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**Loving a snowy day.** Friends Neil Rohr, Max Frasc, Julian Glaser Allen and Alison Frasc fall head over heels for winter while playing on the snowbanks of the Town & Country Club in Merriam Park. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

## Second six-story building eyed for site near stadium

Plan includes market-rate apartments and restaurant

By JANE MCCLURE

Plans for a six-story building on Snelling Avenue across from the new Allianz Field soccer stadium were unveiled last month by Scannell Properties. The Indianapolis-based developer will return to the Union Park District Council's Land Use Committee on February 18 to seek its support for a conditional use permit and floor area ratio variance for the building, which would house a restaurant on the first floor and 120 market-rate apartments above.

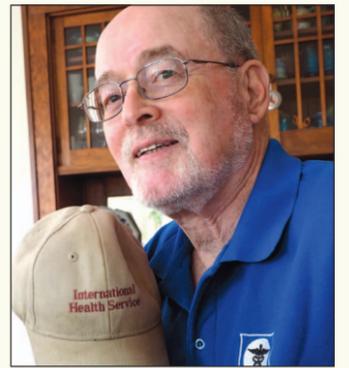
The property is zoned for traditional neighborhoods 3, which allows building heights of up to 55 feet without a conditional use permit. A height of about 75 feet is being proposed, and the greater height creates the need for a floor area ratio variance.

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## Citizens debate future direction of St. Paul

Commission sifts through over 1,000 comments on 2040 Comprehensive Plan

By JANE MCCLURE

Citizens have had a lot to say about St. Paul's 2040 Comprehensive Plan. The proposed blueprint for development over the next 20 years is headed for a St. Paul Planning Commission vote early this spring and a public hearing and vote by the City Council in June. However, the Planning Commission must first complete its review of more than 1,000 comments, including the testimony received at a January 11 public hearing.

The testimony was mostly favorable, although there were calls for more housing density, more affordable housing, new protections for parks and open spaces, a stronger emphasis on economic development and multi-modal transportation, and new provisions for addressing gaps in racial and economic equity.

The 2040 Comprehensive Plan will guide private developers and the city in seeking future zoning changes and awarding capital improve-

ment funds and tax-increment financing. Six of the plan's chapters are undergoing final Planning Commission revisions, including those on land use; transportation; housing; heritage preservation; water management; and parks, recreation and open spaces. The seventh and final chapter, covering the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area, also needs more work and will have a separate public hearing later this year.

Some of the speakers on January 11 wanted St. Paul's plan to be similar to the comprehensive plan adopted by the Minneapolis City Council earlier this winter. Unlike the Minneapolis plan, which calls for the upzoning of single-family properties across the city, St. Paul's plan designates 56 neighborhood nodes and 30 larger opportunity sites where more dense commercial and residential developments are encouraged.

Designated as opportunity sites are the old Ford Plant and the vacant Johnson Brothers property in Highland Park, Island Station on the West End, the former Amtrak station and Weyerhaeuser lumberyard in the West Midway, the Goodwill parking lot at Fairview and University avenues, the lots north of the Midway SuperTarget, UniDale Mall, the Sears site, Seven Corners, Wabasha Court and the West Publishing site.

Every Green Line station area is identified as

a neighborhood node. So are the intersections of Selby Avenue with Western, Dale, Milton and Snelling avenues; Grand Avenue with West Seventh, Victoria and Fairview avenues; Cleveland Avenue with Marshall and St. Clair avenues; West Seventh Street with Kellogg Boulevard, St. Clair, Randolph and Maynard Drive; and Randolph and Hamline avenues.

Being identified as a neighborhood node or opportunity site does not constitute a rezoning nor ensure that development will happen. However, it does send a signal to developers that these are places where St. Paul would welcome redevelopment, according to city planner Anton Jerve.

City officials will be pursuing a separate study of whether or not to allow more triplexes and fourplexes in single-family zones. However, the proposed 2040 Plan does address the so-called "missing middle" in housing by recommending ways to add buildings of between four and 20 apartments.

The city has held close to 70 listening sessions on the plan over the past few years. Its Advisory Committee on Aging was extensively involved in the planning process. Recommendations from

ST. PAUL'S 2040 PLAN ▶ 3

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**1 SCANNELL DEVELOPMENT**

Scannell plans to demolish the two buildings at 441 and 453 N. Snelling Ave., which housed a Furniture Barn store for many years. One of the buildings is now vacant and the other is being used temporarily by Mortenson Construction, lead contractor on the Major League Soccer stadium. A small retail building that houses World of Wireless at 457 N. Snelling Ave. is not part of the development.

