural projects "must be annually awarded to non-

State legislators/see page 2

Villager inside

- TASK FORCE** trims its options for providing a mass transit route through Highland Park and across the Mississippi River 9
- ST. PAUL PRESSURES** the state to keep the new I-35E bridge as narrow as possible 12
- FRANCIS BASKET** once again seeks the community's help in stocking its food shelf for the poor at Sibley Manor 13
- HIGHLAND PARK PLAYWRIGHT** revisits life on St. Paul's West Side during the Great Depression 14
- A MAJOR REDUCTION** is sought in the more than 250 signs posted along Mississippi River Boulevard 15
- THE DUNQUIN TRIO** plucks its inspiration for turning a tune from the far reaches of the Emerald Isle ... 18

Many voices make for lively debate at caucuses

by Chris Smith

The governor's race, education issues and the state budget surplus dominated debate at precinct caucuses across the Villager area on March 3. District chairs on both sides of the political aisle claimed surprisingly strong turnouts.

"I think with so many candidates in the governor's race and with people wanting to be heard on the state surplus and other issues, they were inspired to come out," said Steve Capko, cochair for the District 62 Republicans. "The turnout was much better than in 1994, the last non-Presidential election year."

In the few Republican precincts that held straw polls, St. Paul Mayor Norm Coleman was the clear favorite in the gubernatorial race. DFLers showed the strongest support for Attorney General Hubert H. Humphrey III, though Hennepin County attorney Mike Freeman ran a close second. However,

Humphrey and Freeman are the only DFL candidates actively seeking the endorsement among the six in the field.

District 64

Humphrey outpolled Freeman 227-173 in the DFL straw poll in this heavily attended St. Paul district. State Senator John Marty tallied 49, State Senator Ted Mondale 28, Mark Dayton 10, and 79 were undecided.

The District 64 DFL convention occurs later than most this year, and with 26 delegates to be picked, the third largest number in the state, "our district will be one of the real prizes for the governor candidates," said DFL district chair Dennis Gerhardstein. "People are keeping a very close eye on the (gubernatorial) race in District 64," he said, particularly because it is the home turf for the Republican favorite, Coleman.

The District 64 DFL convention will be held Saturday, April 25, at Highland Park Junior High School. Gerhardstein expects dele-

gates there to address several resolutions regarding "livable wage" and "livable cities" issues, controlling urban sprawl, and imposing a moratorium on large animal feed lots.

At Republican caucuses, no straw poll was conducted for governor, but strong support was shown for Coleman, according to district 64A chair Donna Denkinger. "I think Norm is bringing new people into the party, at least in our area," she said.

Denkinger and District 64B chair Terry Cullen agreed that there was strong support throughout the district for returning the state surplus to taxpayers and strong opposition to Education 2000, the proposed new state high school graduation requirements.

DFL state representatives Matt Entenza in 64A and Michael Paymar in 64B are unopposed within the party. Republican Ray Cleveland plans another run for the House in

Precinct caucuses/see page 4

Village mall developer's lawsuits against city dismissed

by Jane McClure

A Highland Village developer's lawsuits against the city of St. Paul and Ward 3 City Council member Mike Harris were dismissed on February 24 by Ramsey County District Court Judge James Campbell.

Brad Hoyt had sought damages of more than \$50,000 from the city for refusing to allow the installation of clear glass windows on the north side of his Plaza on Parkway, 2145 Ford Pkwy. Hoyt also sought damages of

more than \$50,000 from Harris, alleging that he defamed him in comments published in a news article in 1996.

In rejecting Hoyt's claims of defamation, Campbell called Hoyt a "limited-purpose public figure" who does not have the same protection from defamation as a private citizen. Campbell called Hoyt's action against the city "a baseless string of lawsuits (that) could have resulted in significant sanctions (against Hoyt) had (the city) so requested."

Also on February 24, the Minnesota Court

of Appeals affirmed a Ramsey County District Court decision that last summer dismissed a defamation suit filed by Hoyt against Robert Spangenberg, who lives across the alley from Hoyt's office building. Hoyt was seeking more than \$50,000 in damages for statements Spangenberg made about his development and its potential impact in a flier circulated in the neighborhood.

Harris and other city officials declined to comment because Hoyt may still appeal the decision. According to Hoyt's attorney, Rick

Sheridan, Hoyt has not yet decided whether to make an appeal.

Hoyt has wanted to install standard clear glass windows on the north side of Plaza on Parkway ever since he purchased the building in 1994. A decade earlier, Spangenberg and his neighbors had worked out an agreement with a previous owner to allow only translucent windows to protect their privacy.

The city later ruled that Hoyt could either install translucent windows or clear glass windows that were at least 6 feet off the floor.

STAR Program amended on the eve of its fourth funding cycle

/from page 1

to work with other community groups and gain a broader base of support.

The 3-year-old STAR Program distributes 50 percent of the proceeds from the city's half-percent sales tax to pay for capital projects in the neighborhoods. The remaining sales tax proceeds are used to pay for the construction of RiverCentre (40 percent) and cultural projects (10 percent).

City officials have estimated that \$3 million in loans and \$1.6 million in grants will be available in 1998 through the Neighborhood STAR Program. About \$750,000 will go into the year-round loan program.

Ward 2 City Council member Chris Coleman cast the lone vote against Harris' proposal. "One of the things that I've heard expressed the loudest is that the current process is not working," Coleman said. He urged the council to adopt a quarterly funding cycle.

Neighborhood STAR Board chairman John Loban said he was pleased to see some form of year-round funding, but he questioned whether Harris' proposal is practical.

"The types of projects that don't fit into an annual cycle are typically a combination of loans and grants," Loban said. "And with an annual cycle, if you miss out on funding you have to wait for another year to try again. Most small businesses can't wait that long."

"We need to build more flexibility into the program," Loban said, "and we have no flexibility with a once-a-year cycle."

In the past three years of Neighborhood STAR applications only one organization has resubmitted a request for funding the same project. That was a Frogtown puzzle manufacturer whose proposal was rejected in both 1996 and 1997. The Grand Avenue Business Association and Summit Hill Association successfully obtained small grants in 1995

and 1997 for different phases of the same Grand Avenue streetscape improvement project.

Harris' amendment requires an applicant for a year-round loan to demonstrate a need to forgo the annual competitive process, such as a purchase agreement deadline. The loan must be approved by both the STAR Board and City Council. If the year-round loan fund has a balance remaining at the end of the year, that money will be rolled into the following year's annual STAR process.

Last year the City Council set aside \$550,000 in grants and loans to be allocated outside of the annual Neighborhood STAR cycle. Thus far, \$376,700 has been earmarked for capital projects, including a \$55,000 loan for landscaping and facade improvements at the Sibley Plaza shopping center.

Other changes in the Neighborhood STAR Program adopted by the City Council include

the elimination of seed capital loans. In the past, 10 percent of Neighborhood STAR funds was allocated as seed capital for more speculative projects. Now, 60 percent of all Neighborhood STAR funds will be awarded as loans and 40 percent as grants.

The City Council also eliminated the pre-application process for grants over \$20,000, for loans and for loan and grant combinations; eliminated the one-to-one matching requirement for loans of \$50,000 or less; and dropped the provision that held community organizations responsible if a loan program it operated with STAR funds suffered a default.

The recent changes mean the 1998 STAR loan and large grant program will proceed more than a month behind schedule. A new application deadline will be announced shortly. For more information about the program, call 266-STAR.

State legislators seek to spell out process for awarding STAR funds

/from page 1

profit arts organizations, libraries and museums that are located in the designated cultural district of downtown St. Paul." The remaining 20 percent may be awarded to businesses in the cultural district for projects that enhance visitor enjoyment of the area or to cultural organizations outside of the district.

Pappas' provision would prevent the city from abolishing the STAR Board and turning its duties over to the St. Paul Department of Planning and Economic Development. The STAR Board is charged with reviewing and ranking proposals requesting STAR funds, which are drawn from the city's half-percent sales tax. The provision would clarify the board's make-up and put it into state statute, Pappas said. Under her provision, a citizen re-

view panel consisting of at least seven members, one from each City Council ward, must review STAR proposals before they are approved. The panel would be appointed by the mayor and approved by the City Council.

"This is very minimal language," Pappas said. "It tightens it up to reflect the original intent." Turnover at the City Council and the election of a new mayor since the STAR Program was approved in 1993 have made the clarification necessary, she said.

Anderson's provision would assure that the 60 percent of STAR funds originally earmarked for neighborhood and cultural development remains intact. Anderson said the legislation is essentially precautionary. "We're simply concerned that the tax money might

be used for purposes for which it was not intended," she said.

In addition to concerns about funding for Lawson Software, Anderson said she and the other legislators are reacting to concerns expressed by various constituents about the handling of the STAR funds. "It's important to put the provisions into law," she said. "It keeps us partners in the whole process."

Ward 4 City Council member Jay Benavay said the council understands the legislators' concerns about the use of STAR funds, but he feels the council can address those concerns without the legislation. At a minimum, he said, the lawmakers should "proceed with caution."

"I'll be the first to admit that the program

isn't perfect, but overall it's worked very well," Benavay said. "We can monitor and take care of those concerns. They are legitimate. We just want to make sure the legislation doesn't tie our hands."

In a March 4 letter to the three legislators asking that they withdraw their proposals, Ward 2 council member Chris Coleman said Pappas' legislation in particular would undermine the council's attempt to speed up the STAR distribution process and would usurp the council's authority. "In your attempt to right perceived past problems, you're punishing new allies on the council," he wrote.

The omnibus tax bill has passed the Senate with the STAR provisions intact and will next be heard in a conference committee.

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Precinct caucuses

64B, and in 64A Joe Stoup has indicated he may run for the Republican endorsement, according to Denkinger.

The District 64A Republican convention will be held on Friday, March 20, at the Merriam Park Community Center. The 64B convention is set for Saturday, March 28, at the Hillcrest Recreation Center.

District 38A

At DFL precinct caucuses in District 38A, Humphrey outpolled Freeman 48 to 29, followed by Mondale with 11, Marty with 5 and Dayton at 3. Twenty-four were undecided.

On the Republican side, District 38A chair Mike Tierney, though not surprised by the discussion, was surprised by the strong turnout at the caucuses.

"There was a very strong tone of 'don't spend so much of our money, don't spend the surplus, give us our tax money back,'" Tierney said. "We had a number of disaffected Democrats (in attendance), especially in Mendota Heights, and there were a lot of high school seniors who will be voting in the next election."

District 38A should feature a hotly contested race for the House seat being vacated by Republican Tim Commers. Though no polls were taken, GOP hopefuls Tim Wilkin and Paul Bakken were both seen seeking the support of delegates in preparation for the

Republican district convention to be held Saturday, March 28, at Oak Grove Elementary School in Eagan.

DFLers Sandra Masin and Thomas Weisbecker will be seeking the endorsement in the House race at the district DFL convention, also on March 28 at Dakota Hills Middle School in Eagan.

District 39A

DFL incumbent Tom Pugh is seeking reelection to the House in District 39A. He will likely be facing John Trojack of Mendota Heights, who appears to be the only Republican seeking the endorsement for the seat, according to district cochair Jeanette Weir.

Weir said that Republicans attending caucuses in 39A were strongly opposed to the Education 2000 graduation requirements. "Also, a lot of people spoke in favor of a unicameral Legislature," she said.

The DFL gubernatorial straw poll in 39A showed Humphrey tallying 41 votes, Freeman 39, Mondale 16, Dayton 8 and Marty 6. Seventeen were undecided.

DFL caucus-goers proposed "a bucket of resolutions," according to district chair Rick Hanson. "They covered everything from controlling urban sprawl to supporting the global climate treaty," he said.

Precinct caucuses/see next page



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Precinct caucuses

The Republicans in 39A will hold their district convention on Saturday, March 21, at St. Croix Lutheran High School in West St. Paul. The DFL district convention will be held Saturday, March 28, at Simley High School in West St. Paul.

District 62

In a Republican straw poll held at caucuses across the district, Coleman garnered 83 votes to Alan Quist's 40 and Lieutenant Governor Joanne Benson's 27.

"Benson coming in third surprised me because the perception has been that she is the real challenger to Coleman," Capko said. "But Coleman entering the race has taken a lot of support from her, while Quist kept his supporters."

Republican caucus-goers also showed strong support for returning the state budget surplus to taxpayers and strong opposition to the proposed state graduation requirements.

At the DFL caucuses, Humphrey outpolled Freeman 102 to 83, followed by Marty with 23, Dayton 11 and Mondale 5. Forty were undecided.

The DFL caucuses included a great deal of debate over Highway 55 and other local is-

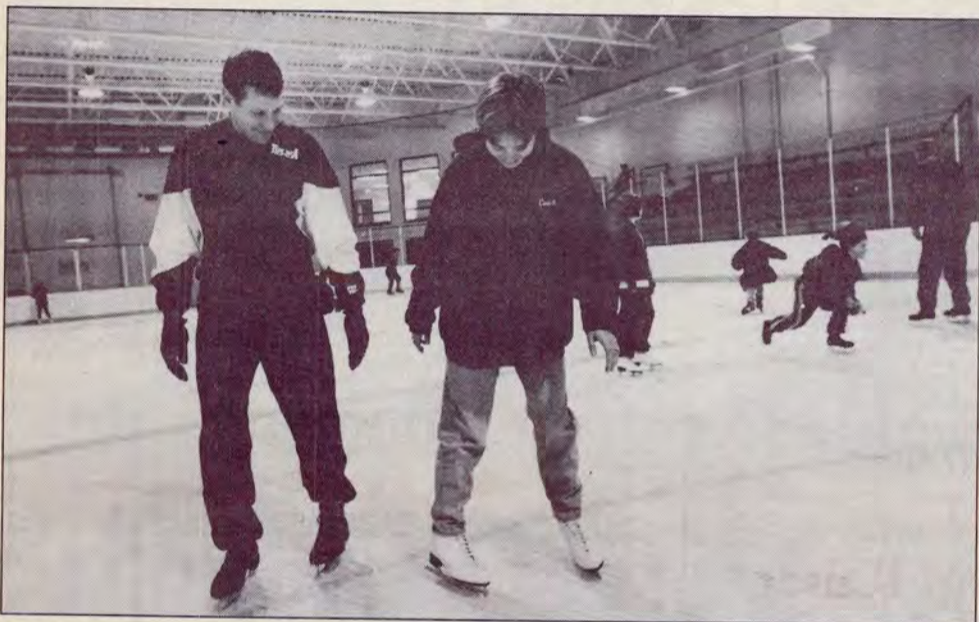
ssues, according to district treasurer Tim Bonham. "Some people are opposed to the current Hiawatha Avenue rebuilding plan while others are saying, 'just get the damn thing done,'" he said. "People are frustrated that they haven't had much input."

District 62 DFLers also showed strong opposition to using state funds for new sports stadiums and for reducing commercial property tax rates while only giving a one-time rebate to residential property taxpayers, Bonham said.

DFL State Representatives Lee Greenfield in 62A and Wes Skoglund in 62B have no opposition within the party. Republican John Halverson, who lost to Skoglund in 1996, has said he will run again, and so has Republican Jose Luciano in 62A if no other candidate comes forward.

District 62 Republicans will discuss caucus resolutions on Saturday, March 21, at Minnehaha Academy's South Campus and will hold their endorsing convention on Thursday, April 16, at Hiawatha School.

The District 62 DFL convention will be held on Saturday, April 18, at South High School.



Bob Stanek showed friend Michelle Walters the finer points of backward skating during an open session last Saturday at the Highland Arena's new rink. Photo by Brad Stauffer.

New rink unveiled in Highland

rink. "It's a real shot in the arm and a boost for our department. The County Board and City Council made a heck of a commitment to put this thing together."

Funding for the project included \$1.26 million from Ramsey County, \$1 million from the city of St. Paul, and a \$350,000 "Mighty Ducks" grant from the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission. Cretin-Derham Hall and the Highland-Central Hockey Association also chipped in nearly \$230,000 to pay for improved equipment storage for their hockey teams and the area's first practice facility made with a synthetic skating surface.

The public will get a chance to check out the new facility during a grand opening celebration from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 11. Tours of the facility will be given during the first hour, followed by skating demonstrations at 6:00 p.m., an opening ceremony at 7:00 p.m. and free open skating from 7:45 to 9:00 p.m.

Those without skates can now rent them at the arena, Mattson said. Highland and Aldrich are the only county arenas to offer skate rental and sharpening. Open skating is from 11:50 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturdays through March 21. Starting April 4, open skating will be available from 6:50 to 9:00 p.m. on Saturdays. The cost is \$2.50 per session.

The arena also will be offering adult open hockey from 7:10 to 9:20 a.m. on Sundays beginning March 15 at a cost of \$5.00 per session; junior open hockey for ages 13-17 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays beginning March 16 (\$4.00 per session); and youth open hockey for ages 8-12 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and

Thursdays beginning March 17 (\$4.00 per session).

Open skating and hockey will continue at the north rink throughout the summer, with long-blade sessions added in the fall, Mattson said. The uninsulated south rink will be closed to ice skating on March 15, but will re-open for in-line skating during the summer.

Mattson is particularly proud of the energy-saving measures that were incorporated during construction. By upgrading the cooling system, the county was able to replace a 5,000-pound tank of freon that was used to freeze the ice for the old rink with an 800-pound tank that is now used for both rinks.

The county was able to reuse the arena's two old compressors and added a third one to run the cooling system for both rinks. Two furnaces were replaced with one energy-efficient model and a second battery-powered zamboni was purchased with a no-interest loan from NSP. Ice shavings from the Zambonis are now being dumped into a storage area and melted with heat running through pipes from the compressors, Mattson said. That same heat is used to warm the arena subfloor to keep it from buckling.

Mattson said some work still needs to be done at the new arena, which opened January 15. He had hoped to have the weight room furnished by now, but that is a few weeks off. He also would like to put booths in the concession area and increase parking.

"So far, the only negative comments we've received from people is the lack of parking," Mattson said. "Otherwise, everyone who comes into the building really seems to like what they see."

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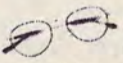
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VIEWPOINT

MISCH-MASCH

MICHAEL MISCHKE

Looking under City Hall's hood

The St. Paul Charter Commission, an obscure guild that seems to surface every other year, socket wrenches in hand, to suggest ways for tinkering with how St. Paul government does or doesn't work, has been out in the garage once again. After looking under City Hall's hood for the past couple of years, the commission has wiped its greasy hands on its pants and come up with a series of options for voters to consider in hopes of making the civic machinery run a little better. Five public hearings have been scheduled in the next two months to solicit comments on four amendments to the City Charter, which is in essence St. Paul's constitution.

The proposed amendments would:

1. Change the length of City Council terms from two years to four years. St. Paul voters have twice rejected similar amendments—in 1984 and '86—and it's not at all clear what's changed that this one won't meet a similar fate. Despite the time and money that council campaigns consume, St. Paul seems to like to keep its council members on a shorter leash than it does its mayors, who've had four-year terms since 1984. Laws passed during the 1996 session of the Minnesota Legislature made all municipal terms five years in cities that operate with a charter. However, St. Paul Charter Commissioners successfully lobbied during the 1997 session to eliminate the requirement for St. Paul. In return, they agreed to put the issue on the ballot once again.

If approved by the commission, the amendment would appear on next fall's general election ballot. If approved by St. Paul voters, it would take effect on January 1, 2000.

2. Allow the City Council to set its own salary by removing the wage established by the City Charter. The council was free to set its own salary until St. Paul voters approved the change from a full-time to a part-time body in 1991. That amendment also established an annual pay of \$30,000 for the part-time position, down from what had been \$42,500 when it was full time and the council set its own pay.

The salary of no other city office, including the mayor's, is set by the City Charter. Those who favor this amendment rightfully believe it makes no sense to single out the council for such a calcified approach to compensation, especially when voters still have the chance to toss out overly profligate pols every other year.

This amendment also would appear on this November's ballot, but it would take effect in January 1999.

3. Restructure the City Council so it would include members elected at large as well as by ward. At this stage, there is no preconceived preference for combined ward and citywide representation—whether it would be, say, two members elected at large and five by ward, or whether the council would be expanded from seven to nine and there'd be, say, four elected at large and five by ward. But whatever form a combination would entail, this amendment holds the most promise for improving how St. Paul is governed.

Aldermanic courtesies—the euphemism for the constant horse-trading that goes on to insure that whichever ward representative is most politically sensitive to an issue gets whatever he or she wants—has made a mockery of most council deliberations. More often than not, if the issue is not citywide in nature, the deal has been cut before the council even convenes. The "debate" that ensues in the council chambers is little more than a charade.