Scannell presented its plans on January 28 at a meeting of more than 40 local residents and congregants at Central Baptist Church, which is located southwest of the proposed development at 420 N. Roy St. The project will mean big changes for Central Baptist as well as Bethlehem Lutheran Church at 436 N. Roy St., which would share an alley with the new building.

Bethlehem Lutheran is the home of two congregations and Open Hands Midway, a social service program. Scott Simmons, interim pastor at Bethlehem Lutheran, noted that both churches do a lot to serve the Midway area's low-income and homeless populations. Open Hands Midway operates a food shelf and clothing closet and serves meals each week to the poor. "We have a significant homeless population in this area," Simmons said, "and the homeless are not going away."

Concerns were raised at the meeting about spillover parking from the development and increased traffic congestion. "I don't know where people are going to park," said Bethlehem Lutheran member Steve Hendricks. Church members and local residents are already concerned about the parking impact from the soccer stadium, which will host its first game this spring.

Traffic on Snelling is another concern. The turn lane for vehicles moving from northbound Snelling to westbound Shields Avenue is relatively short, and traffic already backs up there. Scannell



An artist's rendering of Scannell Properties' plan for 120 market-rate apartments on the northwest corner of Snelling and Shields avenues.

has hired Wenck Associates to conduct a traffic study, and hopes to be able to address the neighborhood's traffic concerns.

Simmons and church members questioned the construction of market-rate housing, saying the area needs more housing that is affordable for people with low incomes. They would like Scannell to include at least a few apartments for low-income residents.

John Lassaux, development manager for Scannell, said the company will work with the churches to address the impact of the new building. Scannell is also working with Wellington Management, which is developing a six-story building immediately to the south (see story below).

Scannell has offices across the country, including one in Minneapolis. The 51-year-old firm specialized in industrial and office development for many years before taking on multifamily and mixed-use developments four years ago. Since then, the company has built about 1,200 housing units.

In the Twin Cities, Scannell has invested more than \$150 million in developments. Recent projects include 700 on Washington, a six-story mixed-use student apartment building near the University of Minnesota East Bank campus,

and the Landings, a hotel, condominium and restaurant complex in Wayzata.

Scannell is working with Cuningham Group architects on the Snelling project. The building would have underground parking, five floors of apartments and about 5,700 square feet of commercial space on the first floor, including a restaurant and lobby at the corner of Snelling and Shields.

The apartments would be small and standard-size studio, one-, two- and three-bedroom units with rents starting at around \$1,100. Seventy-two parking spaces are planned for tenants and 15 parking spaces for business employees and customers.

According to Lassaux, the apartments will be marketed to people who do not own cars. Tenants will be encouraged to bicycle and use mass transit. Bike parking, bike rental and a "bike lounge" are among the planned amenities.

The proposed building is located just a block south of the Green Line light-rail and A Line bus-rapid transit stations. Tenants would be given a one-time bus pass when they move in, according to Lassaux. Scannell would also like to eliminate the seven parking meters on Snelling in front of the proposed building and improve the streetscape there, he said.

**Wellington scales back six-story housing project**

**MnDOT parcel deemed too costly by developer**

BY JANE MCCLURE

Higher than anticipated costs for state-owned property on the northwest corner of Snelling and St. Anthony avenues have forced Wellington Management to scale back its proposed mixed-use development across from the new Allianz Field soccer stadium. The developer is still planning a six-story building with a required conditional use permit and continuation of a nonconforming use from the city, but only for the parcel now occupied by Bremer Bank at 427 N. Snelling Ave.

Wellington had hoped to include the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) property south of Bremer Bank, but the purchase price was too high, according to Wellington development associate Casey Dziejewczynski.

MnDOT did not respond to requests for comment. The property is listed on the MnDOT website for a minimum bid of \$1.15 million. It was purchased by the state in the early 1960s when I-94 was built and has been vacant ever since.

The Union Park District Council (UPDC) land use committee will review Wellington's new plans on February 18 before making a recommendation on the city permit requests. Wellington hopes to begin construction this year

and complete the project in 2020. The developer has not ruled out adding the MnDOT parcel in the future, "but we don't wish to wait," Dziejewczynski said. "That could be a phase two of the project."