The amendment would go on the 1999 election ballot and would take effect following the 2001 elections.

4. Repeal the City Council's part-time designation. This amendment is not being proposed for the ballot at this time, but only for discussion. Approved by St. Paul voters in 1991, the part-time council is now seen by some as inadequate for a city of St. Paul's size. Others believe that with a strong-mayor, weak-council form of government such as St. Paul has, the council's part-time status has shifted too much power to the mayor. Still others, in the belief that less government is better government, think the part-time council is working just fine.

The second of the five public hearings to solicit comments on the Charter Commission's tinkering is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 16, at the Merriam Park Community Center. You're welcome to bring your own grease gun.



Highland High suffers from unequal facilities

To the editor:

I am writing concerning the lack of gym space at Highland Park Senior High School. Highland is the only public high school in St. Paul that has only one gym. In recent years, Harding, Como and Johnson have all had a second gym added to their schools.

During the winter sports season at Highland, there are three girls basketball teams, three boys basketball teams, a wrestling team, gymnastics team, cheerleading team and dance line that all need gym space to practice. Because of having only one gym, it has been necessary for teams to practice as early as 6:00 a.m. and as late as 8:30 p.m. When students are not able to practice right after school, it is dark when they go home. Those who are not able to get a ride must wait for a bus. Often, they must transfer once or twice before they are able to get close to their homes. As a result, student athletes at Highland are being put at a safety risk.

When students must get up early to practice or need to stay late for practice, it also interrupts their sleep and study times. This is not good for their academics.

Highland was built before Title IX, which requires equal athletic opportunities for female students. There were fewer teams then because there were no girls teams. With the number of teams at Highland having expanded along with the school's enrollment, it is not only fair but necessary that another gym be added.

For the safety and academic benefit of our students, I hope the St. Paul School Board and the community will do all that they can to ensure that Highland receives another gym in the very near future.

Linda Haugen, President
Highland Park Senior High
Parent-Student-Staff Forum

A solution to urban sprawl

To the editor:

State Representative Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul) provided a new perspective on mass transit and a practical solution to urban sprawl at a February 26 public forum at Landmark Center.

The recent I-394 project cost \$45 million per mile. The proposed I-35W and Highway 62 road work is expected to cost \$80 million for one mile and it will not solve our transit troubles. In contrast, 135 miles of light rail would cost \$4.1 million per mile, including rail cars and rail stations. If we use the expanded version of six light-rail lines providing

VILLAGER POST

200-plus miles of transit, the total cost would be \$4.4 million per mile.

The issue of light-rail transit in the Twin Cities has been studied ad nauseam. We now need to act with some intuition and courage. Mass transit has been low on the agenda of the current governor. Commitments to support mass transit should be pursued from all gubernatorial candidates who would succeed him.

Representative Hausman's solution? Dedicate the license tax to mass transit. Current revenue from the license tax is subsidizing urban sprawl by being exclusively used for highway construction.

John Garcia
Highland Park

Concerns answered

To the editor:

Let me answer Michael Mischke's concerns about light-rail transit along Hiawatha Avenue ("Misch-Masch," February 25 Villager).

First, Mischke worries about cost. The one-time capital investment will be between \$300 and \$400 million, which represents less than 2 percent of annual regional spending on surface transportation. This investment will reap benefits for 60 to 75 years.

Second, Mischke worries about ridership levels. The proposed light-rail line will connect four of the busiest points in our region—downtown Minneapolis, the University of Minnesota's West Bank, Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and the Mall of America.

Third, Mischke worries about our bus system with light rail in place. Assuming only a light-rail line along Hiawatha, the bus system will still remain the backbone of public transit. Also, light-rail and bus routes will be connected, insuring adequate capacity on both lines.

Light rail is clean, smooth, quick and attracts a wide demographic. I urge readers to contact their elected officials about this matter.

Michael Penfield
Snelling-Hamline

Suburbia's right to travel runs over city's right to peace and quiet

by Thomond R. O'Brien

The proposed widening of the I-35E bridge over the Mississippi River is yet another example of Twin Cities suburbs riding roughshod over the inner city. Propelled by the Metropolitan Council's plan to expand the interstate both north and south of the 35E Parkway and abetted by the Minnesota Department of Transportation's desire to rebuild the Mississippi River bridge, suburban interests are once again attempting to prove that their right to unlimited travel through our city neighborhoods is more important than our right to peace and quiet.

The 1984 (note the year) federal court order regarding the construction of the 35E Parkway remains in effect, and it remains supported by subsequent state and municipal legislation that restricts the parkway to four lanes, imposes a 45 mph speed limit and bans trucks. However, we of the RIP (Residents in Protest over) 35E steering committee know that some future MnDOT commissioner may one day rescind the agreement if it is deemed that "public safety" requires it.

That mealy-mouthed phrase can open up the miserable issue all over again. Transportation Department officials want "safe, fast and efficient travel," knowing full well that urban interstate highways eventually attract congestion and stop-and-go traffic. The affected neighborhoods are left with

tremendous and continuous noise and air pollution.

Our original RIP 35E proposal called for an areawide solution to our transportation needs utilizing a three-pronged approach to the I-35E corridor. We asked for an indirect connection between the 35E Parkway and I-94 on the north, a commercially viable connection along Shepard

We do not wish dirty, noisome interstate traffic on anyone, but it is not right to require some of St. Paul's most historic, family-oriented neighborhoods to bear even more.

Road to downtown St. Paul, and a direct link between I-35E to the south and I-35E to the north of downtown over the Lafayette bridge.

The indirect connection to I-94 would have provided easy access to downtown by means of low-speed connectors within the corridor. The Shepard Road and Lafayette routes would have handled the commercial and interstate traffic.

Most important, such a solution would have required city and regional planners to study the whole Twin Cities metropolitan transportation picture, and would have prevented them from tearing apart our city neighborhoods piecemeal. We were not able to force them to undertake such a study.

To continue upgrading—and inevitably enlarging—the I-35E corridor ignores the larger picture. (It is amazing that the I-35E bridge requires rebuilding whereas not a word has been spoken about rebuilding the Lafayette bridge although both bridges were built at the same time and with the same design.) A route from the north end of the Lafayette bridge to I-35E through the nearly deserted marshaling yards of James J. Hill's former empire still remains open. The corridor south of the Lafayette bridge has been a freeway in fact, if not name, for years.

We do not wish dirty, noisome interstate traffic on anyone, but it is not right to require some of St. Paul's most historic, family-oriented neighborhoods to bear even more. Ongoing efforts are being made right now to upgrade Ayd Mill Road for more cars and possibly trucks. Traffic headed to Minneapolis from south of St. Paul should not go through St. Paul, and interstate traffic should go around our urban areas, not through them.

Call your elected officials and let them know.

Editor's note: Thomond O'Brien is a resident of Summit Hill.

A modest proposal for disbursing the state's budget surplus

by Neal Bernards

Minnesota's 1998 budget surplus now stands at \$1.8 billion and climbing. Legislators appear to be at a loss over how to solve the "problem" of all this extra cash. They publicly wring their hands and gnash their teeth over the conundrum of too much taxpayer money. Yet secretly, they salivate over the surplus with visions of all the pet projects they can now afford to undertake.

To prevent a legislative brain trust meltdown, I humbly offer the following suggestions for how to disburse the windfall:

- Create a slush fund so St. Paul cops can pay off snitches and circumvent the police chief's need to write "Get out of jail free" memos.
- Buy earplugs for the 200,000 Twin Cities residents who are affected by airport noise and give them each a bumper sticker that reads "I♥Northwest."
- Bankroll Norm Coleman's opponents in the upcoming gubernatorial race to give them at least a fighting chance against this fund-raising dynamo.
- To balance out the courtroom tobacco wars now being waged in St. Paul, give \$100 to all 4 million non-smokers in

Minnesota for never having inhaled.

- Build light-rail transit from a worker's front steps to his office door. Repeat as needed.
- Buy belts so all teen-agers can cinch up their baggy pants.
- Pay Roger Headrick and Carl Pohlad to divest their sports holdings and get out of town by midnight.
- Invest in psychological counseling for the state's ice fishermen to help them understand that a warm winter is a good thing.
- Block the movement to create a mourning dove hunting season and substitute a pigeon shoot so we can flush out the flying toilets.
- Hire a team of veteran lobbyists to push a bill that bans legislators from voting themselves a raise in any year with a budget deficit.
- Give a Ted Kaczinski Home Chemistry set to every pre-teen to raise our student's dismal science test scores.
- Build Governor Arne Carlson a series of public edifices and soaring monuments to recognize his service in office. Whoops, too late, it's already been done.
- Sink the *Des Moines*, salvage the *Edmund Fitzgerald* and drag it to Canal Park whether the citizens of Duluth want it or not.
- Legislate a merger between the Association of Owners

of Sport Utility Vehicles and the National Rifle Association since they already share the same motto: "Sport utility vehicles (or guns) don't kill people: People kill people."

- Designate a 50-mile-wide ring around the outer suburbs as national park property to prevent Rochester, the Twin Cities and Duluth from becoming a single metroplex.
 - Underwrite the costs of a public relations campaign to publicize the results of recent tests proving that today's youths have higher IQs than their parents. That'll drive a stake through the insidious phrase, "When I was a kid, we had standards."
 - Build a fenced recreational trail across northern Minnesota so snowmobilers stop killing wolves.
 - Buy the wolves their own herd of livestock so they can stop eating farmers' cattle.
 - Rent *Never Cry Wolf* for every northern farmer and send them to a PETA (People for Ethical Treatment of Animals) convention.
 - Grant a large tax rebate to all well-off retirees in Minnesota. If school kids want a piece of the tax surplus pie, tell them to go and get a political action group of their own.
- Or the Legislature could do something really different: Give the money back to the taxpayers.

VILLAGER

757 Snelling Avenue South
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Maurice F. Mischke, 1920-1991

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Hornseth, Kate Havelin, Paul Preimesberger, Neal Bernards.

For questions regarding circulation, call 699-1462.

The Villager is published twice a month by Villager Communications Inc. at the offices above, and is distributed by carrier or mail to more than 36,000 households and businesses, offering total market coverage of a select area. Another 9,200 copies are distributed via newsstands all across that area. Mail subscriptions are available at \$25 per year for those who live outside the home-delivered area.



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Twin Citians should keep an open mind on light rail: Village Post

from page 6

To the editor:

Regarding the letter entitled "Paving paradise for commuter convenience" (*Villager*, February 11):

It is too early to dismiss the idea of a light-rail bridge over the Mississippi River or to dig in our heels as a neighborhood against any specific proposal. To do so now may have the effect of stopping light rail altogether.

I lived in Washington, D.C., in the late 1970s when the Metro subway was under construction. The addition of a Metro stop proved to be a good thing for our neighborhood. Streets became more pedestrian-oriented, property values rose and local businesses prospered. "Close to Metro stop" became an important feature in deciding where to live.

Highland residents can take a leadership role in saying "no" to increased car traffic by taking a leadership role in saying "yes" to light rail. Thanks go especially to District 5 Ramsey County commissioner Raphael Ortega for his leadership.

We do indeed need to work out the details on light rail through a comprehensive study. It is too complicated and too risky to approach any other way. But the greatest risk of all may be to do nothing. At this time, we are most likely to get the best possible outcome by keeping an open mind.

Amy Brooks
Highland Park

Hypocrisy at its worst

Dear editor:

It's interesting that some St. Paul School Board members apparently want to kill the DARE program because they claim it's too expensive or doesn't work. My school property taxes had been going up every year until the state bailed the district out this year. The School Board has shown little concern for fiscal conservatism until it comes to a program that doesn't fit its liberal agenda. This is sheer hypocrisy.

The DARE program has served our schools well, and our children are more aware of the danger of drugs and alcohol because of it. I'm glad School Board member Tom Conlon is fighting to save DARE, while ensuring that the board looks at other wasteful programs that cost far more money than DARE for budget reductions.

The children are counting on us.

Georgia Dietz
Highland Park

Expand DARE, don't drop it

Dear editor:

St. Paul School Board member Tom Conlon's guest editorial on the school district's DARE program (*Villager*, February 25) highlights the real battles our kids are facing in our schools today. At a time when children are exposed to violence, broken families, poverty and a lack of role models, they often are vulnerable to negative peer pressure and experimenting with harmful drugs. The School Board should quit fighting ideological battles and do the right thing for kids—support them not only with appropriate classroom

resources but ensure they have the tools to be healthy, take responsibility for their actions and use good judgment.

The St. Paul Police Department has done a wonderful job working with our kids, and it would be tragic to see that relationship severed.

If there are problems with the DARE program, give it the support it needs to make it more successful. I fully support a junior high follow-up as one way to reinforce the positive messages our kids receive. I hope the School Board comes to its senses on this matter.

Allyson Hartle
Highland Park

Don't mourn for this dove

To the editor:

In opposing a bill to open dove hunting in Minnesota, Bette Kent of the Minnesota Committee to Protect the Mourning Dove implied in a letter to the editor (*Villager*, February 25) that the state's mourning dove population would be threatened or endangered by hunting. This is far from the truth.

The mourning dove is America's most numerous game bird—five times more numerous than all ducks and geese combined. It reproduces more rapidly than most game fowl, hatching two-egg clutches three to five times a year. Despite being hunted in 39 states, it is the third most abundant bird in America.

A mourning dove is not difficult to identify in flight, nor is it hard for dogs to retrieve. It consumes sunflowers, sorghum, corn and millet—hardly a benefit to farmers. A recent study by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources concluded that hunting has virtually no impact on mourning dove populations or the opportunity to view or hear doves in our fields or back yards.

Species that are designated as game birds benefit from increased conservation efforts. Witness the successful recovery of waterfowl populations due to the efforts of hunters and game managers to save prairie nesting habitat from being drained for agriculture. Were it not for hunters, the ring-necked pheasant would not exist in this country.

Jack Maloney
Merriam Park

Like so much bird shot

To the editor:

Bette Kent, in condemning a legislative bill to establish a mourning dove hunting season (*Village Post*, February 25), raises a number of points unrelated to the discussion.

For example, Ms. Kent notes that mourning doves eat weed seeds and thus reduce the need for pesticides. I find it hard to believe that a farmer would be able to factor in the number and location of weed seeds that doves will eat when determining pesticide use.

Ms. Kent notes that the mourning dove population is not out of control. In fact, hunting the doves is not intended to

control population and will have a minimal impact on population as seen in the current overpopulation of deer and Canada geese. Loss of habitat, acts of nature and species adaptability have a significantly greater impact on birds.

Ms. Kent also notes that the mourning dove's small size (2 ounces) makes it barely worth cooking. Eating wild game is a byproduct of an enjoyable day's hunting. The size of the meal is irrelevant.

Tom Endres
Macalester-Groveland

Our river, our streets

To the editor:

Jack Maloney gave us a timely reminder to show some respect for our neighborhoods by cleaning up after our dogs (*Village Post*, February 25). I'd like to add another reason why it's important not to leave pet waste on the streets and sidewalks.

Pet waste carries bacteria that is washed down storm sewers and into the Mississippi River when it rains. In fact, almost anything left on sidewalks, streets and driveways can make its way into storm drains to pollute the Mississippi.

Please, dispose of waste properly in a trash can or flush it down the toilet. And while you're at it, keep leaves and grass clippings out of the street as well.

Shelley Shreffler
Natural Resources Program Manager
St. Paul Neighborhood Energy Consortium

Good-bye, James Soda Grill

Dear editor:

We said good-bye this morning to an old friend. Actually, it was several old friends. For more than 17 years, we've seen these great people every Sunday after Mass for breakfast. It became our tradition. It seemed like the closest we would ever get to living in a small town. Walking in the door, we were greeted by any number of people we had come to know after so many years. It felt good. It felt like home. Now it's over.

Simple pleasures never cost much, and breakfast at James Soda Grill on Snelling and Randolph was all the value you could want out of a local business. They didn't mess with the menu much. Didn't have to.

We never did understand why it was named James Soda Grill. Why not Jim's, Arlyn's, Jan's, Dottie's or even Robyn's?

No one did more freebies to the community than owner Jim Weinberg. Always willing to help out a local school fundraiser with free ice cream cones or whatever else was asked.

Time marches on and so it goes with James Soda Grill. We'll always remember the warmth and hospitality that was served with every meal. As my son said to me this morning, "This place was like our own little Cheers." Thanks, Jim and the gang at Bridgeman's, or James Soda Grill. We'll miss you.

John Barrett and family
Highland Park



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Task force narrows the options for mass transit along River Corridor

by Jane McClure

High costs and the potential disruption of the neighborhood have prompted the Riverview Corridor Task Force to shelve plans for a tunnel and new bridge to carry light-rail vehicles through Highland Park and over the Mississippi River to Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport.

That leaves the Highway 5 bridge as the lone alternative for crossing the Mississippi. The task force previously ruled out the Ford Bridge because of the increased travel time it would entail.

However, the Highway 5 option carries with it "significant engineering problems," according to Charlene Zimmer of Strgar-Roscoe-Fausch, the engineering consultants for the Riverview Corridor project.

The bridge is relatively narrow, having only four lanes and no shoulder, and the Highway 5 tunnel on the west side presents further constraints. There is also the problem of routing mass transit through the grounds of historic Fort Snelling.

Depending upon which route is chosen, the Riverview Corridor could carry buses or light-rail transit from downtown St. Paul through Highland Park. As envisioned, the corridor would link up with the Hiawatha Avenue Corridor transit route in South Minneapolis, providing a connection to downtown Minneapolis, the airport and the Mall of America. The St. Paul route would continue east of downtown to Arcade Street and the planned Phalen Corridor.

The idea for a new bridge spanning the Mississippi River from the General Services Administration building in South Minneapolis to the bluff above Hidden Falls Regional Park caused considerable controversy when it was proposed last fall. The bridge was one factor in the St. Paul City Council's refusal to support a request for state funding for the Riverview Corridor. If the plan had not been dropped from further study on March 5, the Highland Area Community Council also was prepared to vote against it that same evening.

The \$18 million plan included a tunnel from the bluff above Hidden Falls Park to the Canadian Pacific (CP) railroad tracks near

Cleveland Avenue. A second option did not include a tunnel but did include a new bridge linking Cleveland Avenue with Bloomington Road in Minneapolis.

The River Corridor task force has also dropped from further study a light-rail route along Shepard Road. According to Zimmer, the distance between the river and the bluffs is too narrow in parts to accommodate light rail and would entail a steep climb into downtown St. Paul.

Another alternative that has been eliminated is a high-speed commuter railroad along the CP tracks in Highland Park. However, according to Chip Welling of Transit for Livable Communities, interest remains in using the CP tracks along Ayd Mill Road for a commuter railroad.

The River Corridor task force will take a break this spring while the Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority prepares a report summarizing the study.

The next phase of the study will begin this summer with a more detailed look at the remaining options. They include the following:

- Constructing a busway or light-rail route along the CP railroad tracks from downtown St. Paul to West 7th Street and St. Paul Avenue, where it would connect to bus routes on West 7th Street and Highway 5.

- Improving bus service on West 7th Street, possibly by dedicating a lane for buses only.

- Using the shoulders of the I-35E Parkway as a bus lane.

- Offering bus service on Shepard Road, possibly adding bus lanes where space is available.

"We're just beginning this process," said Ramsey County commissioner Rafael Ortega, whose District 5 includes the affected neighborhoods. "We need to see a lot more community involvement."

By summer, the task force should know what funds are available for the Riverview Corridor. Ramsey and other metropolitan area counties are seeking \$106 million in state funds during the current legislative session to match the \$200 million in federal funds available for mass transit. Most of the money would be used to construct the Hiawatha Corridor, but \$3 million would be available for further study and some property acquisition along the Riverview Corridor.

The Highway 5 option for a mass transitway carries with it significant engineering problems.

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Snelling-Hamline council appeals variance for sign

The Snelling-Hamline Community Council is appealing a sign variance that has been granted to the Citgo service station at 326 N. Snelling Ave. The appeal will be heard by the St. Paul City Council at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 11.

The service station was a Union 76 for more than a decade. Owner Jerry Showalter wants to replace the existing 50-foot-high Union 76 sign with a 50-foot-high Citgo sign. The size of the sign would increase from 113 to 196 square feet.

The St. Paul zoning code limits freestanding signs in business districts to 37 feet, 6 inches. The St. Paul Planning Commission voted 12-3 in favor of the variance on January 30. The variance also has the support of the Midway Chamber of Commerce.

Snelling-Hamline council president John Van Hecke said the district council will argue that there are no unique conditions at the property to justify the variance, that the sign would be contrary to city zoning standards, that the variance is objectionable to neighboring property owners, that the sign would have an adverse effect on neighbors and that it would not be in keeping with the general character of the surrounding area.