With the smaller site, Wellington has reduced the size of the building. Instead of 200, it would have 156 micro, studio, one- and two-bedroom apartments. The first floor would include a 2,500-square-foot Bremer Bank and additional commercial spaces of 10,000 and 2,200 square feet. Wellington is in talks with Walgreens for leasing the larger space. The plan is to have two levels of below-grade parking.

The redevelopment site is zoned for traditional neighborhoods 3, which has a maximum height of five stories without a conditional use permit. Wellington also needs city approval for Bremer Bank to continue to provide drive-through service. If Walgreens moves in, it too is likely to want drive-through service.

Dziejewczynski informed the UPDC land use committee about Wellington's revised plans on January 28. The new apartments would be market-rate, starting at about \$1,100 per month. That met pushback from some of the four dozen people at the January 28 meeting.

Dziejewczynski agreed with the need for affordable housing. However, he added, Wellington's building would represent some of the first market-rate housing to be built near University Avenue since the light-rail Green Line be-

gan operations. Almost all of the new housing from downtown St. Paul to Fairview Avenue has been subsidized for low-income residents, he said.

Representatives of Bethlehem Lutheran Church at 436 N. Roy St. said they are concerned about the lack of affordable housing in Wellington's plan as well as Scannell Development's plan for a six-story apartment building just to the north (see story above). Monthly rents would be about \$1,600 for a one-bedroom and \$1,800 for a two-bedroom apartment.

Market studies have shown that apartments at the rents proposed by Wellington and Scannell are in demand in the area, Dziejewczynski said. He cited the region's very low apartment vacancy rate of around 2 percent.

According to Dziejewczynski, Wellington is interested in participating in a city program that is now under discussion that would offer incentives for landlords to hold down rents. Like Minneapolis' 4d Affordable Housing Incentive, the St. Paul program would offer property tax reductions to the owners of apartment buildings who keep 20 percent or more of their rental units affordable.

Wellington will work with Central Baptist Church on a new parking lot to replace the off-street parking spaces that the church is now sharing at Bremer Bank. The church and developer are also working on plans to vacate the portion of the north-south alley that lies directly between their properties.



# Public sounds off on Crosby-Hidden Falls Park master plan

By JANE McCLURE

The St. Paul Department of Parks and Recreation has unveiled a master plan for improving Hidden Falls and Crosby Farm parks that includes better trails for pedestrians and bicyclists, a nature-themed play area, more kayak and boat launching areas, a new environmental learning center and more gathering places with fire pits.

More than 80 people squeezed into a meeting room at the Jewish Community Center on February 6 to view the plans and weigh in with comments. They were invited to cast votes on which of the improvements they would like to see first, including improved vehicle access, more signage, better rustic trails and more space for cultural events. The city has \$500,000 to spend on improving the parks in 2019 and 2020.

Public comments on the parks' master plan may be submitted between February 22 and March 22. For information, visit [tinyurl.com/y9o5whes](http://tinyurl.com/y9o5whes). The city's goal is to have a plan for the St. Paul Parks and Recreation Commission and City Council to approve this spring, according to Anne Gardner, project manager in the Parks and Recreation Department. Because Hidden Falls and Crosby Farm are regional parks, the final approval of the Metropolitan Council is also required. The Met Council requires all regional parks in the Twin Cities' seven-county area to have a master plan in place in order to qualify for regional parks funding.

Hidden Falls and Crosby Farm have never had a master plan. They get about 382,000 visitors per year. "It's a compli-



Johnny, 9, and Taylor Gaertner, 14, romped at the picnic grounds at Hidden Falls Park on October 2, 2010, as the flooding of the Mississippi River reached its crest.

ated site with many users and needs," Gardner said.

The recreational trails and parking lots in the parks are in poor condition. Bluff erosion is a growing problem. Some of the facilities are not accessible to people with disabilities. Signage is also in need of improvement. The fishing pier and boardwalk at Crosby are in poor condition. The periodic

flooding of the Mississippi River has taken a toll on facilities as well as plant life, Gardner said. A natural resources inventory showed that while some areas are faring well, various species are threatened in the parks, including paddlefish and the freshwater mucket and purple wartyback mussels.

Among the improvements recommended in the draft plan are trail restoration, a new cross-country ski trail, new trails that can withstand flooding and better connections to local bike and pedestrian trails and to nearby Victoria Park. A pump track or off-road BMX bike park is recommended for Hidden Falls Park along with the reconfiguration of one of the parking areas. Better ways to accommodate groups and cultural events are suggested along with ways to recognize the heritage of local American Indian tribes.