Carroll Avenue resident Adam Cliff has submitted a petition against the sign variance that is signed by more than a dozen neighbors.

St. Paul seeks ways to curb housing discrimination

Public meetings on fair housing issues would be held throughout St. Paul under a proposal presented to the City Council on March 4 by St. Paul Human Rights Department director Tyrone Terrell.

The proposal outlines several strategies to counteract housing discrimination, including education on the rights of tenants and landlords and improved legal services for tenants.

Terrell wants to amend the city's Human Rights Ordinance to include sanctions for those who commit housing discrimination. He also is calling for an investigation into allegations that some landlords are charging prospective tenants non-refundable application fees of up to \$150 and then renting the apartment to someone else.

The City Council's concerns about housing discrimination stem from a study released last year by the Minnesota Fair Housing Center. The study revealed housing discrimination against African-Americans in half of the 26 rental properties in Highland Park that were surveyed.

In January, City Council members Mike Harris and Jerry Blakey asked Terrell to study

NEWS BRIEFLY



Long arm of the law. St. Paul police have stepped up their presence on Grand Avenue in response to a rash of burglaries there. Close to two dozen Grand businesses were hit over the winter. Among the new patrols is mounted officer Eric Anderson, who took time recently to tag a car for illegal parking. Photo by Mike Long.

the center's report and prepare a plan to address housing discrimination. The council had earlier approved a contract with Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services to provide legal assistance to people who believe they have been the victims of housing discrimination. The contract was originally for \$30,000, but was increased to \$65,000 after the discrimination study was released.

Terrell cautioned the City Council that stepping up efforts at public education will probably double the number of housing discrimination complaints received by the city. In 1997, St. Paul received 21 such complaints.

Commission favors new site for Metro Transit bus garage

The St. Paul Planning Commission voted February 27 to recommend moving Metro Transit's garage and maintenance facility from Snelling and St. Anthony avenues to Mississippi and Cayuga streets, about a mile north of downtown. The recommendation will now go to the St. Paul City Council.

The Midway Chamber of Commerce would like to see the bus garage site redeveloped and put back on the property tax rolls. The Snelling-Hamline and Merriam Park

community councils also support the move.

"We're looking forward to revitalizing that area and bringing in businesses that will be in harmony with the neighboring retail centers," said chamber president Chuck Whitaker. "Developers have already expressed interest in the property. Sitting at I-94 and Snelling—that's about as high-traffic as you can get."

Over the past several months, Metro Transit has narrowed its list of building options from 16 to three, including construction of a new facility at the Snelling Avenue site. The other two sites are at Mississippi and Cayuga and Mississippi and University Avenue.

Bob Gibbons, director of customer services for Metro Transit, said the Snelling Avenue garage has a capacity of 225 buses, but only 170 can be stored inside at one time because of concerns about air quality. "Because of the building's age and condition, we're motivated to do something," he said. According to him, Metro Transit favors the University Avenue site.

A \$12 million state appropriation is being sought to help pay the estimated \$28 million it will cost to build the new bus garage.

Permit considered for new Highland home for elderly

Saying more time is needed to review an agreement between a developer and neighborhood residents, the St. Paul Planning Commission's Zoning Committee has postponed action on a request to open a health care and boarding facility for elderly people at 15 Montcalm Court. If the committee makes a recommendation as planned on Thursday, March 19, the matter will be taken up by the full Planning Commission at 8:30 a.m. Friday, March 27.

Developer Peter Kelly has an option to purchase the former Lubavitch House and is seeking a special condition use permit to convert it to a facility for elderly people who are frail or suffer from dementia or Alzheimer's disease. The building would have 16 bedrooms and up to 21 residents, and would be staffed around the clock by at least three employees.

Originally a single-family home, the 50-year-old residence was used by the Catholic Order of Oblate Fathers for eight years before the Upper Midwest Markos Jewish Educational Association converted it to Lubavitch House in 1970. The home has been vacant now for more than a year.

Kelly is seeking a parking variance for his care facility. Thirteen spaces are needed, but at the neighbors' request Kelly has dropped plans to park cars in the front yard. He said he has space for only seven cars behind the house and is seeking a six-space variance.

News briefs were compiled by Jane McClure.

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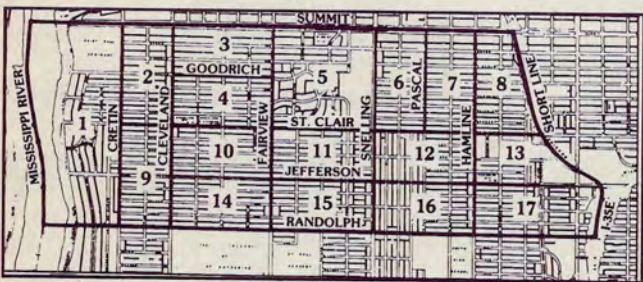
Macalester-Groveland COUNCIL CAPSULE

BOARD MEETING SET

The Macalester-Groveland Community Council will meet at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, March 19, at the Edgcombe Community Center, 320 S. Griggs St. The agenda will include the election of a representative from Grid 10 (see map).

Items to be discussed include consideration of support for an addition to Mount Zion Temple, modification of the University of St. Thomas residential permit parking district, approval of the Grand Old Day block party permit and consideration of support for a petition to install four-way stop signs at Jefferson Avenue and Wheeler Street.

Also on the agenda will be the adoption of the rules and procedures for the council's 1998 annual meeting and election, which will be held on Sunday, April 19, at Immanuel Lutheran Church. The meeting will include the election of half of the members on the council's board and a town meeting on Ayd Mill Road. For information, call community organizer Kathie Tarnowski at 698-7973.



Macalester-Groveland neighborhood by grids

BOULEVARD TREES

Property owners who don't want to wait until the city comes along to plant boulevard trees on their block can speed up the process by participating in the city's cost-sharing program. A tax-deductible donation of \$35 will support the planting of a 1 1/2-inch caliper bare-root tree. A \$100 donation will support the planting of a 2 1/2- to 3-inch caliper balled-and-burlapped tree. The city will pay the difference between the donation and the cost of the tree. All trees will be planted by the city, are guaranteed for one year and will be of the type specified for the block by the city's tree planting master plan.

To participate, send a check payable to the Macalester-Groveland Community Council to the council office at 320 S. Griggs St., St. Paul, MN 55105 by April 1.

RELEAF PROGRAM

Residents who want to plant trees in their yards this spring may do so through a new program offered by the Macalester-Groveland Community Council. Through a grant from the Minnesota ReLeaf program, the council will have about 130 native trees for sale this year at a greatly discounted price.

Trees available through this program include a 1-inch caliper bare-root sugar maple for \$20, a 10-gallon potted bicolor oak for \$35, a 4-foot bare-root, single-stem serviceberry for \$10, and 3 1/2-foot balled-and-burlapped Black Hills spruce for \$30. The trees will be available for pickup on Saturday, April 25, at Mattocks Park. The trees will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis.

To participate, send a check payable to the Macalester-Groveland Community Council to the council office at 320 S. Griggs St., St. Paul, MN 55105.

ICE DAMS A PROBLEM?

The Macalester-Groveland Community Council has created a home improvement program to help residents address home maintenance issues such as ice dams. Called the Middle Income Fix-Up Fund, the program offers home improvement loans from \$1,000 to \$10,000 at the prime interest rate. The loans are available to all Mac-Groveland residents, regardless of income level. Most basic improvements, such as insulation, plumbing and electrical repair, are eligible for this program.

Minnesota Housing Finance Agency home improvement loans also are available to Mac-Grove residents with gross annual household incomes of between \$21,000 and \$69,920. Loans are available from \$1,000 to \$35,000 at an interest rate of 8.0 percent.

For information on these and other loan programs, call Kate Schultz at the council office at 698-7973.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

The community council's Beautification Committee will meet at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, March 12, at the Edgcombe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St. The agenda will include discussion of the committee's spring activities, including the annual plant share and the commercial cluster planting program. For details, call Lee Wallace at 698-7973.

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AgStop 0275, P.O. Box 96456
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St. Paul pressures MnDOT to scale back designs for new I-35E bridge

by Jane McClure

In response to political and public pressure, the Minnesota Department of Transportation has dropped its widest proposal for reconstructing the I-35E bridge over the Mississippi River.

More than 60 people attended the March 5 meeting of the Highland Area Community Council (HACC) to view half a dozen bridge proposals. At the meeting, Ward 4 City Council member Jay Benanav presented a resolution, adopted unanimously by the City Council the day before, that calls for the new bridge to be as narrow as possible, with only four traffic lanes. The council wants the bridge to be built on the existing alignment and to include a bicycle-pedestrian lane, he said.

The resolution included a copy of the 1984 U.S. District Court ruling that restricts I-35E to four traffic lanes between West 7th Street and downtown St. Paul. City officials and area residents worry that a wider bridge would funnel increased traffic onto the parkway.

"The concern we have is that bridge expansion and freeway expansion could result in many, many more cars coming through St. Paul," Benanav said.

MnDOT is trying to respond to St. Paul's demands for a narrower bridge, said MnDOT project manager Mukhtar Thakur. However, he said that pleas for a narrower bridge have to be balanced with requests for bicycle lanes, pedestrian paths and improved access for mass transit.

The deteriorated condition of the bridge, coupled with increased traffic volumes and suburban development, is pushing the project along. The bridge carries 72,000 vehicles per day now, up from 15,000 per day when it

opened in 1965. The projected traffic count is 115,000 vehicles per day by 2015 and 131,000 vehicles per day by 2024.

The existing bridge is 67.3 feet wide, with four 12-foot traffic lanes and two 3-foot shoulders. MnDOT has dropped its plans for an eight-lane, 164-foot-wide bridge. The widest bridge presented at the March 5 meeting was a six-lane, 139-foot bridge. The smallest was 74 feet wide.

Traffic lane widths on the proposed bridges range from 12 to 14 feet, with varying shoulder widths. Some include bicycle-pedestrian lanes and four include reinforced roadway shoulders for bus-only traffic during rush hours.

Thakur said the widest bridge option was dropped after it provoked controversy at previous meetings. However, he said, any of the new bridge options could be expanded in the future by adding more piers.

"What you're saying, then, is what you build today can be as wide as you want it to be in the future," said HACC board member Rick Dagenais.

Peggy Lynch, executive director of Friends of the Parks and Trails, criticized MnDOT for taking the attitude that it can build whatever size bridge it wants despite issues that have been raised by local residents. People have raised questions in the past on how the new bridge would affect Crosby Lake Regional Park, Mendota businesses, the I-35E Parkway, Ayd Mill Road and St. Paul neighborhood streets.

MnDOT officials hope to complete pre-design work on the new bridge by September before a final option is selected. Final designs are scheduled to be finished by 2000, with construction to begin as early as 2001.

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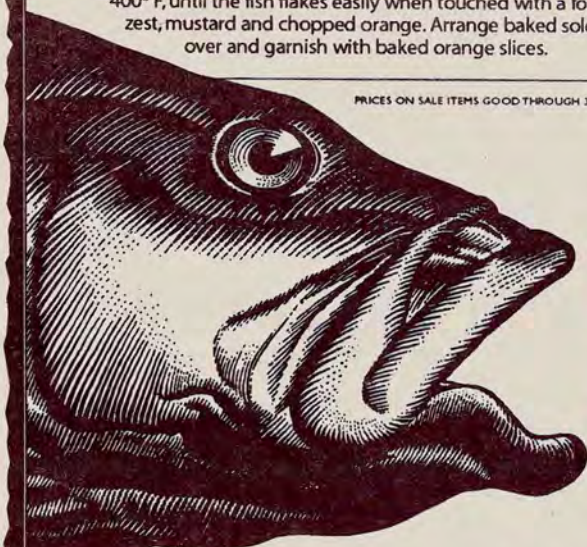
The Recipe: Baked Sole Fillet

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2 cups plain yogurt

2 tablespoons grated orange zest
2 tablespoons stone-ground mustard
1 navel orange, peeled and chopped

Slice navel oranges. Arrange slices on rack and cover with fillets. Bake in a very hot oven, 400° F, until the fish flakes easily when touched with a fork. Combine yogurt, orange zest, mustard and chopped orange. Arrange baked sole fillets on plate, spoon sauce over and garnish with baked orange slices.

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Merriam Park Library seeks auction items

The Merriam Park Library Association is seeking donations for a silent auction to be held during the rebuilt library's fifth birthday party this spring.

Last year's auction raised more than \$2,200, which was used to buy replacement copies of classic books by authors such as Dickens, Fitzgerald and Hemingway. This year, the association is hoping to do even better. Residents and businesses are being asked to donate household items, services, crafts, gift certificates, artwork, jewelry, tick-

ets to cultural events, new children's toys, games and novelty items. The deadline for donations is Friday, April 3.

The auction will feature comedian Spence Dobson. Other professional entertainers who are willing to perform free during the evening are invited to call.

The birthday party and silent auction will be held from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 8, in the auditorium of the library, 1831 Marshall Ave. To donate items or volunteer to work at the event, call 647-1643.



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March food drives help the working poor at Sibley Manor

by Dale Mischke

How much food does Francis Basket distribute each week to residents of the Sibley Manor Apartments in Highland Park?

Enough to feed an elephant for six days.

If you don't know how much that is, ask a kindergartner at Highland Catholic School, one of two dozen local organizations participating this month in a food drive for the Francis Basket food shelf operated by the Franciscan Sisters of St. Paul.

Hi-C's kindergarten has been studying elephants and because of that the school has set a goal of collecting 350 pounds of food—enough to feed an elephant for a day.

Luckily, there are no hungry elephants at Sibley Manor, but the 555-unit apartment complex off West 7th Street does have 210 families who visit Francis Basket between one and eight times every two months to supplement their food budget. Half of the nearly 600 residents are recent immigrants, one-quarter of them are senior citizens and nearly one-third are children. Half of them have paying jobs, but the average annual income for a family of four Francis Basket clients is still only \$13,360—well below the \$16,000 poverty line.

Francis Basket is one of more than 200 food shelves from across the state conducting a food drive in March. The more food and money Francis Basket raises, the more it can expect to receive in additional funds from the Minnesota Food Share network.

Last March's food drive was the best ever in the seven years since the Franciscans took over the operation of the food shelf, accord-



These 4th-graders at Somerset Heights School in Mendota Heights have helped to bag 900 food items so far in the March drive for Francis Basket. Photo by Kristine Heykants.

ing to Jo-Anne Rowan, assistant executive director. With the help of 23 Villager area organizations, the food shelf collected 12,517 pounds of food and \$11,544. That was enough to receive an additional \$3,500 from the Minnesota Food Share network. The total take was enough to sustain the food shelf well into the summer.

The Franciscans absorb all of the adminis-

trative costs for the food shelf, so all of the money Francis Basket raises goes to purchase more food. And when it comes to buying food, the Franciscans know how to stretch a dollar. Francis Basket can purchase a typical bag of groceries that would cost \$20.51 at Rainbow Foods for only \$8.21, Rowan said. It does that by buying in large quantities and by using the Emergency Foodshelf Network and

the Second Harvest food bank, where food donated by large corporations can be obtained for as low as 13 cents a pound.

Five other area schools are participating in the March drive for Francis Basket: Highland Park Elementary, Highland Park Junior and Senior High, St. Francis/St. James United and Somerset Heights. Also participating are the Beth Jacob Synagogue Youth Group, Firstar Bank in Highland, Coopers Super Valu, Riverview Highlands, some 200 area Girl Scouts, the Jewish Community Center, St. Mary's Home and the churches of St. Luke Lutheran, St. Therese, St. Gregory, St. Leo and St. Francis. Nativity and Holy Spirit parishes have pledged to make cash donations.

Keeping the food shelf stocked is a constant battle, Rowan said. Last year's changes in federal welfare law that eliminated food stamps and Supplemental Social Security income for many residents of Sibley Manor were expected to strain the food shelf's supply. Though that has not happened, Rowan is not sure it won't still.

"Last year at this time, we thought the sky was falling in the spring, but the sky really didn't fall until the fall," Rowan said, referring to the four-month delay in welfare cuts.

The cuts may have a greater impact on the food shelf this year, Rowan said. Many of those who were formerly on welfare have found jobs, but if they are making the minimum wage of \$5.15 an hour that is still only \$10,712 a year, she said.

"These people are working paycheck to paycheck," Rowan said. "If their car breaks down or a medical problem arises, they have a hard time getting ahead."

SCHOOL NOTES

The Highland Park Senior High School Alumni and Friends Association is in the process of publishing an all-school alumni directory of classes from 1965 to 1987. The association is seeking alumni class reunion lists or booklets to develop the directory. Information is especially needed for the classes of 1966, '68 and '73-'75. The directories are expected to be available next year. Later classes will be included in subsequent editions. For information, call Tom Conlon at 699-7399.

Somerset Heights Elementary School, 1355 Dodd Road, Mendota Heights, will

host open houses on Wednesday and Thursday, March 18-19. On both days, families can walk through the school and visit classrooms between 8:40 a.m. and 2:55 p.m. On Thursday, staff members also will be on hand from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. to discuss the school program and answer questions. For information, call the school at 405-2631.

The College of St. Catherine will offer a workshop on financing and career development from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Saturday, March 14. The free workshop is for those who are serious about going back to school. To register, call 690-8828.

UST dedicates new \$2.5 million commons

Koch Commons, a \$2.5 million multipurpose facility that will link three student dorms at the University of St. Thomas, was dedicated on February 19. The commons is named after David and Barbara Koch of Long Lake, who were recognized at the dedication for their contributions to the university.

Koch Commons connects Brady and Dowling halls and will eventually link them to the new seven-level, 346-unit dorm now under construc-

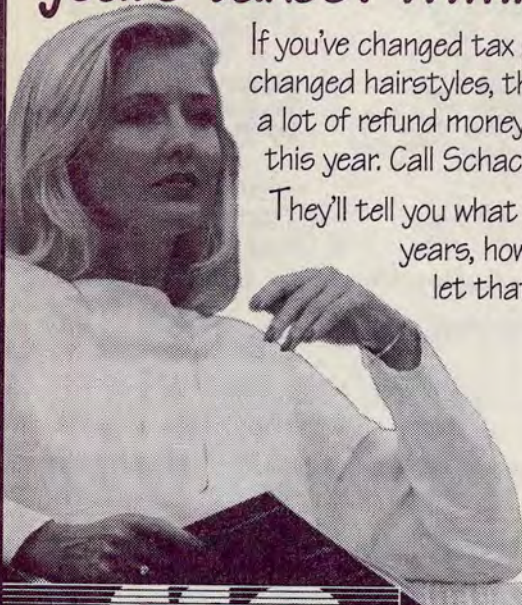
tion just north of the university's football stadium. The residence will feature apartment-style amenities designed to encourage more juniors and seniors to live on campus. It is expected to be completed by September.

The lower level of the 14,250-square-foot Koch Commons includes the university's Wellness Center, a computer lab with 25 PCs and Power Macs, a fitness center, a meeting room and classroom, and a food-to-go

store called the Pit Stop. The upper level features a fireplace lounge, meditation room and quarters for the Residence Life Office and student-run Residence Hall Association.

St. Thomas also is building a three-level, underground parking ramp beneath the new apartment building and baseball field. The total cost of the three-part project, including commons, apartments and parking ramp, is \$24.5 million.

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Stories Grandpa never told

Memories of St. Paul's West Side spill forth when a long-kept family secret is revealed in new History Theater play

by Bob Gilbert

When families don't talk, what things don't they talk about? That's the question that opens Ann Schulman's new play, *Conversations About Hannah*, which will open on March 14 at the Great American History Theater, 30 E. 10th St.

When the curtain rises, Ben has died and his wife Rose is sitting shiva, which is the formal period of mourning following a Jewish funeral. It is then that Ben's granddaughter Janie discovers that her real grandmother is not Rose at all, but Hannah, Ben's first wife and Rose's sister who died many years earlier. Janie wants to know more, and as the play unfolds so do the untold stories of her grandparents' generation and particularly those of Hannah.

Janie is a fictional character, but the play is based on events that happened in Schulman's family two generations ago. Through research and interviews, Schulman has sought to depict life during the Great Depression on the West Side of St. Paul, where many Jews first settled before moving to Summit-University and, later, to Highland Park.

However, the story is not so much about being Jewish as it is about the quest to find one's roots, Schulman said. "The West Side was not homogenous at all," she said. "It was filled with Lebanese, Hispanic and East European immigrants all struggling side by side to

overcome poverty and the language barrier.

"There still are a lot of people who have fond memories of the old West Side," Schulman said. "It was called the flats because it was built on the flood plain of the Mississippi River. My mother's cousin told me a great story about how her date once arrived in a boat to pick her up because the neighborhood was flooded. It was like that until they put in the levees in the 1950s."

Conversations About Hannah is Schulman's first play. She began writing it when her grandfather's second wife died five years ago. Initial drafts were done in classes offered by the Playwright's Center in Minneapolis.

Schulman received help in researching her play from Linda Schloff of the Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest. The two, both residents of Highland Park, first met a few years ago in Arizona, where Schulman was on vacation and Schloff was speaking at a conference about Jewish settlers. Schloff also put together an exhibit of photographs that will be displayed at the theater throughout the play's three-week run. The photographs are from the same West Side neighborhood in which the play is set.

"I like the way Ann's play moves back and forth in time and has people who are dead speak to people who are living," said Carolyn Levy, who directs *Conversations About Hannah*. "Writing a play with those kinds of transitions can be difficult, but she's done it subtly

and without a lot of fanfare."

A Summit Hill resident, Levy teaches in the drama department at Hamline University. She is a co-founder and former director of the Women's Theater Project and has directed more than 30 plays locally, including the History Theater's first production of *A Servant's Christmas* in the early 1980s.

"The actors in *Conversations About Hannah* are discovering new things about their characters as they rehearse," Levy said. "There's not one star in the play; it's an ensemble piece. The lives of all characters are woven together and that requires a working relationship where we're all really connected to the work."

In anticipation of the production, Schulman has been giving talks about the play to local groups. Speaking to the Men's Club of the Jewish Community Center in January, she discovered that many of the 90 men in attendance grew up on the West Side. So instead of asking her audience for questions at the end, she asked them for their insights while they viewed her historical slide show.

Schulman's slide of the old Talmud Torah stirred many memories. The Talmud Torah, where many Jewish children studied Hebrew, also had been used as a shelter for homeless men, one man said. Another recalled the loan association that operated there, giving out \$5.00 and \$10 loans to help local families through tough periods. Yet another men-

tioned that the man who worked as the building's janitor is now a millionaire who donated \$250,000 to the JCC. The stories, Schulman said, gave her a deeper affection for her material.

Schulman said she is still a little uncomfortable in the role of playwright. However, she is used to being on stage. A native of Menomonie, Wisconsin, she studied acting at the State University of New York in Purchase. From there she moved to Manhattan where she supported herself as an actor for 11 years. She returned to the Midwest five years ago and has starred twice in the History Theater's production of *A Servant's Christmas*.

"One of the things I love about theater is that it's based on a very meticulous ritual," Schulman said. "You work on playing moments of crisis over and over by reciting the same lines and standing at the same spot on stage every night. Training yourself to let that ritual be fresh every night is where the skill lies.

"Plays are dialogues between audiences and actors and between communities and theaters," she said. "The West Side community means a lot to so many people. It was important to me that the play teach people about the multi-culturalism that existed there so long ago."

Conversations About Hannah will be presented in 21 performances through April 5. For ticket information, call 292-4323.



Playwright Ann Schulman and director Carolyn Levy on the set of *Conversations About Hannah*. Photo by Brad Stauffer

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Task force seeks to reduce by half the number of signs on River Blvd.

by Jane McClure

Those in favor and those opposed to the new bike lane on Mississippi River Boulevard can agree on at least one thing: The proliferation of signs along the roadway has spoiled the scenery.

More than 250 signs are now arrayed on the wooded 5.4-mile boulevard, many of them added last October after the city of St. Paul painted a southbound bicycle lane along that stretch.

"We've added so many signs that the street has all of the accoutrements of a highway," said Tom Kayser, a River Boulevard resident and member of the Mississippi River Boulevard Task Force. The proliferation of signs has "changed the rustic nature of the boulevard," Kayser said.

"I would agree that what we have there now is overkill," said city traffic engineer Al Shetka. "The question is, what is the minimum number of signs we need to inform motorists of regulations and give police the ability to ticket people who violate those regulations?"

Last month the River Boulevard Task Force hammered out five recommendations that have been forwarded to the St. Paul Parks and Recreation Commission and City Council for consideration later this year. They include:

- Limit the number of speed limit signs on the street to 26.
- Reduce the number of "no parking" signs from 95 to 45 or less.
- Reduce by half the 42 bike lane signs and 82 bike lane markings painted on the street.
- Post signs restricting truck traffic on Mississippi River Boulevard near the Highway 5 intersection and the streets used to access the Ford Motor Company plant.
- Paint stop signs on the pavement of the bike lane.
- Modify signs along the combined pedestrian/bike path to inform cyclists of the new

8 mph speed limit on the path and the law requiring them to announce when they are passing a fellow path user.

The task force rejected the idea of painting crosswalks at every intersection that has a stop sign after city staff questioned whether crosswalks would be effective.

When the City Council designated River Boulevard as a bike route last fall, parking was banned on the west side of the street, a southbound bike lane was striped, and the speed limit for motor vehicles was lowered from 30 to 25 mph. The council also established an 8 mph speed limit on the off-road path to encourage bicyclists to leave the congested path for the street.

The City Council set up the task force to monitor conditions on the street and path following those changes. The task force includes representatives of the Highland, Macalester-Groveland and Merriam Park community councils, Friends of the Parks and Trails, the Bicycle Advisory Board and Residents and Friends of Mississippi River Boulevard as well as staff from the Neighborhood Energy Consortium and the city's Division of Parks and Recreation, Department of Public Works and Police Department.

Paul Haggerty, one of two task force members representing trail users, said the group needs to talk about eliminating the bike lane altogether. He contends the bike lane is a hazard because River Boulevard is not wide enough to accommodate the bike lane and two lanes of automobile traffic.

However, according to task force co-chairs Terry Huntrods and Liz Anderson, the task force does not have the authority to eliminate what the City Council has established.

Michael McDonough, who represents the Merriam Park Community Council on the task force, said he believes the bike lane serves its purpose. However, he said, the bike lane needs to be in place for an entire season before it can be fairly evaluated.

Mpls. committee weighs priorities for stabilizing riverside hiking trail

by Iric Nathanson

The Longfellow Community Council and Minneapolis Park Board are proceeding with plans to stabilize and rebuild the 83-year-old Winchell Trail that wends its way along the Mississippi River bluffs and sand flats in South Minneapolis. Efforts to protect the woodland hiking trail are the centerpiece of a 56-page plan for the 2-mile stretch of the Mississippi River gorge between 27th Street and Minnehaha Park.

The plan was commissioned by the Longfellow Community Council and the Park Board in response to concerns that the trail is threatened by erosion and incompatible uses. The plan notes that mountain bikers and hikers are eroding the bluffs, all-terrain vehicles are tearing up the river bottom paths, and graffiti is starting to appear on rocks, trees and signs along the trail.

"The gorge is at a critical point," the plan states. "Increasingly inappropriate human use has caused environmental damage. Although the community treasures the gorge as a natural preserve in the middle of the city, some view it as a wild and uncared for area."

The trail was developed by the Minneapolis Park Board in 1914 and dedicated the following year to honor Minnesota geologist Newton Horace Winchell, who studied geological rock formations along the Mississippi. According to Theodore Wirth's book on the Minneapolis park system, some sections of the trail were built over paths used by Minnesota Indians. The cement steps, stone bridges and chainlink fences along the trail

were constructed during the Great Depression by the Works Progress Administration. Wooden steps were added in the 1960s to provide access to other parts of the river.

The plan for the Winchell Trail, which was paid for by a \$30,000 grant from the Longfellow Neighborhood Revitalization Program, establishes guidelines for stabilizing the bluff, rebuilding the trail, improving handicapped accessibility and installing fences, stairways and trail markers. The LCC River Gorge Subcommittee will be seeking public comments in the next few months as it sets priorities for implementing the plan's recommendations.

"The plan's primary goals are protection and reforestation of the gorge, keeping it a largely undeveloped, semi-wild nature preserve," said subcommittee co-chair Kim Marshall. Additional goals are to provide better access to the trail, improve trail maintenance and safety, and strengthen interpretive resources to help people more fully appreciate the area.

The subcommittee is expected to focus most of the improvement efforts at 27th Street near the railroad overpass and at the 36th Street overlook. At 27th Street, new steps will connect River Parkway with the Winchell Trail. At 36th Street, work will be done to stabilize the bluff just below the overlook's parking lot.

The River Gorge Subcommittee meets at 7:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month at St. Peder's Church, 4600 E. 42nd St., Minneapolis. For more information, call the Longfellow Community Council office at 722-4529.



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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Papa John's Pizza opened on March 1 in the former Breadsmith location in Highland Crossing. The restaurant offers takeout and delivery only. The Highland Village location is the 29th to be opened in the past two years by Papa John's Minnesota, which now employs more than 600 people in the Twin Cities. According to marketing director Dave Plante, the Minnesota franchise is the fastest growing in the Papa John's system, which includes 1,549 restaurants nationwide. The Minnesota franchise is run by many of the same people who brought Blockbuster Video to the Twin Cities as Mid-America Entertainment. Plante said a grand opening of the Highland restaurant will be held in the spring.



Devika Persaud

ing Saturdays: mat cutting on March 14, paper making on March 28, calligraphy on April 4, and Bruynzell pastel pencils and pastelbord on April 25. For information, call 698-6431.

Terri Dooher Fleming of Highland Park has been promoted to vice president of commercial lending at St. Anthony Park Bank.

Devika Persaud of Highland Park, a nursing assistant with St. Mary's Home, has been named Minnesota Health

and Housing Alliance's "Caregiver of the Year" for District G, which includes the Twin Cities and surrounding area. The award honors individuals who go "above and beyond" the call of duty to enhance and enrich the quality of life for seniors.

Pearle Vision, 2034 Ford Pkwy., is offering free "Silver Screenings" for senior citizens now through April 4. The screenings include glaucoma and vision checks, eyeglass cleaning and adjustments.

Clarity, a new store offering holistic health and spiritual growth products and services, has opened at 1669 Grand Ave. The business is owned by father Lou and daughter Nikki Di Virgilio. Lou, a former athletic coach, is the author of *To Build a Bridge*, a book on spiritual growth. Nikki is a licensed massage therapist with training in Swedish massage and reflexology.

Wet Paint, 1684 Grand Ave., is offering the following free demonstrations from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on upcom-

Capitol Hill will run bakery on March 15

Capitol Hill Magnet School students and parents are hoping to raise some real dough when they take over operation of the Great Harvest Bread Company bakery at 1049 Grand Ave. from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sunday, March 15.

Capitol Hill won Great Harvest's "Bakers for a Day" contest by receiving the greatest number of votes from customers who visited the bakery between February 16 and 26. A total of 22 nonprofit groups competed in

the contest. It is the fourth year that owner Bonnie Johnson has turned over her bakery for a day to help a nonprofit organization raise funds for special projects.

Employees from Great Harvest have volunteered to help Capitol Hill bake bread, cinnamon rolls, cookies, muffins and other goods on March 15. All proceeds from sales that day will be donated to the school to be used to purchase books and other classroom materials.

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RELIGIOUS NOTES

Charles Rice, professor of law at the University of Notre Dame Law School, will speak at the 14th annual "Evening Affirming Human Life and the Family" on Saturday, March 21, at the Church of St. Helena, 3204 E. 43rd St., Minneapolis. The evening will include Mass at 4:00 p.m., a social hour at 5:00 p.m. and dinner at 6:00 p.m., following by Rice's address. Tickets are \$20 and must be purchased by March 18. For information, call 729-7321.

Jewish birth rituals will be explained from 10:00 a.m. to noon Sunday, March 22, at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. The session will be led by Barbie Levine, a certified childbirth educator and doula (labor

coach). Pregnancy rituals, naming ceremonies, circumcision and other rituals will be discussed. The cost is \$5.00 for members and \$7.00 for others. To register, call the JCC at 698-0751.

Prayer services will be held at 5:15 p.m. on Fridays during Lent at the Carondelet Center, 1890 Randolph Ave. Each service will feature a different speaker reflecting on a particular aspect of the Lenten story. For information, call Wisdom Ways at 690-8830.

A healing Mass will be said at 7:30 p.m. Monday, March 16, at St. Therese Church, 1928 Norfolk Ave. The Reverend Gerald Foley will preside.

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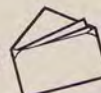


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Highland Area Community COUNCIL CAPSULE

BOARD MEETING NOTES

The Highland Area Community Council held a community meeting on March 5 to discuss plans to widen the I-35E Bridge over the Mississippi River. Representatives from the Minnesota Department of Transportation went over the various alternatives for the design of the new bridge, which will be built in 2002. At this point, there are six options that are being considered for the bridge design. Options that included a

bicycle-pedestrian lane were favored by a majority of those attending the meeting. MnDOT representatives said the bridge redesign does not include any plans to make changes to the I-35E Parkway.

SHEPARD-DAVERN 40-ACRE STUDY

In cooperation with the city of St. Paul, the Highland Area Community Council has formed a task force to study the development of a 40-acre area bounded by Shepard Road, West 7th Street, Edgcumbe Road, St. Paul Avenue and Homer Street. The next task force meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 17, at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. The major focus areas of the plan include the West 7th gateway to St. Paul, the industrially zoned area near Shepard-Davern and Shepard Road.

Individuals are being sought to participate in the study, which will guide public and private investment in the area for the next five to 10 years. Workshops on the planning process will be held from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Monday, March 23, and from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 24, at the Jewish Community Center. The Monday workshop will feature informal presentations on the work of the task force and key initiatives in the area, and will lay the groundwork for Tuesday's event, which will be spent in small groups exploring design, circulation and land use concepts. For information, call 266-6577 or 266-6559.

RECYCLED REMINDER

The next day for curbside recycling in Highland will be Monday, March 16. Items should be on the curb by 7:00 a.m.

Snelling-Hamline COUNCIL CAPSULE

COMMUNITY PLANNING PROCESS

The first of three gatherings was held on March 4 to begin creating a neighborhood plan that will be included in the city of St. Paul's comprehensive land use plan. Approximately 50 neighbors voiced their vision for the future of the Snelling-Hamline and Merriam Park neighborhoods on topics such as land use, transportation, public utilities, urban design and housing.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 6. The topic for discussion will be social development of the neighborhoods, including communication, health, education, social services, recreation and public safety. For information, call the Snelling-Hamline office at 644-1085.

MIDWAY HOME & GARDEN SHOW

The seventh annual Greater Midway Home & Garden Show will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturday, April 4, at Bandana Square. Last year's show featured more than 50 exhibitors and attracted more than 1,600 visitors.

The registration deadline is March 27 for organizations that want to reserve a booth at the show. For information, call Dick McGuire at 922-1510.

Volunteers are needed during the show to serve as greeters, help set up and tear down exhibit spaces, and assist workshop presenters. For details on volunteering, call Sherilyn Young at 644-1085.

TRANSIT PLANNING

A community meeting to discuss transit along University Avenue was held on February 19 at the Spruce Tree Center. A proposal to create larger sidewalks and better access for bus riders on parts of University Avenue received mixed response. Some of those who attended the meeting suggested incorpo-

rating light-rail transit or a dedicated bus lane instead.

Those who are interested in being involved in future discussions about transit in the neighborhood may call Mike Klassen of the St. Paul Public Works Department at 266-6209.

MIDWAY DEVELOPMENT COLLABORATIVE

Work is now being done by area neighborhoods to create development principles for University Avenue. Two city staff members are facilitating discussion on design ideas among community councils, the Midway Chamber of Commerce and University United.

The planning document will include development principles for the entire length of University Avenue as well as the Capitol approach area.

A community meeting to discuss the planning document will be held at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 14, at the Hubbs Center for Lifelong Learning, 1030 University Ave. To receive a copy of the principles that will be discussed, call city planner Larry Soderholm at 266-6575.



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The Dunquin trio, from left, includes Sherry Ladig on piano, Don Ladig on whistle and Judith Eisner on fiddle. Photo by Kristine Heykants.

Trio plucks inspiration for turning a tune from far reaches of Emerald Isle

by Sean Kelly

The St. Paul folk trio Dunquin didn't go to the ends of the earth to produce its new self-titled album, but that's where it got its name.

Dunquin is a village located at the rocky tip of the Dingle Peninsula, which juts out into the Atlantic Ocean on the westernmost point of Ireland in County Kerry. It's known as "the Last Parish to Boston," since many of its residents moved to Massachusetts when the nearby Blasket Islands were evacuated in the 1950s. Many Dunquinians immigrated to Boston. Others settled in Springfield.

The Dunquin trio is composed of Merriam Park residents Don and Sherry Ladig and Judith Eisner. Their first album, which was produced by Macalester-Groveland resident Russ Borud, has already gained international recognition. It is receiving airplay on BBC Scotland and was selected as the top Irish album in the December issue of *The Irish Gazette*. "Dunquin," the album, is now available from Irish on Grand, 1124 Grand Ave.

Nearly half of the 14 songs on the album were written by Sherry Ladig after she returned from Ireland in 1996. One selection, "The Feakle Set," was composed after she visited that East County Clare town during its August festival. A star of the festival was fiddler Martin Hayes, one of Ladig's favorite musicians, whose father was a mainstay of the Tulla Céilí Band. Hayes used to regularly play the Half Time Rec in St. Paul.

"The tunes were hanging on the trees to pluck," she said of the inspiration that produced the tune. "We got drunk on music."

"The Dog in the Pub," another song, was named after the mannerly canines that are wont to take in the music at Irish taverns. "They sit in the corner like little gentlemen," she said.

Another tune started rattling around in Ladig's head as she and her husband were going over the narrow Connor Pass near Dingle. "I was thinking I hope I remember the tune enough to write it down when we drove through the pass," she said. "We had to move to the edge of the road, where we struck a stone and got a flat. A whole line of cars was backed up behind us as Don took care of the tire. People had no choice but to get out and enjoy the view. It gave me time to write down the tune." The result is a slow jig, "The Connor Pass."

Also on the album are several Irish favorites, including "The Maid Behind the Bar" and "The Star of Munster," as well as "Captain O'Kane" by harpist Turlough O'Carolan.

A typical Irish trio would have a button accordion, flute and fiddle. Dunquin's instrumentation is a little unusual with Sherry Ladig on piano, Don Ladig on various whistles and Eisner on the fiddle and viola.

"There aren't too many piano-driven Irish bands," Sherry Ladig said.

However, the combination works and Eisner's occasional underlay of a viola track is a magical touch.

Eisner, a native of Springfield where many Dunquinians settled, is trained in classical music and had to make an adjustment from violin to fiddle. "I teach violin to adults at MacPhail and you can't just start people out with Chopin," she said. "Irish music is the core, the basis of folk music. They can learn a lot from those 16-bar tunes."

And you never run out of Celtic tunes. "There are billions" of them, Eisner added.

Don Ladig said part of his fascination with Irish music is the transition of tempo, a technique that's known as "turning the tune."

"When you turn the tune, it's an absolutely magic moment for me," he said. "It's like riding a train led by one locomotive, going into a tunnel and coming out the other end with a new locomotive."

Sherry Ladig said the interweaving of tunes is also central to Irish music. "If you have a three-tune set, there must be at least one star in there," she said. "You also need sociable tunes, not necessarily stars, but tunes that work well with the others."

The Dunquin trio, now 2 years old, will be going back to Ireland again this summer for more festivals and more performances. Locally, it tends to play coffee houses such as Black Bear Crossing on Como Avenue and the Prairie Star on University Avenue. Upcoming gigs include a St. Patrick's Day performance from 3:15 to 5:15 p.m. Tuesday, March 17, at the Dublin Walk at the Galleria in Edina and a concert from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Saturday, March 28, at the Prairie Star.

"Bars aren't our venues of choice because we don't sing and we don't smoke," Don Ladig said.

"A coffee house can be a colorful place with everyone doing their thing," Eisner added. "We find a receptive audience. It's symbiotic."



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Sure 'n' Irish eyes will have plenty to smile about during the next few weeks as folks hereabouts tip their hats to St. Patrick's Day. The following are just a few of the activities that have been scheduled:

The Worst Irish Tenor contest will begin at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 11, at Mancini's, 531 W. 7th St. Patrons are advised to bring their own earplugs. Admission is free. Call 224-7345.

Leahy, an Irish instrumental and step-dance ensemble, will present a benefit concert for Project Life at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 12, in the O'Shaughnessy at the College of St. Catherine. Tickets are priced from \$15 to \$100. Call 690-6700.