The master plan addresses a wide range of maintenance concerns, from controlling invasive species and the problems caused by free-running dogs to vehicle break-ins and the need for additional security measures. Safety improvements for bicyclists and pedestrians at the parks' entrances are recommended. The master plan also refers to the possible expansion of Hidden Falls Park through the reuse of Ford Motor Company's former assembly plant property.

Hidden Falls Park encompasses 131 acres, and Crosby Farm has 481 acres when the lakes and wetlands are included. A task force began work on the master plan for the parks last fall with help from focus groups and an online survey. City staff, the National Parks Service and Great River Greening were all involved in the study.

## Watergate boaters fear park improvements will infringe on marina

By JANE McCLURE

Boaters who dock at Watergate Marina got their first look at the proposed master plan for Hidden Falls and Crosby Farm parks on February 6, and they are concerned about the effects the changes could have on marina operations.

About 160 boats are docked at Watergate. Allied Management, which operates the

marina, had a representative on the parks master plan task force, but some boat owners were not aware of the planning process. "I feel that our input has been missed," said Virgil Amsden of Highland Park, commodore of the Watergate Yacht Club.

Amsden said that while everyone can agree that Hidden Falls and Crosby Farm parks need improvement, the improvements need to be made in a way that does not in-

fringe on the marina or boaters' property. The Yacht Club is especially concerned about the proposed environmental learning center. "That could bring in a lot of visitors and a lot of traffic," Amsden said.

Some boaters sleep on their boats in the marina during the summer, and they worry about their safety. Theft from boats is a frequent problem.

"We have a lot of money tied up in our

boats," one woman said. "We have a lot of problems already. It would be very worrisome to bring more of the public in."

Anne Gardner, who is managing the master plan project in the city's Parks and Recreation Department, said city officials will take into account boaters' concerns with the parks plan, including the possible placement of trails near the marina. As for security, that is a problem in all city parks, she said.

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# Proposed rezoning for new tea house stirs up controversy on Grand

By JANE McCLURE

A controversial request to rezone the property at 770 Grand Ave. from community business-converted (BC) to traditional neighborhoods 2 (TN2) will be reviewed by the St. Paul City Council in March. The St. Paul Planning Commission recommended the rezoning with a 10-2 vote on February 8. That followed a 3-2 vote by the Summit Hill Association (SHA) Zoning and Land Use Committee in support of the rezoning.

Both votes followed heated debates between the family who owns 770 Grand and the family who owns the adjoining Grand Ole Creamery and Grand Pizza at 750 Grand. The converted house at 770 Grand had been used as a hair salon and upstairs apartment since 1993. Longtime occupant Rosie's Salon & Day Spa closed in 2017, and the Shakibi family, who owns the building, has had a hard time finding a new tenant.

Siblings Arash and Shem Shakibi said they have tried to lease the space for many months, and most of the inquiries they have received were from restaurants and coffee and tea houses, which are not allowed in a BC zone. The Shakibis would now like to lease the space to Treats, a tea house that sells hot beverages, ice cream and other treats.

Vorak Seng and Trisha Dinh, the husband and wife who own Treats, live in Shakopee but hope to move into the upstairs apartment at 770 Grand. They are partnering with Sebastian Joe's ice cream on their prospective shop. Their family also owns the Jamba Juice at Grand and Snelling avenues and Waffle Bar Desserts & Tea in Minneapolis.

The Huffman family, which has owned and operated Grand Ole Creamery for 35 years, objected to the competition posed by another ice cream shop on the block. However, the Shakibis' request has also raised concerns about spot zoning, which is illegal under state law, and the potential for the rezoned property to be redeveloped in the future with a larger mixed-use structure.

Chuck Repke, who represents the Huffman family, contends that the prospective change to TN2 constitutes spot zoning. He asked the Planning Commission's Zoning Committee to consider the long-term effect of rezoning, not just the needs of a prospective tenant. Instead of rezoning one BC property, Repke urged the Planning Commission to undertake a larger study of BC zoning.

The BC zone was created in the 1980s to allow single-family houses on Grand to be used by less intensive businesses while retaining their appearance as homes.

"Traditional neighborhoods is not as narrow in scope as the BC zone and would allow many more types of uses," said Repke, who is a former member of the Planning Commission. BC zoning has been used to protect the look and feel of Grand Avenue, he added, "and the property owners are asking you to tear that apart."