A **three-day St. Patrick's celebration** will be held on March 13, 14 and 17 under the big top in the parking lot of Gabe's by the Park, 991 N. Lexington Pkwy. Featured performing artists will be Bo Diddley on Friday, Tina and the B-Side Movement on Saturday and Mick Sterling on Tuesday. The music will begin at 7:00 p.m. on the weekend and at 4:00 p.m. on St. Patrick's Day. Tickets range in price from \$6.00 to \$10. Call 646-3066.

St. Mark's School, 1983 Dayton Ave., will hold an Irish dance from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. Friday, March 13, in the gym. The school also will be serving a traditional Irish dinner between 10:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 15. Running concurrently with the dinner will be the school's annual fun fair featuring bingo, silent auction, raffle, games and rides. Call 645-5717.

The Best Irish Tenor contest will begin at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, March 15, at the Dubliner Pub on University Avenue and Vandalia Street. A Waterford crystal piece will be awarded to the winner. Call 646-5551.

A **Mass** in memory of St. Patrick will be celebrated by Bishop John Kinney at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 17, at the Cathedral of St. Paul. A brunch will be served on the lower level of the Cathedral immediately afterward. The cost is \$9.00. Reservations are required by March 12. Call 690-3888.

Landmark Center will be festooned with shamrocks and shillelaghs for the 17th annual Irish Celebration from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 17. There will be Irish music, dancing, language workshops, films, speakers, crafts and food. Admission is \$3.00 for adults, \$1.00 for children. Call 292-3225.

The St. Patrick's Day Parade in St. Paul will step out at noon Tuesday, March 17, from the Union Depot at 4th and Sibley streets. The parade route will follow the green center stripe up 4th Street to Rice Park. The 32nd annual parade will be led by Miss Shamrock Siobhan Parnicky of Drogheda, Ireland; Mr.



Dale Connelly and Jim Ed Poole of Minnesota Public Radio's "Morning Show" will host a Celtic concert featuring Connie Dover at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, March 15, at the Fitzgerald Theater, 10 E. Exchange St. Tickets are \$15. Call 290-1221.

Pat Matt McDonough of Grand Spectacle; and Distinguished Irish Woman Maureen Casey of the St. Patrick's Association. Call 887-7052.

Minneapolis' St. Patrick's Day Parade will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 17, at 12th Street and Nicollet Avenue and make its way to 5th Street. Kieran Folliard, owner of Kieran's Irish Pub, will reign over the 29th annual parade as Irish ambassador. Call 788-1925.

The Center for Irish Studies will host an open house from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 17, in the Special Collections Reading Room of the O'Shaughnessy-Frey Library at the University of St. Thomas. Visitors will be able to examine rare Irish books in the library's Celtic Collection, including a recently acquired 1871 volume published in St. Paul, *The Irish Republic: A Historical Memoir on Ireland and Her Oppressors* by Patrick Cudmore. Call 962-5662.

Minnesotans for a United Ireland will play host to its 20th annual St. Patrick's Day ceili beginning at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 17, at the Latvian House, 2337 Central Ave. N.E., Minneapolis. Joe Dowling and friends will perform the music for Irish jigs, reels, hornpipes and waltzes. Dance instruction will be offered between 7:00 and 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$7.00, \$3.00 for seniors and children. A \$1.00 discount will be offered to those donating nonperishable food. Call 645-9506.

The St. Patrick's Day Human Race will be run on Sunday, March 22, beginning at Prior and Summit avenues. A 1K youth race begins at 11:15 a.m., followed by a 5K walk/run at 11:45 a.m. and an 8K run at 1:15 p.m. Call 228-1986.

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Sun-filled, white, clean Elle Decor. 4 BRs, 4 updated baths, gourmet kitchen. Feel of Upper Manhattan flat - beautifully executed. Appointments. 2020 Summit - a rare find.

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New listing - West St. Paul.

Smashing 3-BR, 3-bath, 2-story! New kitchen, custom oak cabinets, skylight, living room with fireplace, family room with fireplace. Great room sizes, 1-1/2 lots, plus rental next door that gets you \$625.00 monthly.

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Three new lists - West Side.

New construction, 3 BRs, 2 baths, natural woodwork, eat-in kitchen, 2-story, 2-car garage plus let St. Paul help you buy with \$40,000 subsidy. These homes priced in the 90's. Call me today!!

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Coming March 14th!

Updated Mac-Groveland. 3 BRs, one bath, formal dining room with built-in buffet, hardwood floors, newer eat-in kitchen with oak cabinets. Fenced yard. On bus line.

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Quiet street by the Falls.

Story and a half, 3 BRs, walk to Minnehaha Falls! Well-maintained. Newer mechanicals, updated kitchen, 2 baths. This is a very good home, so see it!

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Three blocks to the river! Charming with character. Updated kitchen, newer furnace and A.C. Hardwood floors, fireplace with oak bookcases. Gonzo curb appeal - private yard.

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Stucco 2-story.

Charming stucco and shakes 2-story, with cozy fireplace, oak buffet, and upgraded kitchen. Hardwood floors, of course, and a super large 2-car garage.

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Brick Tudor.

1645 Scheffer, 3 BRs, 2 baths, 2 fireplaces, wood floors, main floor family room, 2-car garage, well-maintained and ready for you.

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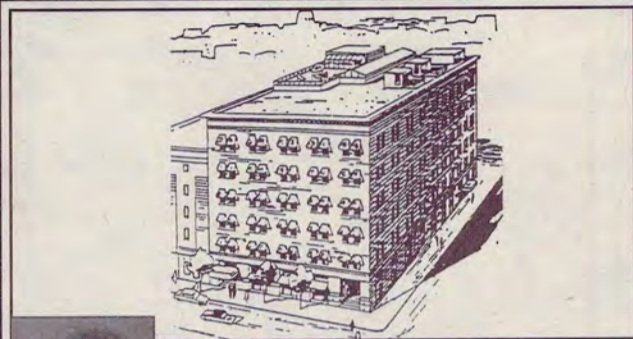
The Nettebergs 690-8546 \$84,000



A perfect setting.

Move to Dellwood, 1.9 acres, 4 BRs, 3 baths, 4-car garage, built in 1989. Hot tub. Home built by Bruce Bren. Open, airy spaces close to golf and tennis. Private vistas.

Carol Whitaker 690-8551



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Just listed!! Fabulous Market House condo. Rarely available, 6th floor - private roof-top deck, roof rights for future expansion. Downtown living - Farmer's Market, Ordway, Science Museum etc.

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Dick Distad 690-8516 \$319,900



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Lolly McNeely Salmen CRS Rosemary McNeely CRS 690-8541 \$199,900



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Cindy Shiely 282-9636 299K



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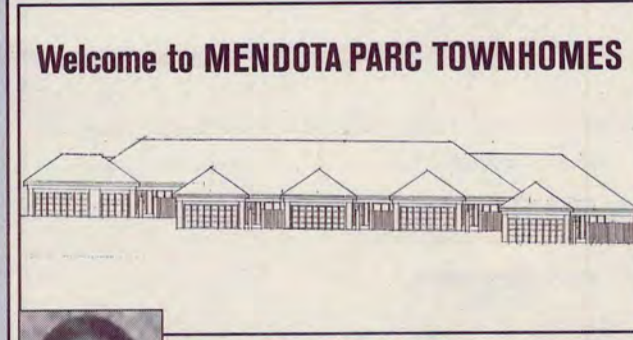
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Rosemary McNeely CRS Lolly McNeely Salmen CRS 690-8541

THE KIOSK

Wednesday/March 11

THE LONGFELLOW GARDEN CLUB will meet at 7:00 this evening at the Mother Earth Gardens garden center, 42nd Avenue and 38th Street, Minneapolis. The topic will be on grafting, hybridizing and crazy garden experiments.

Thursday/March 12

A PARENTS' DISCUSSION GROUP to explore the issues that 10- to 15-year-olds face will meet from 7:00 to 8:30 this evening and again on April 2, May 14, and June 11 at Minnehaha United Methodist Church, 3701 E. 50th St., Minneapolis. The cost is \$5.00 per session or \$15 for all four. To register, call 729-7397.

A WORLD WAR II ROUNDTABLE discussion will be held at 7:00 this evening at Historic Fort Snelling. Veterans of the Battle of Midway will talk about their experiences. Admission is free. For details, call 726-1171.

Saturday/March 14

A SHABBAT LUNCH AND LEARN Study Group will meet after services today at the Temple of Aaron Synagogue, 616 S. Mississippi River Blvd. The cost of lunch is \$5.00. For reservations, call 698-8874.

"A DAY OF JUSTICE" conference will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. today in Cochran Lounge at Macalester College. The keynote address will be given by U.S. Representative Bruce Vento and there will be three different panel discussions. A \$5.00 donation is requested. To register, call Michael at 627-4035.

THE HUMANE SOCIETY will hold its fifth annual "Black Tie & Tails" benefit auction at 5:00 this evening at the Town & Country Club, 300 N. Mississippi River Blvd. The cost is \$60.

Monday/March 16

A WORKSHOP on "Parenting a Child with ODD/ADD/ADHD" will be offered from 7:30 to 9:00 this evening at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. Dr.



A real nail-biter. Mary Jule Erickson and Gordon Glendenning put on their game faces while watching the Cretin-Derham Hall girls basketball team struggle to a come-from-behind victory in the Section 2AAAA final against Eagan last Friday. March Madness continues this week and next with the state girls and boys basketball tournaments. Photo by Brad Stauffer.

Fran Pasnecker will provide parents with intervention strategies to help make it through everyday activities with children afflicted with the disorders. Admission is free. To register, call 698-0751.

THE GARDEN CLUB of Ramsey County will meet at 7:15 this evening in the Theater Room at the Hillcrest Community Center, 1974 Ford Pkwy. Master gardener Erika Jensen will speak on organic vegetable gardening and community supported agriculture.

Tuesday/March 17

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 the March meeting is self-esteem. The cost is \$12 per person or \$18 per couple. To register, call 698-0751.

Wednesday/March 18

"IN IT TOGETHER," an information/support session for family and friends of people

with depressive disorders and other mental illnesses, will take place from 7:00 to 9:00 this evening at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. Admission is free. To register, call 698-0751.

ROGER GREENAN, a Huey gun ship pilot during the Vietnam War, will speak at 7:00 this evening at Historic Fort Snelling. A \$2.00 donation is requested at the door.

Thursday/March 19

LA LECHE LEAGUE (St. Paul Metro chapter) will meet at 7:00 this evening. The discussion will focus on advantages of breastfeeding to mother and baby. For meeting location information, call Deonne at 645-3083.

Saturday/March 21

A SPAGHETTI DINNER will be held from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. today at the Prince of Glory Lutheran Church, 4401 S. Minnehaha Ave., Minneapolis. The cost is \$5.00 for adults and \$2.50 for children 12 and under.

There also will be a bake sale and raffle.

A SALAD LUNCHEON will be offered at noon today at Faith Lutheran Church, 499 Charles Ave. Bernice Maas will be the speaker. The cost is \$5.00. For reservations, call Jerolyn at 488-5044.

A STAMP BOURSE will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. today at the Kelly Inn, I-94 and Marion St. Admission is free.

A GUIDED TOUR of the Capitol focusing on women's political accomplishments will be given from 1:30 to 3:00 this afternoon. The cost is \$4.00 for adults, \$3.00 for seniors and \$2.00 for children ages 6-15. For reservations, call 296-2881.

Sunday/March 22

A FREE LECTURE exploring the origins and evolution of the branch library system in Minneapolis and the recent rehabilitation of the Hosmer branch library will be given by Garneth Peterson and Jeffrey Scherer at 1:00 this afternoon at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. It will be repeated at noon on Monday, March 23. For information, call 296-6126.

Tuesday/March 24

THE ST. PAUL HIKING CLUB will meet at Newell Park on Pierce Butler Road and Fairview Avenue for a walk around the neighborhood at 7:30 this evening. Afterwards walkers can meet at Embers on Snelling near Larpentour. For information, call Hope at 487-0651.

A SILENT AUCTION/FUND-RAISER will be held by the Snelling-Selby Area Business Association from 5:30 to 7:00 this evening at O'Gara's, 164 N. Snelling Ave. Complimentary refreshments will be provided by O'Gara's and Liberty State Bank.

Wednesday/March 25

A LUNCHEON for Brother De Paul's Mission of Mercy in Haiti will be held at noon today in Rowan Hall at St. Helena Catholic Church, 32nd Ave. S. and 43rd St. E., Minneapolis. The cost is \$5.00.

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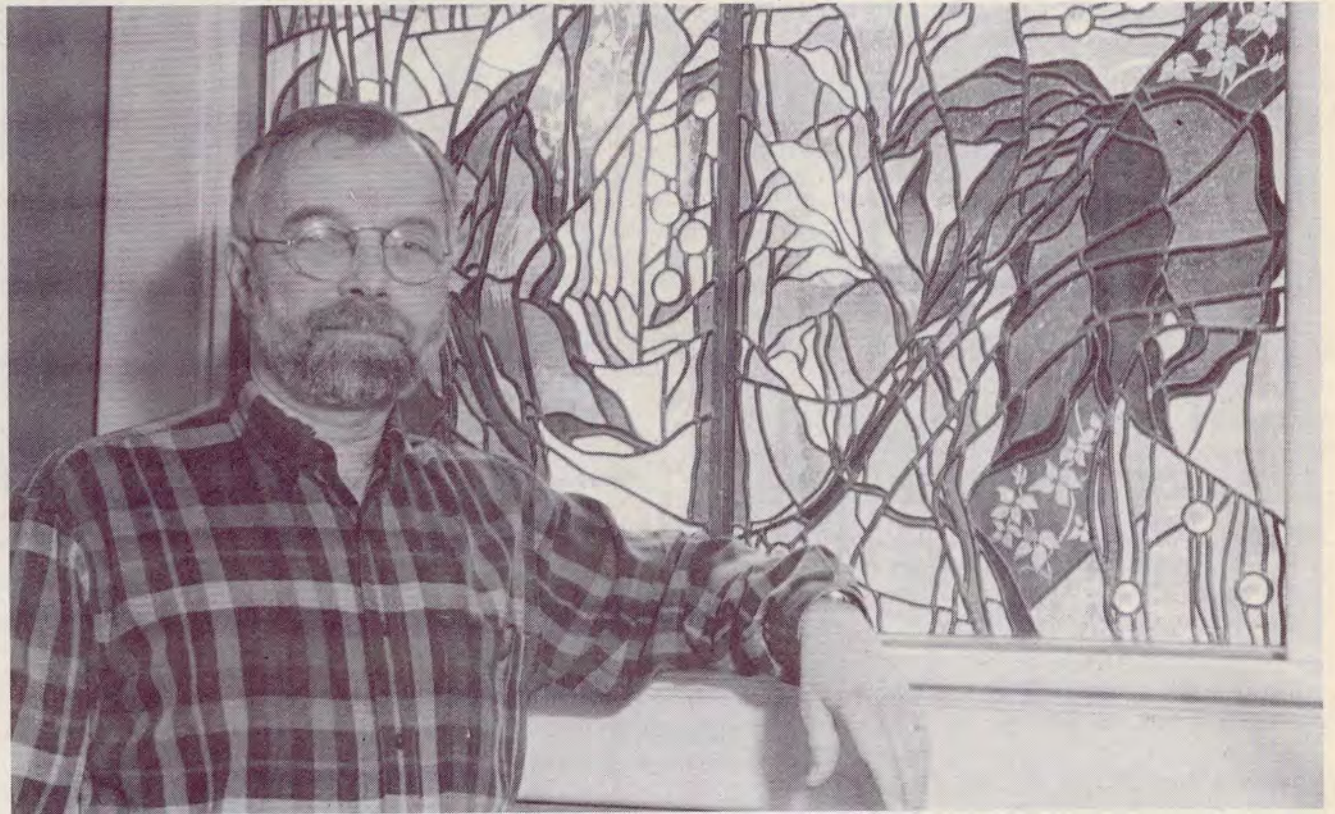
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Let there be light

Whether stained, etched or skied, nothing brightens up a home's decor or a homeowner's outlook better than windows



Gregg DeShon shows off a stained-glass window he designed for his Ashland Avenue home. Photo by Kristine Heykants.

by Janet Lunder Hanafin

One of the keys to mental well-being is daylight, according to health professionals. Indeed, after the particularly gloomy winter of 1997-98, a new window to brighten up an interior hallway, a north-facing dining room or an attic bedroom may be just what the doctor ordered.

Skylights, roof windows and stained- and etched-glass windows are among the ideas gaining favor with homeowners who are remodeling bungalows, Victorians and even postwar ramblers in the Villager area.

Stained-glass panels on either side of a front door can fill an entryway with a rainbow of dancing light. A colored-glass or etched-glass window can let in light but still afford privacy. Custom-made leaded or stained glass also can be used to dress up a

transom or piano window in keeping with the design of an older home.

Gregg DeShon has designed stained- and etched-glass windows for his Ashland Avenue home and for others. "It's a way of hanging artwork where you don't have the wall space," he said.

Because stained-glass panels should not be exposed to weather, DeShon usually fits them with a separate exterior pane. Pop-in screens are also available for ventilation.

Antique and architectural salvage stores are another source of stained-glass windows, according to Tom Henley of TC Woodworks. Henley is frequently asked to reframe the rediscovered treasures to fit new spaces. His specialty is building new storm windows and screens for antique glass panels.

"A lot of the old panels were probably assembled 70 or so years ago and they are very

susceptible to damage," said John Relf of Scherer Brothers Lumber Company. He cautions remodelers to treat old glass very carefully.

"The coming (the metal that holds pieces of glass together) is usually lead or an alloy and it is very soft, so panels may have developed a wave and not be flat," Relf said. "What I tell my contractors is to get careful dimensions and make a new unit into which the old glass will fit. That way you have a new, tight window without warping and old cruddy paint."

At least one major window manufacturer produces ready-made stained-glass window panels with insulated exterior glass, although they are quite expensive, according to John Sylvestre of Sylvestre Construction.

Glass does not have to be colored to be interesting, Sylvestre said. Frosted glass, bubble

glass, and textured or beveled panes are decorative variations that let in a lot of light. Etched-glass panels in interior doors can light up adjacent rooms and are frequently found in older homes. Patterned or colored glass is increasingly used in cabinet and buffet doors to scatter and accent available light.

If a homeowner does not want to go to the expense of reinstalling stained-glass windows, Bern Witte of Custom Home Restoration suggests reframing heirloom windows and hanging them in front of existing windows.

While the terms roof window and skylight are almost synonymous, roof windows open into a room while skylights are generally mounted atop a shaft that leads from the roof to the room below.

Windows/see page 25

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It's a beautiful day for their neighborhoods

Snelling-Hamline, Merriam Park hope to build pride in their communities by launching a program designed to make their housing look good

by Leslie Walters

A major face lift is in the offing for the Merriam Park and Snelling-Hamline neighborhoods thanks to a fledgling housing rehabilitation program.

Called Pride in Neighborhood Housing, the program is now offering grants and loans to neighborhood residents who want to undertake exterior fix-up projects such as chimneys, roofs, retaining walls, painting, siding, foundation work and more. The program is a cooperative effort of the Merriam Park and Snelling-Hamline community councils, the city of St. Paul, the University of St. Thomas, Macalester College and Liberty State Bank.

The response to Pride in Neighborhood Housing, which was officially launched in mid-February, has been overwhelming, according to program coordinator Sherilyn Young. Nearly 80 homeowners have already applied for a portion of the \$60,000 in grant money that is available this year.

"The residents here are very interested in building pride in the neighborhood by making their homes look good," Young said.

The application process is open to all homeowners in the Merriam Park and Snelling-Hamline neighborhoods. There are no income restrictions and the money will be awarded based on need.

Pride in Neighborhood Housing is funded in part by proceeds from the city of St. Paul's half-percent sales tax. Grants of up to \$1,500 are available. A community group composed of representatives from both councils and Liberty Bank will review the grant applications. For larger projects, property owners are being referred to Liberty State Bank for low-interest loans that are also being made available through the program.

"We think it's important to keep up housing stock in the community," said James Affolter, senior vice president for Liberty State Bank. "We'll do whatever we can to make this thing work."

"One of the keys to the program is flexibility," said Jim Bergstrom, project housing inspector for Liberty. "We don't have any hard and fast rules. We'll treat each application individually."

A total of \$400,000 in sales tax proceeds

has been set aside to guarantee the loans as needed. The loans are available for a combination of interior and exterior work.

The joint proposal by Merriam Park and Snelling-Hamline for Neighborhood Sales Tax Revitalization (STAR) funds was among the most impressive submitted last year, according to Kurt Miller, project coordinator for the St. Paul Department of Planning and Economic Development. According to him, St. Thomas and Macalester have each committed \$20,000 toward the program. "The neighborhood groups, colleges and bank are to be commended," Miller said.

Ed Bauer, former executive organizer of the Merriam Park and Snelling-Hamline councils, said neighborhood residents and their funding partners worked long and hard on developing Pride in Neighborhood Housing. "We did our homework," he said.

The council conducted surveys last year to determine what was needed most in the two neighborhoods, Bauer said. Residents responded that they wanted a program that would help upgrade the area's housing.

The group's proposal fit the STAR board's

emphasis on housing as well as the city's concept of how funds should be disbursed, said Roger Meyer, vice chair of the Merriam Park Community Council board. "We made it simple—no income guidelines," he said. "Hopefully, we'll have the ability to put the \$60,000 in grant money into immediate action. The average grant size will be \$1,000. Just look for all the (construction) signs in the front yards in the next few months."

The two community councils will continue to accept applications for grants until all the funds are gone. Since the response to the program has been so great, Young said it will take longer than anticipated to process all the applications. Once the grant money is depleted, she said, more fund-raising efforts will be undertaken to keep Pride in Neighborhood Housing alive.

"We've got a real salable program," Meyer said. With administrative costs being kept at a minimum, he said area foundations and other granting institutions should find the program provides a lot of "bang for the buck."

For information about Pride in Neighborhood Housing, call Young at 645-6887.



Sherilyn Young, coordinator of the Pride in Neighborhood Housing program for the Merriam Park and Snelling-Hamline community councils, stands in the 1800 block of Ashland Avenue, an area where at least five homeowners are hoping to take advantage of grants and loans in order to make improvements to their properties. Photo by Kristine Heykants.

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Spring nears and a person's fancy turns to the Home and Patio Show

Signs of spring will be popping out everywhere during the 1998 Minnesota Home and Patio Show, which will run from Thursday through Sunday, March 12-15, at River-Centre.

Those who attend the 19th annual show will be able to stroll through gardens created by area landscapers; take in daily seminars by such gardening pros as landscape designer Bettie Seitzer, Kurt Schrader of Linder's Garden Center and Bobby Jensen from KARE-11; and receive information on new garden gizmos, shrub roses, perennials, blooming shrubs, water gardens, and lawn and tree care.

The Home and Patio Show will feature more than 500 exhibitors offering products and services for home improvement, energy conservation, home automation, gardening, landscaping and lawn care. There will be daily appearances by Dean Johnson and Robin Hartl, hosts of public television's "Hometime" series. There also will be continuous seminars for do-it-yourselfers interested in reorganizing cluttered closets, installing kitchen cabinets, upgrading bathroom plumbing and laying laminate flooring.

Show hours are noon to 10:00 p.m. Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Saturday and 10:00



Robin Hartl and Dean Johnson, hosts of the home improvement series "Hometime" will make daily appearances at the 1998 Minnesota Home and Patio Show.

a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$6.50 for adults, \$2.00 for children and free for preschoolers. For information, call 755-8111.

Windows /from page 23

Though leaking is seldom a problem anymore with either rooftop option, Witte advises homeowners to "go for quality and proper installation and look for a patented flashing system."

Condensation is bound to occur, especially in a climate like Minnesota's, Relf said. Kitchens and bathrooms, where homeowners typically want lots of light, may not be the best areas for skylights because of the humidity. An exhaust fan may help to keep condensation at a minimum.

Homeowners who are planning to install a roof window also need to consider the appearance from the street. "A skylight installed on the front of a house will not enhance the exterior," said David Goehring of David Goehring Architects of Merriam Park. "It's better to install them on the back or sides of the house."

Most skylights, particularly those that are mounted on the south side of a home, need to include blinds or shades to insulate them against heat in the summer. Some come with

built-in mini-blinds. Others have a low-e coating or insulated glass to minimize winter heat loss.

"Skylight tubes are the hottest new gadget," said Goehring. The flexible shaft coated with reflective material works like a periscope to direct light from the sky to an interior part of the house. "You don't look up and see blue sky," he said, "but you get great daylight in deep spaces."

Technology has also solved the problem with big bathroom windows directly over the tub. One manufacturer makes an electrically charged liquid crystal window that acts like a regular window but becomes translucent at the flip of a switch.

And for those who just cannot get enough light indoors, there's the Cabrio window. Mounted on a steeply pitched roof, the two-piece window can be separated at the middle to create an open-air balcony complete with pop-out railings.

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Association urges families to take simple radon test

The American Lung Association encourages families to reduce their chance from exposure to radon by conducting a simple, inexpensive test and making home repairs if needed.

Radon test kits are available for \$10 to \$25 from most hardware stores. Make sure to look for the words "Meets EPA Requirements" or "EPA Listed" on the package.

Testing can take anywhere from a few days to a year. The longer the test, the more accurate the results in predicting year-round radon levels in a home.

If a short-term test indicates an elevated radon level, confirm the findings with a second test before taking action. A short-term radon test kit is available for \$7.00 from

the Minnesota Public Interest Research Group. For information, call 627-6812.

If high levels of radon are confirmed, do not panic. Repairs cost no more than many other common home improvements and will not change the appearance of the home. A variety of methods can be used, from sealing cracks in floors and walls to changing the flow of air into the home.

Always consult an EPA-qualified or state-certified radon contractor. They can evaluate the problem and help select the right solution.

For more information about radon, including the names of qualified contractors and testing firms, call the American Lung Association at 227-8014.

Spring into home improvements

It's hard to think of sealing gaps and making energy-efficient home improvements when spring winds are blowing and most people are dreaming of letting the warm breezes indoors. But there are steps you can take now that will make your home more pleasant to live in this summer:

- Shade windows from direct sun with awnings and trees.
- Apply tinted plastic film to windows. It reduces solar heat and makes lighter work for the air conditioner.
- Keep the cooling system clean, including the filters, fans, ducts, vents and thermostats. Clean or change the furnace filter monthly during the heating and cooling seasons. Keep the condensation drain open.
- Adjust registers to promote upward air flow.
- Keep the outdoor cooling unit clean. Remove leaves and debris and clean exposed coils with a garden hose.
- Do not block the circulation of air from vents or cold-air returns with furniture or drapes.

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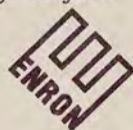
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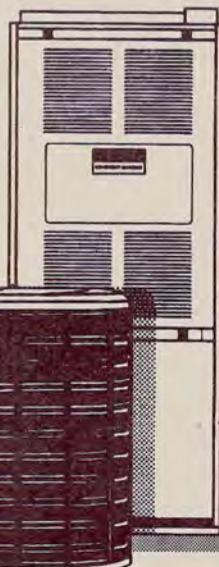
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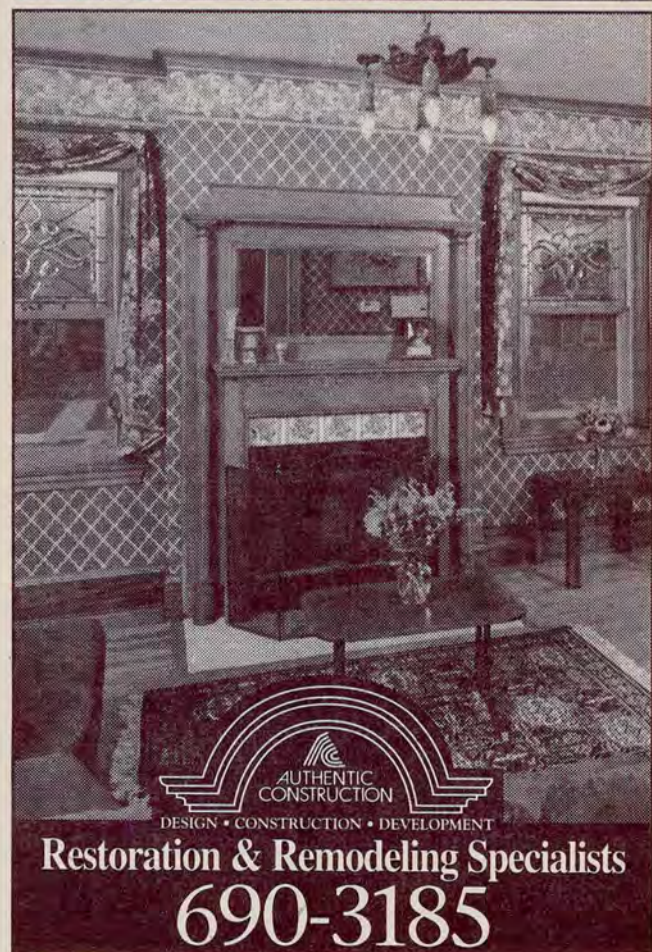
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Diana Cohen, contract coordinator for the St. Paul Neighborhood Energy Consortium, uses an infrared scanner to check the insulation in the wall of a Macalester-Groveland home. Photo by Kristine Heykants.

Consortium gets funding reprieve, continues home insulation crusade

by Catherine Condon

Three winters of chilly rooms and high energy bills sold Julia Hutchcroft on insulating her 84-year-old home last fall. Gaps between the walls and attic bypasses in her two-story Macalester-Groveland residence were filled, and today Hutchcroft and her family enjoy significantly lower gas bills. "And just as important, the comfort level in the house is so much better," Hutchcroft said. "The rooms that were drafty before are no longer."

Hutchcroft also had weather-stripping and a new furnace installed to help reduce energy costs. The strategies were recommended by the St. Paul Neighborhood Energy Consortium (NEC), a non-profit coalition of 21 organizations that have been helping St. Paul area residents with energy conservation, waste reduction, recycling and other environment- and conservation-related issues since 1985.

The NEC, which receives funding from Northern States Power Co., has completed more than 22,500 energy audits and has helped insulate more than 3,500 homes to date, according to executive director Anne Hunt. It maintains a staff of 30, including three full-time employees whose main job is to answer phones. Last year, the NEC handled 40,000 calls.

"This winter and last, we got a lot of questions about ice dams," Hunt said. "Last winter it was because we had so darn much snow. This winter it was because we had freeze-and-thaws all winter long."

One of the more frequent requests from homeowners is for an energy audit, a two-hour home inspection that is offered by the NEC for \$25. "We go over people's (energy) bills with them," Hunt said. "We examine their insulation, we talk about their lifestyle and we make suggestions about things that they could do, like caulking and weather-stripping."

If improvements are needed, the NEC will connect homeowners with recommended

contractors. "They simplify things by saying, 'This is who will be contacting you to schedule the work,'" Hutchcroft said. "It was such a load off our minds not to have to interview contractors. It's very time-consuming."

Through the NEC's Insulation Rebate Program, homeowners who have insulation added to walls or attics are eligible to receive 15 percent rebates from NSP up to \$150. In 1997, the program awarded a total of \$50,000 in rebates to 365 homeowners. There are no income eligibility guidelines.

The home insulation program, which has been provided in various forms over the past decade, came under fire last December when the Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS) declared it was not cost-effective. The decision meant that NSP would not be required to continue financing the program as part of its state-mandated energy conservation commitments for 1998.

In late January, NEC appealed the decision to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, which granted a reprieve that allowed the program to operate at least until April 1. A final hearing is scheduled

for March 20.

Hunt said the program has proven to save money. "We passed 23 out of 24 cost-effectiveness tests that they (the DPS) offered," she said. "We find that people have a lot of barriers to getting insulation work done. They don't know what contractor to select or if the contractor is telling them the things that are most cost-effective. Are they getting their money's worth? Is it going to be safe? For us, what's ideal is that we're unbiased. We're not representing any company. We're not the utility."

"Maintaining the quality of the housing stock is of concern to a lot of people in St. Paul's older neighborhoods," Hutchcroft said. "The NEC goes such a long way toward achieving that goal. We have fabulous city neighborhoods with so many wonderful amenities. It's a crying shame to not maintain them when it's possible to do it."

"Maintaining the quality of the housing stock is of concern to a lot of people in St. Paul's older neighborhoods," Hutchcroft said.

"It's a crying shame to not maintain them when it's possible to do it."

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Parade of Homes marks 50th year

The Builders Association of the Twin Cities is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its popular Parade of Homes this year. As part of its spring preview, 756 new model homes are open for public inspection from noon to 7:00 p.m. Thursdays through Sundays until March 22.

Homes on the tour, which is the largest of its kind in the nation, range from one priced at \$82,900 in Monticello to one valued at \$1.1 million in Orono. The tour includes a \$398,000 four-bedroom, two-bath home at 1420 Knollwood Lane in Mendota Heights.

Guides to all the homes on the spring preview are now available at SuperAmerica stores. The homes also may be viewed on the Internet at www.paradeofhomes.org.

The spring preview features four homes that showcase bathroom innovations ranging from heated tiled flooring to fireplaces. They are located in Eagan, Inver Grove Heights, Rogers and Victoria.

The Builders Association is also sponsoring free homebuyers' seminars during the spring preview. The seminars include "Choosing the Right Builder for You" and "Building a Category One Home" on Saturday, March 14; and "Understanding Allowances and Selection Process" and "Warranty and Service After Closing" on Saturday, March 21. All seminars will be conducted in the association's offices at 2960 Centre Pointe Drive, Roseville.

For information, call 697-1954.

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Turn attention inside to prevent ice dams

Though snowfalls and warm temperatures are the biggest factor in the buildup of ice along roof eaves, according to the Minnesota Department of Public Service (DPS), the principal source of ice dams—and the solution to them—is found inside the home.

Ice dams start when warm indoor air leaks up into the unheated attic, creating warm spots on the roof and melting the snow. The melted snow moves down the roof slopes until it reaches the cold eaves, where it freezes. As snow melt continues, the shelf of ice becomes thicker, eventually forcing water back up under roof shingles and into houses.

"Ice dams can be very costly for consumers," said DPS commissioner Kris Sanda. "Water damage to insulation reduces its effectiveness and makes the home much less energy-efficient. In addition, ice dams can dislodge shingles, wreck gutters and cause water damage on ceilings, walls and interior

furnishings."

The solution to the problem is a two-step process. First, find and seal the hidden indoor air leaks called attic bypasses. These leaks are commonly found around lighting fixtures, plumbing and heating penetrations, dropped ceilings over closets or cabinets and other areas where walls are not completely sealed at the attic, such as stairway walls and interior partition walls. Second, insure that there is adequate insulation. The DPS recommends a minimum level of R-44 for attics in Minnesota.

The DPS Energy Information Center offers a guide on how to locate and seal attic bypasses. It also has prepared a fact sheet on ice dams that describes steps that builders, remodelers and homeowners can take to seal indoor air leaks. Free copies of both the guide and fact sheet are available by calling the DPS energy information center at 296-5175.

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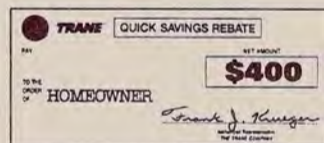
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ON THE TOWN

Transatlantic crossings

Titanic Players' Patrick O'Donnell has helped create a wave of interest in Irish theater in the Twin Cities

by E.C. Hartley

Patrick O'Donnell brought more of his native land than could be packed in a suitcase when he crossed the Atlantic from Ireland to Minnesota five years ago.

As artistic director of the Titanic Players, a theater troupe that performs at Kieran's Irish Pub in Minneapolis, the 30-year-old Highland resident has been instrumental in the resurgence of traditional Irish drama in the Twin Cities as well as a greater awareness of the Emerald Isle's contemporary theater.

The troupe has been performing at Kieran's since the summer of 1994 when it went under the name of the Cracked Lookingglass Theater. After reorganizing in 1996, it was rechristened the Titanic Players in memory of the fated ship that was built in Ireland in 1912. With the enthusiastic support of owner Kieran Folliard, the players perform in the 70-seat back room of the pub on Saturday evenings and many Sunday afternoons.

The Titanic Players' productions are, for the most part, the works of Irish writers such as Samuel Beckett, Brendan Behan, G.B. Shaw and James Joyce. However, the works of local playwrights also are

produced, primarily those written by O'Donnell.

Among the plays O'Donnell has written and produced for the Titanic Players are *Moonshine Wars*, a comedy about St. Patrick's coming to Ireland to convert the pagan Irish to Christianity; *I'm Switzerland*, the recounting of a 1927 visit by Samuel Beckett to James Joyce and his daughter in Paris; and *Dickens in Dublin*, a recollection of the great writers' touring performance in 1867 when Irish nationalists were revolting against the British.

Other local writers for the Titanic Players last season were Lisa McMahon, Gerry Brennan, Diego Vasquez, Raymond Bonnabeau Jr. and Bill Watkins.

Beckett's *Waiting for Godot* played at Kieran's the first two months of this year. *Conversations On A Homecoming* by Tom Murphy will open on March 21, the first of six Saturday night performances.

"I'm especially pleased we'll be doing *Conversations*," O'Donnell said. "It's a play full of tension, illusions and the ambivalence of the Irish toward America. Murphy is a huge contemporary talent, Ireland's counterpart to Arthur Miller. He's probably the greatest living Irish playwright, but he's still relatively unknown in America."

O'Donnell grew up in the rugged lands and salted winds of Galway.



Patrick O'Donnell stands amid ship in the Titanic Lounge at Kieran's Irish Pub. Photo by Brad Stauffer.

He said he was 10 when he first thought of becoming a writer and was writing poems and short stories by the time he was 18. He studied drama and earned a master's degree in Anglo-Irish literature at University College Dublin.

"UCD was an electrifying experience for me," O'Donnell said. "I became immersed in the marvelous poetic language, creativity and humor of Irish literature. Young adults in Ireland are well educated and in cities such as Dublin there's enormous interest in Yeats, Joyce and others. With the discord in the north and the changes affecting the economy and social structure of the country, it's as though the current generation is asking, 'Who are we?' They're looking for some of the answers in

their country's literature."

While at college, O'Donnell met fellow student Ann Treacy of St. Paul. They were married in the chapel at the College of St. Catherine in 1993 and have lived in Highland ever since.

"I like St. Paul very much," O'Donnell said. "I think of it as a city of odd houses. It's the only city I know where you can drive down a street and all the houses are different, and go on to the next block and find the houses there are entirely different from those on the previous block. I get the feeling that St. Paul is a 19th-century powder keg waiting to explode into the 21st century."

"Stepping off the plane when I came here to marry Ann," O'Donnell said, "she informed me I had a job as an actor waiting. It was

the role of a young priest in a play called *The Midnight Court*, produced by Na Fianna Irish Theater. It was my first professional acting experience. You might say I had a quick baptism of fire in the USA."

Ray Bonnabeau, an accomplished actor in his own right, heads the Titanic's board of directors. "This is an important season for us; second seasons always seem to be for theatrical companies," Bonnabeau said. "But we're operating in the black now and I expect that will continue."

"We're fortunate to have Patrick as our artistic director," he said. "You rarely get to work with someone with both a strong theatrical and strong literary background such as his. He has a lot of theatrical savvy."

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Theater



The Minnesota Opera will perform Gioachino Rossini's *Cinderella* at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 12, at 8:00 p.m. Saturday, March 14, and at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, March 15, at the Ordway Music Theatre. For tickets, priced from \$19 to \$68, call 224-4222.

The joint theater department of the University of St. Thomas and the College of St. Catherine will present Shakespeare's *Hamlet* at 7:00 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, March 12-14, in Foley Theater at St. Thomas. For tickets, priced at \$5.00, call 690-6700.

The Fully Reciprocal Theatre Company will perform Eugene Ionesco's tragicomedy *Exit the King* at 8:00 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays beginning March 13 and continuing through April 4 at the Minneapolis Theatre Garage, 711 W. Franklin Ave., Minneapolis. For tickets, priced from \$8.00 to \$12, call 257-7265.

The Great American History Theatre, 30 E. 10th St., will open Ann Schulman's *Conversations About Hannah* on Saturday, March 14. The play, set in a Jewish home on St. Paul's West Side, chronicles a young woman's journey back in time to uncover the untalked about truths of her family's past. Performances will continue through April 5. For tickets, call 292-4323.

Theatre in the Round Players will open Shakespeare's comedy *The Merry Wives of Windsor* at 8:00 p.m. Friday, March 20, at Theatre in the Round, 245 Cedar Ave., Minneapolis. Performances will be given at 8:00 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and at 7:00 p.m. Sundays (the last performance will be at 2:00 p.m.) through April 12. For tickets, priced at \$14, call 333-3010.

North Star Opera will perform Franz Lehár's romantic operetta *The Land of Smiles* at 8:00 p.m.

ON THE TOWN *briefly*



Craig Johnson plays Alceste and Lisa Westmoreland is Celimene in the Upstart Theatre production of Moliere's comedy *The Misanthrope*, opening at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 11, at the Loring Playhouse, 1633 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis. Performances will continue through March 25. For tickets, priced at \$10, call 827-3385.