Allan Torstenson, a city planner, argued that the change to TN2 does not constitute spot zoning because the new uses that would be allowed by the rezoning are similar to other uses in the area. The rezoning is also compatible with the city's comprehensive plan, he said.

The Planning Commission's Zoning Committee debated the rezoning request at length on January 31 before recommending its approval on a 7-1 vote. Several planning commissioners said the rezoning makes sense if it is the only way to allow a restaurant to locate there.

However, Zoning Committee chair Daniel Edgerton, who cast the sole vote against the request, contended that it constitutes spot zoning. "I understand and appreciate what the applicant wishes to do," Edgerton said, "but I also see that this could be detrimental to the future of BC zoning." Businesses that are allowed in BC zones "were selected for that zoning for a reason," he added.

Grand Ole Creamery co-owner Heather Huffman said her family is worried about the upzoning of 770 Grand and the potential for more intensive land uses there. If 770 Grand and similar properties on the avenue were torn down and redeveloped with more intensive uses, "it would really change the character of Grand," she said.

Adding another food-related business would overwhelm a block that already has nine other food-related businesses, according to Grand Ole Creamery co-owner Gary Huffman. Grand and the alley between Grand and Lincoln Avenue are congested now, he said.

Gary Huffman and other opponents of the rezoning also objected to the lack of notice of the rezoning request. They complained that the SHA's Zoning and Land use Committee meeting and vote were held on a Sunday and at the Palace Community Center, which is outside the neighborhood.

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# Viewpoint

## DFL's early ward conventions deter challengers, stifle debate

BY DAVID DURENBERGER, SHIRLEY ERSTAD AND JOHN MANNILLO

Anyone who has been around St. Paul politics for long recognizes that for all intents and purposes it is a one-party town dominated by the DFL. This year all seven City Council seats and four School Board seats will be on the ballot. However, St. Paul's DFL leadership has manipulated the endorsement schedule to limit public input and pick favorites. This is unhealthy for democracy.

The DFL has chosen Sunday, March 10, as the date for all precinct caucuses across the city. The purpose of the precinct caucuses is to conduct party business, consider resolutions to be included in the party platform, and elect delegates to the ward conventions where City Council candidates will be endorsed.

In Wards 2, 3 and 4, DFL leaders have scheduled the ward conventions to immediately follow the precinct caucuses on March 10—and worse yet, at 5:30 on that Sunday evening. When has any important public meeting ever been scheduled on a Sunday night? With no DFL challengers to the City Council incumbents in Ward 2, 3 and 4 at this point, they are virtually guaranteed the party endorsement.

In Wards 1, 5, 6 and 7, the St. Paul DFL has scheduled the endorsing conventions from six to eight weeks after the precinct caucuses. In these wards, it is conceivable that new candidates will emerge in the intervening weeks, requiring all candidates to work hard to court delegates and weather debate and discussion. What delegate does not welcome the

opportunity to get to know candidates better and make more informed choices?

The DFL has made a decision to protect its incumbent City Council members in Wards 2, 3 and 4, seemingly reluctant to expose them to potential new candidates and the shifting loyalties of demanding delegates. In fact, a prospective City Council candidate in Ward 4 deployed to the Middle East asked the DFL city chair if that ward's convention could be delayed until after he returns from active duty. The answer was “no.”

Coincidentally, the residents of Wards 2, 3 and 4—have the highest voter turnout in the city—have confronted vitally important and controversial issues over the past four years, including the selection of a modern streetcar as the preferred alternative in the proposed Riverview transit corridor, the approval of a master plan for the Ford site, the override of a two-year Marshall Avenue rezoning study, a study of the repurposing of the Highland 9-Hole Golf Course, the rezoning of Snelling Avenue and the building of a Major League Soccer stadium and proposed redevelopment of the adjacent Midway Shopping Center. These issues are redefining life in Wards 2, 3 and 4 and reshaping the city's future. And the three incumbents are going to be spared a process that would steel and toughen them and hold them accountable to the public?

The DFL is, in effect, tipping the scales in support of three incumbents and denying citizens any meaningful discussion of these huge and transformative community decisions. In a one-party town, the DFL endorsement almost guarantees

election, giving the endorsed candidate party voter lists, money, volunteers, events, publicity, mailings and more. A City Council candidate needs to raise \$100,000 to be competitive today, and access to DFL Party resources is a major advantage.