Saturday, March 21, and Tuesday, March 24, and at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, March 22, in the E.M. Pearson Theatre at Concordia College. For tickets, priced from \$12.50 to \$30.00, call 870-1099.

Music



"Evenings Under Glass," a series of jazz concerts from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Thursdays in the Como Park Conservatory, will kick off with Gwen Matthews on March 12 and Arne Fogel and the classic jazz pop sounds of great American songwriters on March 19. Admission is \$5.00. For information, call 487-8200.

The University of St. Thomas Bands, before embarking on their May tour of Australia, will perform a free concert at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, March 13, in the O'Shaughnessy at the College of St. Catherine.

Harmonia Mundi will perform "Women of Winds" at 8:00 p.m. Saturday, March 14, in the Janet Wallace Concert Hall at Macalester College. Admission is \$5.00, or \$4.00 for seniors and students.

The Chamber Music Society of Minnesota, with guest artist Timothy Eddy, will perform at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, March 15, at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. They will perform pieces from Heitor Villa-Lobos, Mendelssohn, Bach and Anton Webern. For tickets, priced at \$10-\$15, call 339-2264.

KC Gospel Orchestra will perform at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, March 15, in the Buetow Music Center Auditorium at Concordia College. Admission is free. For information, call 641-8248.

The Singer's Voice, an autobiographical music series hosted by Dan Chouinard, will continue at the Dakota Bar & Grill

in Bandana Square with the following programs at 8:00 p.m. on Sundays: Ginger Commodore's birthday and the Singer's Voice 4th anniversary celebration on March 15; and Dianne Jarvi on March 22. For information, call 642-1442.

Northern Gael, under the leadership of harpist Sunita Stanslow and multi-instrumentalist Laura MacKenzie, will perform at 7:30 and 9:00 p.m. Monday, March 16, at Dakota Bar & Grill in Bandana Square. Admission is \$5.00. For reserved seating (\$15), call 227-6041.

"Classical Timpani" will be performed by the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra at 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 18, in the Ted Mann Concert Hall on the West Bank of the University of Minnesota, at 8:00 p.m. Thursday, March 19, and at 10:30 a.m. Friday, March 20, at the Ordway Music Theatre and at 8:00 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at St. Paul's United Church of Christ, 900

Summit Ave. They will perform the music of Bach, Haydn and Fischer. For tickets, priced from \$13.50 to \$37.00, call 291-1144.

"Tears of the Soul," a program of the music and writings of medieval women, will be performed by the Rose Ensemble for Early Music with special guest Maria Jette at 8:00 p.m. Friday, March 20, at St. Luke's Catholic Church, 1079 Summit Ave. Admission is \$15. For information, call 647-4903.

Hilary Hahn, 17-year-old violinist who made her Carnegie Hall debut last season, will perform with the Minnesota Orchestra at 8:00 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at the Ordway Music Theatre. For tickets, priced from \$16.75 to \$58.50, call 371-5656.

Phillip Rukavina will perform a recital at 8:00 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at the Edgcombe Presbyterian Church, 2149 Edgcombe Road. For tickets, priced at \$10 for adults and \$8.00 for students and seniors, call 699-1808.

A Chamber Music Concert will be performed by the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, March 22, at the O'Shaughnessy at the College of St. Catherine. For tickets, priced from \$20 to \$25, call 291-1144.

Exhibits



"Half Past Autumn: The Art of Gordon Parks," an exhibit of over 200 major photographs from 1940 through 1997, combined with his books, music, paintings, poems and films, has opened at the Minnesota Museum of American Art in Landmark Center. The exhibit will remain on view until May 17. There also will be lectures on Park's films at 7:00 p.m. Wednesdays, March 11 and 18, at the Lexington Library, 1080 University Ave.

An exhibit of new works by five Minnesota artists awarded the 1997-98 MCAD/McKnight

Foundation Fellowships will open with a reception from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. Friday, March 13, at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, 2501 S. Stevens Ave., Minneapolis. Exhibitors include Dan Bruggeman, Shana Kaplow, Jeff Loehlein, Rod Massey and Jim Ockuly. The exhibit will remain on view until April 12. Admission is free. For information, call 874-3785.

The Bell Museum of Natural History, 10 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis, invites the public to celebrate the completion of a \$200,000 renovation of the 125-year-old building on Sunday, March 15. The 1:00 p.m. party also marks the opening of two new shows—"Skulls," an interactive exhibit that combines artwork with animal skeletons, and "Jason IX," a student exhibit exploring the undersea world. For information, call 624-7083.

An exhibit of colored prints from paintings and sketches by Lucy Rose Fischer revealing the tropical color and spirit of the island state of Bali will open on Sunday, March 15, at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. An opening reception will take place from 1:30 to 5:00 p.m. Sunday, March 22, and will include a talk by the artist at 3:00 p.m. The exhibit will remain on display until April 16. For information, call 698-0751.

An exhibit of paintings by Derrick Buisch will open with a reception from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. on Friday, March 20, at the College of Visual Arts Gallery, 173 Western Ave. The exhibit will remain on view until April 24. For information, call 224-3416.

Books



The Hungry Mind Bookstore, 1648 Grand Ave., will host the following free readings at 8:00 p.m. (unless otherwise noted): Hugh Gallagher, author of *Teeth*, on Wednesday, March 11; Carol Lee Flinders, author of *At the Root of This Longing: Recon-*

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Ostman gives readers food for thought

Mix equal parts Erma Bombeck and *Reader's Digest*, stir in a hint of Heloise and you have a taste for *Always on Sunday*, a new book of recipes, stories, tips and trivia by Summit Hill resident Eleanor Ostman.

"During the 30 years I wrote the 'Tested Recipes' column in the Sunday *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, I must have tested and tasted nearly 4,000 recipes," Ostman said. "My very favorites are included in the book—almost 300 of them."

Like her column, Ostman's book goes beyond recipes. Included are stories about crashing a banquet in Beijing for former Vice President Walter Mondale, sipping tea at the White House with First Lady Rosalynn Carter and lunching with actor Paul Newman after winning his recipe contest.

Ostman's column was the longest running food column in the country before its final installment in September 1997. As a food writer, cooking judge and cooking contestant, the Iron Range native has rubbed elbows with numerous culinary notables. Julia Child once asked Ostman for her wild rice recipes. James Beard gathered musings for her. Chef, author and TV personality Jacques Pepin once cooked in her kitchen.

A 1962 graduate of Macalester College, Ostman continues to work as a feature



Eleanor Ostman

writer for the *Pioneer Press*. "This book is the culmination of both my life in food and the food in my life," she said. "I can't wait to share it with my friends and readers."

Ostman is scheduled to appear on KTCA-TV's "Almanac" at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, March 20, and will be signing copies of *Always on Sunday* at the Barnes & Noble store in Highland Village at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 21.

ciling a Spiritual Hunger and a Feminist Thirst, on Thursday, March 12; Bart Schneider, author of *Blue Bossa*, on Friday, March 13; Elizabeth Searle, author of *A Four-Sided Bed*, at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, March 14; Iconoculture—Vickie Abrahamson, Mary Meehan and Larry Samuel, authors of *The Future Ain't What It Used to Be*—at 7:00 p.m. Monday, March 16; Martin Dugard, author of *Surviving the Toughest Race on Earth*, on Wednesday, March 18; Lewis Hyde, author of *Trickster Makes This World: Mischief, Myth and Art*, on Thursday, March 19; Carl Phillips, author of the book of poetry *From the Devotions*, on Friday, March 20; and William Loizeaux, author of *The Shooting of Rabbit Wells: An American Tragedy*, at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, March 21. For details, call 699-0587.

SASE: The Write Place will present the Powderhorn Writers Festival at 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 11, at Ginkgo Coffeehouse, 721 N. Snelling Ave. For information, call 822-2500.

"Poetry in the Afternoon," featuring Heid Erdrich, a professor at the University of St. Thomas, reading from her book of poetry *Fishing for Myth*, will take place from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. Sunday, March 15, at Barnes & Noble Highland, 2080 Ford Pkwy. Admission is free. For information, call 690-9443.

Rosalie Maggio will read from her collection of quotations from women *The New Beacon Book of Quotations by Women* from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Thursday, March 19, at Barnes & Noble Highland, 2080 Ford Pkwy. Admission is free. For information, call 690-9443.

Alan Wolfe will read from his new book *One Nation After All: What Middle Class Americans Really Think about God, Country, Family, Racism, Welfare, Immigration, Homosexuality, Work, The Right, The Left and Each Other* at 7:00 p.m. Friday, March 20, at the Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy. Admission is free. For information, call 699-0587.

Film

"Cinema with Passion" continues with weekend showings at the Riverview Theatre, 3800 S. 42nd Ave., Minneapolis, with the following films: *Tiger Cage II* at midnight Saturday, March 14; *Jet Li Era* at midnight Friday, March 13, at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, March 14, and at midnight

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Next Issue: March 25
Deadline: March 18

Saturday, March 21; and *The Hero* at midnight Friday, March 20, and at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 21. Admission is \$5.00. For details, call 349-2549.

Family

Preschool storytimes for children ages 3-5 will be held at 10:15 a.m. on Tuesdays through April 7, at the Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave. To register, call 292-6624.

The Hungry Mind Bookstore, 1648 Grand Ave., will offer the following programs for children at 11:00 a.m. on Saturdays: Regina Laroche on March 14; and Laura Mackenzie and Dugan Mackenzie Magraw on March 21. Admission is free. For information, call 699-0587.

The Red Balloon Bookshop, 891 Grand Ave., will offer the following storytime activities at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesdays and Saturdays: Ronni Schotter will present her book *Captain Snap and the Children of Vinegar Lane* on March 14; Dr. Michael Winter, a dentist from Associated Dentists, will read stories and talk about being a dentist on March 21. Admission is free. For information, call 224-8320.

ArtScraps, 1459 St. Clair Ave., will offer the following Super Scrapper Saturdays from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.: artist Krista Pearson will show how to turn unusual scrap into silly feet on March 14; and Matt Weathers will show how to make scrap spring off the page on March 21. For details, call 698-2787.

"**Telling Tales**: Book Art by Tomie dePaola and the Pinkneys," an interactive ex-

hibit showcasing the art of children's book illustrators dePaola and Jerry and Brian Pinkney, will open Saturday, March 14, at the Minnesota Children's Museum, 10 W. 7th St. The exhibit will remain on view until June 7. For details, call 225-6000.

The Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies will present a Young Soloists Concerto Concert at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, March 15, in the Ted Mann Concert Hall on the West Bank of the University of Minnesota. For tickets, priced at \$9.00 for adults and \$6.00 for students and seniors, call 870-7611.

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: children can design logos, business cards and ads for a club that would help solve problems in the community on March 15; and families can paint their own Minnesota landscape after viewing the landscapes in the Minnesota Historical Society's art collection on March 22. Admission is free. For details, call 296-6126.

Patricia Reilly Giff will talk about her newest book *Lily's Crossing* on Monday, March 16, at the Red Balloon Bookshop, 891 Grand Ave. For information, call 224-8320.

Geoffrey Canada will talk about his new book *Reaching Up for Manhood: Transforming the Lives of Boys in America* at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 17, at the Martin Luther King Center, 270 N. Kent St. For information, call 224-4601.

The Child's Play Theatre will

open *Where I'm At*, an original theater production that explores pertinent issues affecting adolescents, on Friday, March 20, at the Southern Theater, 1420 S. Washington Ave., Minneapolis. Performances will continue through April 5. For tickets, priced at \$9.00 for adults and \$7.00 for children and seniors, call 979-1111.

Dance

10,000 Dances will present "Around the Block" at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, March 12, and at 8:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday, March 13-14, in the E.M. Pearson Theater at Concordia University. For tickets, priced from \$4.00 to \$10, call 641-8849.

The Georgian State Dance Company will perform at 8:00 p.m. Saturday, March 14, at Northrop Auditorium. For tickets, priced from \$19.50 to \$29.50, call 624-2345.

"**Jazzdance**," by Danny Buraczski, will be performed at 8:00 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, March 19-21, and at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, March 22, at the O'Shaughnessy at the College of St. Catherine. For tickets, priced from \$13 to \$18, call 690-6700.

The Plymouth Music Series will present the José Limón Dance Company performing "American Originals," a concert of modern dance and live choral music at 8:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday, March 19 and 20, in the Ted Mann Concert Hall on the West Bank of the University of Minnesota. For tickets, priced from \$11 to \$28, call 624-2345.

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SPORTS

CODY'S CORNER

TOM CODY



Like the state, yearnings get a defrosting

This has been one of the strangest winters ever on the tundra. Fifty-five degrees and a snowless yard two weeks after Ground Hog's Day. But you had to figure something strange was in the air after a well-played, competitive Super Bowl.

No, we won't see the likes of the winter of '98 again. But seeing it once has made me yearn for a few other things I'd like to see, hear or do just once in my lifetime:

- Sit in a movie theater next to someone who doesn't talk during the previews. I like the previews.
- Hear Clem Haskins say, "We're short on big-time talent, so we're going to gamble and bring in some questionable characters this year."
- Get the home phone number of one of those salespeople who interrupt our dinner with their obnoxious cold calls.
- Hear Doug Woog say, "We finished sixth in the WCHA, but we got a kid from Ontario who's going to come in and turn this around. To heck with the all-Minnesota line-up!"
- See Pamela Lee Anderson and Jenny McCarthy attempt to do legitimate theater on Broadway.
- Hear a referee come out the day after a game and say, "I blew the big call. I cost them the game. I'm sorry."
- Hear a 4-1-1 operator say, "I'm sorry, we can't find that number. There'll be no charge to you, of course."
- See Ken Griffey Jr. hit 70 home runs in a season.
- Hear Dennis Rodman confess, "I've got some serious mental health issues that I've got to deal with."
- Hear the Vikings' front office announce on draft day, "We didn't get who we wanted. All the guys we wanted were gone."
- Pick the quickest check-out lane at Target.
- Hear a pitcher who gets shelled in spring training say, "Yes, I'm concerned about my pitching. I was horrendous."
- Hear one of my students say about their missing homework: "I have no excuse. I'm inherently lazy."
- And the most preposterous of all: Drive down Snelling Avenue and hit five straight green lights.

SPRING ARRIVES EARLY FOR THE WOLVES

Back in November, I gave you the bad news: Two playoff victories are all we can expect from the Wolves this year. That prediction was pretty much sealed when Tom Gugliotta sustained his season-ending injury. An all-expense-paid trip to Los Angeles or Seattle awaits the Wolves if they finish seventh or eighth in the Western Division. I'm not sure they could win their two home games against either of those clubs.

With Googs sidelined, Kevin Garnett can expect to get the lion's share of the shots down the stretch. I expect him to have some big nights in the coming weeks, but he's still not the pure scorer the team needs. Sam Mitchell may fill in some at power forward, but he's older than my family's basement couch. And there's not much more that Stephon Marbury can do; he's been the team's best player since opening night.

It'll be interesting to see if the Wolves bag it down the stretch. Coach Flip Saunders probably realizes more than anybody that March and April have suddenly become spring training for the 1998-99 season.

CODY THINKS AGAIN

Clem Haskins probably did a better job coaching this year than last year when his club won the Midwest Regional and he bagged many national Coach of the Year honors. During the grueling 1998 Big Ten campaign, Haskins actually found himself having to rely on the Stanford twins and former team manager Rob Schoenrock. Kyle Sanden and Miles Tarver battled gamely, but they were both over their heads under the boards.

This team just didn't have it. Quincy Lewis was an outstanding sixth man as a sophomore on the Final Four squad, but he had a hard time stepping into a bigger role as a junior. Sam Jacobson's NBA stock fell a bit as well this year.

Cody's Corner/see page 35

Punching the clock

Sibley tops Highland in OT to win section

by Tom Cody

They had to work overtime to get the job done, but the Sibley girls will be returning to the state high school basketball tournament this week. Coach Doug Linton's club outlasted Highland Park 47-43 in the Section 3AAA championship last Friday.

The Warriors, 15-9 overall, were scheduled to meet a powerful New Prague team (21-3) in a quarterfinal game at 4:00 p.m. on March 10, at Rochester's Mayo Civic Center.

Last year, Sibley lost to Fridley in the quarterfinals of the state tournament. "We want to go at least one step further this time," Linton said. "When we went to the state tourney last year, we were just happy to be there."

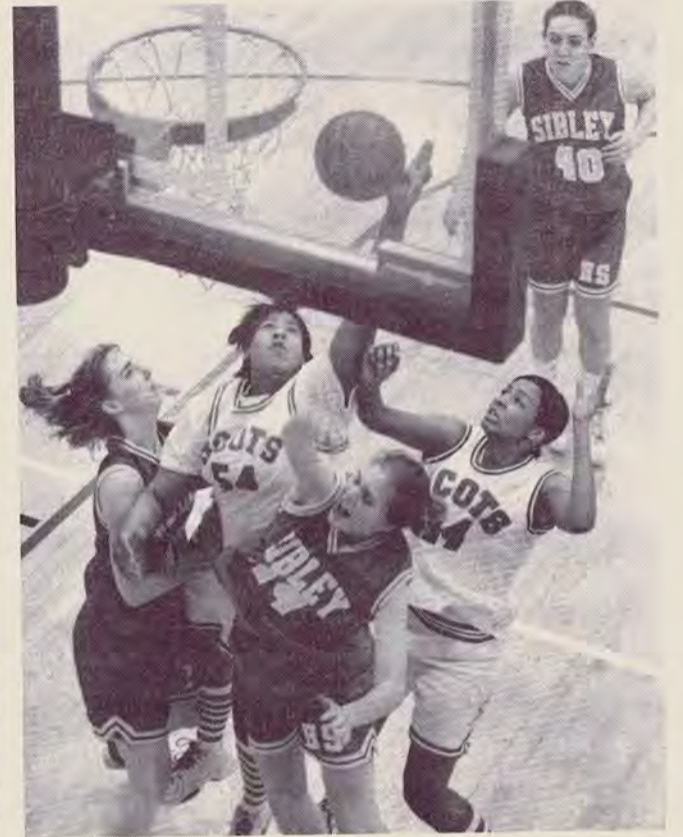
"We have a great group of seniors, and they're used to this type of pressure," he said. "A lot of them played for the (1997 state champion girls) soccer team. But New Prague is going to be tough for us. They're big. They rotate three 6-foot-1 girls inside. And they can shoot. It's going to be important for us to play well in the paint."

Sibley senior guard Lindsay Holmes had a chance to break a tie and seal the sectional championship with a free throw late in the fourth quarter. She missed the shot, but then atoned late in the overtime session.

"We were up three points with only 15 seconds remaining in overtime," Linton said. "(Holmes) missed another free throw, but when (Highland) went to throw the outlet pass off the rebound, she stepped right in and stole the ball to preserve the win." Holmes was fouled and then added the clinching free throw.

"My form was OK on the free throw that I missed," said a jubilant Holmes after the game. "It probably had more to do with being tired. On the steal, I knew that they still had about 10 seconds and that Haugen would be shooting (a three to tie it). I guessed right, I saw the outlet pass coming and I got to the ball."

The loss was a heart-breaker for Highland (also 15-9 overall), which had battled back from a 20-10 deficit early in the second quarter to take the lead by four at half-time. "We stayed in our zone



Highland Park's Shaunte Johnson, left, and Niambi Shakir battle for the rebound against Sibley's Mary Svendsen and Eva Stefansdottir during last Friday's section final. Behind them is the Warriors' Kara Blesener. Photo by Terry Faust.

(defense) and that seemed to keep us in the ball game," said Highland coach Lynn Nelson. "Sibley is really quick, especially their forwards. We didn't feel like we

could match up with them." The Scots extended their lead in the third quarter with seven points by senior guard

Sibley/see next page

Townley's heroics send Raiders to state

by Bill Wagner

An old sports axiom goes something like: "When the game is on the line, you give it to your big horse and let it lead you to the watering hole."

That's what happened last Friday night for the Cretin-Derham Hall girls basketball team, as sophomore guard Kate Townley drove the length of the court and made a layup as time ran out to give the Raiders a 50-48 victory over Eagan in the Section 2AAAA championship game. The win propelled Cretin-Derham (21-4) to the state tournament, where it was scheduled to play Irondale in the big-school quarterfinals on March 10 at Roy Wilkins Auditorium.

Townley, who finished with 18 points, said she was surprised that the Wildcats' defense didn't close in on her a little quicker in those waning seconds. "I thought they'd guard me tougher," she said. "But when I saw the chance, I took it. I still can't believe we're going to state."

Townley played much of the second half in foul trouble and sat out for a spell before returning with 4:17 to play. She lost none of her aggressiveness despite having four fouls. "I figured that the (officials) were letting the teams play and not calling much," she said. "So I felt



Cretin-Derham Hall sophomore Kate Townley puts up a shot over the outstretched arm of Eagan's Rocky Bencivenga during last Friday's section 2AAAA final. Townley scored 18 points, including the game winner, to lead the Raiders to the state tournament. Photo by Brad Stauffer.

that I had nothing to hold back."

Coach Tom Cody was glad she didn't. "When Kate first came to Cretin-Derham, I tried to coach her," he said. "I gave up after a while. You don't have to coach players of her ability."

The St. Paul City Conference champion Raiders got off to a horrible start in the game. They trailed by as much as 12 points in the first quarter, but were able

Cretin-Derham Hall/see next page

Cretin-Derham /from previous page

to crawl back and went ahead for the first time when senior guard Natalie Roedler hit a three-pointer to make it 45-43 with only 2:15 left to play. The Raiders protected their lead until Eagan sophomore Sarah Rome nailed a three-pointer with just over 6 seconds left that knotted the score at 48-48 and threatened to send the game into overtime.

"That was a big-time play by a big-time athlete," said Cody about Rome, who finished with 13 points. "She has ice water in her veins."

But so did the Raiders. Cody said the strategy in the final seconds was pretty much to give the ball to Townley and get everyone else out of the way. "She's a beauty," he said. "She does so much for our team. During the regular season against Johnson, she had 13 steals in one half. And Johnson wasn't a bad team, either."

Roedler, who had 13 points,

made another key play down the stretch, stealing the ball and then hitting two big shots from the line after the Wildcats were forced to foul her with 13 seconds to play. "That was a big play by a senior," Cody said about Roedler's play. "You need your seniors to step up."

Rocky Bencivenga led the Wildcats with 20 points. For the Raiders, Chrissy Melander chipped in with seven points, Meghan Felicelli added six, and Jackie Bye and Kristin Greenwood each had three.

Cody said he is hoping the section final will provide the Raiders with some momentum against a much taller Irondale squad in the state quarterfinals. According to him, Cretin-Derham Hall will have to rely on its quickness to be successful.

"We had a pretty decent press," he said. "But the press also can kill you if the other team breaks it effectively."

Sibley /from previous page

Jill Reinhardt, but late in the fourth quarter Sibley senior forward Kara Blesener hit a short jump shot to cut the lead to four. Warrior Senior guard Laura Ashley followed up with a long three-pointer, then Blesener scored again to give the Warriors the lead.

Highland freshman forward Kendra Hinkle put back her own with 32 seconds left to put Highland on top 41-40. When Sibley missed a baseline shot with 12 seconds remaining, Holmes muscled in and got the offensive rebound.

"If we get that rebound, the game's over," Nelson said. Instead, Highland fouled Holmes and she made the first of two to tie the game.

In overtime, Highland drew first blood with a basket by junior center Shaunte Johnson. Holmes responded with a 15-footer and then Ashley banked in a three-pointer for Sibley.

"That one broke our back," Nelson said. It also set the stage for Holmes' game-clinching steal.

Senior forward Kristin Johnson led Sibley with 16 points, and Ashley added 12, including three three-pointers. Sophomore forward Laura Haugen led the Scots with 14 points, and Shaunte Johnson had 11 rebounds.



Sibley guard Lindsay Holmes looks for an open teammate in the 3AAA title game. Photo by Terry Faust.



Members of the Highland Central Bantam B team, from left, include (front row) Ray Albrecht, Josh Witham, Paul Barrett, Charles Girsch, John Vik, Bobby Gotch, Sean Young and Luke Garafola; and (back row) assistant coach Tom Albrecht, John Fischbach, coach John Fischbach, Pat Daly, Joe Buzicky, Mike Schmidt, Peter Blodgett, Mark Fischbach, David Jewison, Ryan Pates and assistant coach John Biagi.

Highland Central Bantams cap off stellar season with a regional title

The Highland Central Hockey Association's B-1 Bantams ended their 1997-98 season by taking home the championship trophy in the Red Division of the Maroon Regional Tournament on March 1 in Brooklyn Park. The first regional title for the association in B-Bantams capped off a 45-7-3 season for the Capitals, who were coached by John Fischbach, John Biagi and Tom Albrecht.

Highland Central skated through the Twin City District's regular season undefeated and outscored their opponents 36-3 in the district playoffs. In the regional quarterfinals, the Capitals fell behind in the early going against No. 3-ranked Eden Prairie Red, but they fought their way back to pull off a 5-3 upset. In the semifinals against the highly ranked

Eagan Wildcats, Highland Central fell behind 3-1 after two periods, but scored three unanswered goals to claim a 4-3 victory.

In the championship game, Highland Central and Wayzata traded goals in the first period and remained deadlocked until the Capitals scored with 19 seconds left to seal the win.

The team was led on offense by Ray Albrecht, Mark Fischbach, Charlie Girsch, Bobby Gotch, David Jewison, Ryan Pates, Mike Schmidt, John Vik and Josh Witham. The defense was anchored by Paul Barrett, Peter Blodgett, Pat Daly, John Fischbach and Sean Young. Goalies Joe Buzicky and Luke Garafola combined for a 1.8 goals-against average and 13 shutouts.

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Cody's Corner / from page 33

He'll be a second-rounder in the pro draft and will have to fight for a roster spot next fall. The big surprise came at point guard. Eric Harris, who didn't have a jump shot when he first arrived in Minnesota, became the team's best offensive player by the end of this year. Kevin Clark was another vastly improved player. At off-guard, he provided what little offensive excitement Haskins' club could muster on the road the past few weeks.

The U of M athletic department is quietly confident about the basketball transfers and recruits who are headed this way next fall. One thing is certain: The incoming talent will get immediate opportunities to contribute.

ONE GAME SHORT OF STATE

First-year coach Billy McCarthy wasn't all that surprised by his St. Thomas Academy hockey team's performance in the Section 3A playoffs. The Cadets beat North St. Paul 2-1, Farmington 3-1 and battled Mahtomedi to a scoreless tie through two periods before losing 1-0 in the section championship. "We got good goaltending and good defense down the stretch in February," McCarthy said. "Both (junior goalies) Brian Monahan and Ethan Keller played well. We finished just 8-17, but we won four of our last six games."

Mahtomedi scored its lone goal midway through the final stanza on the second rebound. "We could've quit right there," McCarthy said, "but we battled hard to tie it up. We buzzed their net. The game ended with the puck sitting behind their goalie, right on the goal line. We couldn't buy a break."

Cretin-Derham Hall knocked off City Conference champion Johnson 4-2 in the Section 2AA semifinals before Hastings put a 10-2 shellacking on rookie coach Brandon Ferraro's club's shot at state. "We needed Hastings to have an off night and we needed to play our best game to compete," Ferraro said. "They jumped on us for three quick goals. We were tight and intimidated. They just smoked us."

The Raiders, who finished 16-7-2 overall, return half their forwards, both their goalies and their core of defenders next season. "No one expected to see us in the finals," Ferraro said. "It was a good season."

TOMS ROLL IN POSTSEASON

Ted Riverso's University of St. Thomas women's basketball team beat Central of Iowa 85-69 last Saturday night to move into the round of 16 in the NCAA Division III playoffs. UST got 19 points from Paige Olson and 16 more from Kirsten Vipond. The Toms, 25-1, are ranked second in national polls. They'll face DePauw University at 6:00 p.m. Friday, March 13, at St. Thomas.

PREP SPOTLIGHT

• Minneapolis North won its fourth consecutive Twin Cities boys basketball trophy with a 61-52 win over St. Paul City Conference champion Central. Kerek Taylor led the way for North with 18 points. Andy Carter countered with a dozen for Central. "North treated this game like any other game," said Central coach Steve Lasley. "We had the jitters. We must've missed 15 layups and 10 free throws. North was on their game and we weren't."

Central, which also lost to the Polars in a non-conference game early this season, may get another shot at North if the two teams meet in the Section 2AAAA championship game on March 11, at Williams Arena. "We rattled 'em a little with our press and that gave us a little confidence," Lasley said. "We didn't quit, even when we fell behind by 17. I think we'll carry that confidence with us if we meet them again."

• Minneapolis Roosevelt grappler Marcus LeVesseur took home the title in the 130-pound class at the State High School Wrestling Tournament. Sibley's Desmond Radunz finished third at 112 pounds, STA's Tony Abbott was fourth at 152, and Highland Park's William Carlisle was fifth at 160.

• Sibley defender Katy Battis and St. Paul United forward Heather Murphy, both seniors, were both named to the girls all-state hockey team. United goalie Kerry Rollwagen, a first-year student, received all-state honorable mention.

• St. Thomas Academy took third place in the Class A boys state swimming and diving meet. The Cadets' John Mahan took home the gold in the 100-meter freestyle and fifth in the 50 freestyle. Matt Marolt was 5th in the 100 backstroke and sixth in the 200 individual medley. Greg Cargill placed seventh in the 200 IM. Andy Ellertson was fourth in the 100 fly. Tony Mason placed sixth in the 100 free, and Joe Guaidoni was 10th in diving. CDH's Pat Marzolf, who finished eighth in the 200 IM, was the only area swimmer to place in the Class AA meet.

• Really liked seeing Eveleth-Gilbert win the boys Class A hockey tournament; the small-school event was created to produce championships for small-town teams like this. It's not a level playing field when metro teams like Mahtomedi or St. Louis Park are entered in the Class A tourney. Another tip o' the hat to Roseau. They opted to play in Class AA, despite qualifying for Class A, then defeated Edina in a quarterfinal overtime thriller. Classy move for the Rams.

Next Issue: March 25

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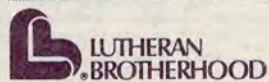
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Less than 9th grade	1,762	2.7%
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Some college, no degree	16,605	25.3%
Associate degree	3,987	6.1%
Bachelor's degree	17,493	26.7%
Graduate or professional degree	10,175	15.5%
Total	65,593	100%

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

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Minnesota Historical Society's Alexander Ramsey House located in St. Paul, MN, seeks applicants for a part-time Sales Assistant position to perform merchandise and ticket sales, customer service, merchandising, and phone reservation tasks. HS diploma or equivalent specialty store sales and cashiering experience required, basic accounting and math skills, excellent interpersonal and communications skills, and must be able to work weekends (both Saturday/Sunday) and a varied schedule of up to 25 hours/week, including holidays from April 25 through December 31, 1998. For application materials, call **(612) 296-0542**. Application deadline March 26, 1998. EEO/AA

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One		Two	
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W-Th	Off	Sa	6:30am-3:00pm
F	1:00pm-9:30pm	Su-M	Off
Sa-Su	11:00am-7:30pm		

Three

Tu-F	12:00pm-8:30pm	Su-M	Off
Sa	11:00am-7:30pm		

Dishwasher - \$8.00/hr

M-Th	3:30pm-7:30pm	F	11:00am-3:00pm
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 News items - Tuesday (8 days prior)
 Classified ads - Wednesday (7 days prior)
 Employment and Service Directory - Thursday at noon
 Display ads - Thursday at 5:00 p.m.
 Display ads (camera-ready) - Friday at noon

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 Classified ads - Monday (5 days prior)
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Call Tim, Dennis or Susan for more information.
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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 641-0332. **gv**

HIGH QUALITY, experienced schoolage care. References, food program, across from Linwood A+ School. Current and future openings. Before/after-school care, school release days, full- and part-time care in summer. 224-3672. **gv**

SITTER SERVICE has nannies for all occasions; days, evenings, vacations; FT/PT; 429-2963. **v**

PART-TIME and occasional child care for children over 2 years; my home; licensed, experienced; 690-1079. **v**

LOVING, LICENSED, full-time infant care; 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sue, 644-1308. **v**

LICENSED DAY CARE has full-time opening for 2 years +; food program; 227-1079. **v**

LIVE-IN CHILD CARE, EurAupair, a government designated exchange program is currently placing well-screened, English-speaking au pairs with qualified host families. For more info, call Paris, 576-1540 or 1-800-960-9100. **v**

LICENSED HOME DAY CARE. Openings available most age groups. Learning, storytime, walks, fun all included! Barb, 646-0538. **v**

VERY LOVING MOTHER of 2 will provide full-time day care in my home; excellent references; call Debbie, 649-0980. **v**

Home Health Care Svc.

SENIORS NEED help in your home days? Honest, experienced, car, references. Call me! 588-4647.

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**

For Rent Residential

SOUTH HIGHLAND. One-bedroom apartment in controlled access entry building. Convenient to shopping and busline. No pets. 690-0744. **v**

STUDIO, ONE- & TWO-bedroom apartments in exclusive scenic area; quiet, controlled access entry building on the river. No pets. 690-2639. **v**

ONE-BEDROOM upper duplex, very clean, small pets OK; \$595+; will reduce for lawn/snow maintenance, 292-1185; 225-4262, Jim. **v**

SUMMIT-UNIVERSITY Club area. Huge, freshly renovated 2 bedrooms and den. 3 baths, 3 fireplaces. Garden level gourmet kitchen. Hardwood floors, leaded windows. Semi-furnished. Must see! 1,400; 291-7610. **v**

MINNEHAHA MANOR. 1-2 BR available now; between VA Hospital & Minnehaha Falls. Quiet building, access controlled, laundry room, off-street parking, newer appliances and carpet; heat included; \$535-\$635; Helen, 722-4825. **v**

9XX ASHLAND. Large 3-bedroom upper duplex with garage. New furnace, insulated, low utilities. Formal dining room, miniblinds, stove, refrigerator; avail. April 1; \$850/mo.; 454-6113. **v**

LARGE ROOM/private bath, upscale hi-rise on the river. Kitchen privileges. Free laundry. Utilities paid. Prefer student/professional. Cat welcome. Mar. 28. \$69/week; \$295/month. Garage extra. 696-9173. **v**

ROOM FOR RENT. Students preferred, across from St. Kate's; \$240/month; 698-0908. **v**

WEST 7TH/RANDOLPH, huge 2+ bedroom in historic triplex; quiet, secure, clean; laundry, off-street parking; \$700+/month, lease, references, deposit; avail. immediately; call 222-5837. **v**

For Rent Commercial

HIGHLAND EXPOSURE without the cost! 1,340 sq. ft. retail, 1/3 mile S. of downtown Highland Park, large street view windows, illuminated signage, off-street parking, move-in ready. Call 938-4452 or 827-7108. **v**

COUNSELOR TO SHARE office space in attractive Highland office. Call 698-7281. **v**

Roommates Wanted

ROOMMATE WANTED, Highland house, \$350+ utilities; 2 blocks from Hidden Falls; 690-5616. **v**

Personals

THANK YOU St. Jude for favors granted. B.C. **v**

THANK YOU St. Jude for prayers answered. P. T. K. **v**

Restaurants

FREE COOKIE. Just bring in this ad. Trotter's Cafe and Bakery. "Your Neighborhood Place." Eat-in/ Take-out. M-F, 7-7; Sat., 7-4. 232 N. Cleveland. 645-8950. **v**

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222-5541 \$297,000



Kate McGuire



Mendota Heights' Finest

Soft contemporary walk-out to pond in Copperfield, gourmet kitchen, 9 ft. ceiling, built-in buffet, over 4,000 sq. ft. finished, 4 bedrooms, 5 baths, 3 fireplaces, 3-car garage.

696-0851 \$379,000



Bob Doffing



St. Anthony Park!

Classic turn-of-the-century, 2-BR, 2-story facing Hampden Park. Filled with light. Hardwood floors! Romantic wrap-around porch. Sweet! 2344 Bayless Place.

646-2100 \$99,900



Beth Richardson



Listing Too New for Photo

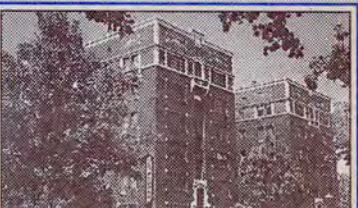


Mitch Fink

First Choice Offering!

Absolutely charming 3-BR, 1-1/2 story home. Lotsa extras with updated kitchen, hardwood floors and a master suite with a master bath, central air, double garage and more!

696-0888 \$124,900



The Commodore

1-BR, 1-1/2 bath historic 1920's condo. Plaster walls and archway to dining room. Laundry in unit and 2 underground heated parking spaces just off Summit Avenue.

696-0856



Beth Johnson



1769 Ashland

Showcase Merriam Park home. 4 BRs and walk-up third floor. Stunning woodwork, hardwood floors, center island in kitchen, newer roof, garage. Beautiful landscaping.

696-0855 \$189,900



Bob Reidell



Premier Offering!

In the heart of Macalester-Groveland. Incredibly charming showcase property. Stunning decor, 3 BRs, beautiful woodwork and floors, fireplace, sunroom and more.

696-0855



Bob Reidell



Incredible Views!

1510 Mississippi River Blvd. — outstanding location! Meticulously maintained 3-BR rambler, outstanding main floor family room and finished lower level. Beautiful lot!

696-0855 \$227,500



Bob Reidell



New on the Market!

1366-68 Taylor — True side-by-side duplex. Separate utilities, large open rooms, eat-in kitchen. 2-bath, 3-BR units plus LL family room. Great rental history!!

696-0855



Bob Reidell



Prime Crocus Hill

784 Linwood. Beautifully restored, long-admired French eclectic style residence. Many sought after features including double lot, 4 BRs, conservatory, finished third level.

696-0855 \$575,000



Bob Reidell



Beautiful Shorewood!

Beautifully remodeled home on .85 of an acre. 4 BRs, 2 bath rooms, fireplace in living room, large 3-season porch off of a family room. All offers considered.

696-0859 \$191,000



Mark Wiebusch



Too New for Photo

Highland Jewel!

Fabulous 1-1/2 story! 4 BRs, 1 bath, exquisite plaster work, marble fireplace, hardwood floors, newer mechanicals, 2-car garage, eat-in kitchen, brick exterior, please call...

696-0874 \$169,900



John Otteson



New Listing! Duplex

Must see this fabulous true duplex in Crocus Hill. Much work has been done, low-maintenance exterior, newer mechanicals, lots of living space on each level.

696-0874 \$128,900



John Otteson



Condos Now Available!

455 Dayton Ave. Fabulous condos in Cathedral Hill. 1 and 2 bedroom units range from \$69,900 to \$99,900. Underground parking.

696-0874



John Otteson



City Escape Pay Less

5-BR home overlooks lake & nature park. Close to everything, yet so much for your \$. New carpet, family room w/ fireplace, walk out to fenced yard with pool! Get ready for spring!

696-0850 Under \$150,000



Mary Rogers

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Go North!

5910 Hodgson Rd., Shoreview. Elegant 4-BR, 2-story on 1 acre private lot! Open, light-filled floor plan. Mint decor.

646-2100 \$235,900



Beth Richardson

It's the Experience!



Great Stater Home!

Updated with hardwood floors, screened porches and 2-car garage in heart of Mac-Groveland! Close to school and bus line and walking distance to the river.

696-0876 \$84,900



Cathy Smithknecht



South Mpls. Charmer!

You'll love it! Totally redecorated and ready to move in. Natural wdwk., refinished maple floors, leaded glass, patio doors to deck, formal dining, finished fam. room, dbl. gar.

696-0865



Bob Boland



Who Needs the Suburbs

Architecturally designed and built in 1990 this Highland Park home has a great room, attached garage, eat-in modern kitchen, first floor laundry, master and guest suites.

696-0857 \$489,500



Liz Flynn



Brand New Home!!

Spacious rambler in newer Farmington development. Hardwood floor in entry, gas fireplace, large kitchen, master bath with whirlpool great home, super price.

696-0859 \$169,900



Mark Wiebusch

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Beth Johnson



Fabulous 2-Story - Marine

250 Tanglewood Ln., 4 BRs, 3 baths, built '90, 4.8 acres of whispering pines, 3,000 sq. ft., 3-car gar., huge kit., family room w/ fireplace, master suite w/ fireplace and grand bath.

222-5541 \$379,000



Kate McGuire



Sweet Duplex!

Merriam Park close to colleges. Owner occupied. 2 bedrooms first floor unit, 1 bedroom second floor. You must see this one.

696-0851 \$139,900



Bob Doffing

SOLD

Sold Within Days of Listing

A Great Place to Start

3 BRs, 1 bath, eat-in kitchen, formal dining, newer appliances, updated electric, full basement ready to be finished, central air, 2+ car garage, new roof on home and garage.

696-0859 \$89,000

Mark Wiebusch

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Great Starter

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696-0879 \$74,900

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