Why is the St. Paul DFL leadership curtailing its own process and picking winners? Over the years, the DFL has fallen into this trap a number of times, trying to limit access to the process for candidates and newcomers so that incumbents are guaranteed re-election.

Paul Wellstone was the force in 1990 who blew the hinges off the doors of the DFL, bringing in party newcomers from all over Minnesota to make the DFL “the party of the people who show up.” In 2008 Barack Obama did the same thing, advertising Minnesota DFL caucuses on TV while Clinton supporters in the state party, in hushed tones, counted on the party faithful to endorse their chosen candidate.

Foreclosing the democratic process, or the DFL Party process, is ultimately a prescription for the party's irrelevance. This is the capital of Minnesota. St. Paul should lead the way in reminding folks what democracy looks like. The words “inclusion” and “diversity” should mean something, and the DFL should walk their talk.

*This guest editorial was signed by Durenberger, Erstad, Mannillo and the other members of the steering committee of St. Paul STRONG, a nonpartisan organization dedicated to improving representative government in St. Paul by encouraging open and transparent public processes in City Hall.*

## Inbox

### Pedestrians, be wary

“He came out of nowhere” is a phrase we so often hear from the driver or the victim in an auto accident. It actually happened on a recent morning when a runner came within inches of my left headlight just as I touched the gas to leave the intersection of Highland Parkway and Davern Street.

It was dark at 6:15 a.m. Stopped at the stop sign, I looked to the right and saw no one. I then looked left and saw no one. As I looked forward, a person wearing dark clothing darted in front of my car from the right, barely clearing my left headlight. That intersection would have been the scene of a “911” incident just a second earlier.

Highland Parkway is a regular running and walking route in the early morning. People often walk in the middle of the street. Many do not wear reflective clothing. For drivers, the path is narrow with cars parked on one side and the boulevard in the center. So it's safer for pedestrians to wear protective clothing, stay out of the middle of the street and keep an eye peeled for cars when you cross at an intersection.

*Judith Erdmann  
Highland Park*

### A reprieve for our ash trees?

I hope the city of St. Paul will consider putting a few brain cells to work this spring to determine if the continued execution of ash trees is really necessary given the extremely cold weather we're experiencing this winter. Before proceeding as planned, perhaps we should pause. The extremely cold weather may be mother nature's solution to these pesky invaders. Cutting down many centuries' growth of ash trees could be a waste of government resources when saving these valuable green canopies is possible.

*Jean Hoppe  
Highland Park*

### A roundabout way to reroute

Regarding “Funding lines up for Lexington Pkwy. reroute” (*Villager*, January 30), might the Metropolitan Council and Highland District Council consider swapping out the current plan and opt instead for a roundabout at the intersection of Montreal Avenue, Lexington Parkway and West Seventh Street?

With the inclusion of some impressive landscaping or architecture in the center of the roundabout, it would provide an excellent opportunity to create a landmark entrance into

the city. The roundabout would eliminate the awkward turns from eastbound West Seventh to Montreal and Lexington. The streets involved are no more than two lanes in any direction, so the learning curve would be short, thanks in great part to the numerous two-lane roundabouts that exist elsewhere in the Twin Cities. Perhaps most important, though, this would present St. Paul with a golden opportunity to do something innovative and bold.

Skeptical? One could set up a temporary roundabout to see how it goes for a few months. And as for the landscaping or architecture at the center, I have two words: design contest.

*Michael Gottsacker  
Macalester-Groveland*

### Hockey tourney thanks

A great big thank you to all of the organizations that helped make our annual St. Paul Cup High School Hockey Tournament a huge success. The tournament was a fundraiser to support Minnesota Wild Blind Hockey. Thanks especially to Mayor Melvin Carter, the St. Paul Police Department, the St. Paul Fire Department, the Minnesota Wild Blind Hockey, Tria Rink facilities and our wonderful St. Paul Scots and St. Paul Johnson coaches, players and families. We couldn't do it without all of your enthusiastic support.

A huge thank-you to our fabulous sponsors: Thrivent Financial, Hiway Federal Credit Union, Strauss Skates and Bicycles, Chick-fil-A, Jimmy John's, Randstad Professionals, TruStone Financial, Play It Again Sports, Kell Architects, Warners' Stellian, Bad Weather Brewing, ReMax Results, Value Plus Flooring and DeGidio's.

*Heidi Sturm, Member  
Scots Hockey Booster Club*

### Love our neighbors

I was sad to read the guest editorial by Kathleen Deming (“Where have all the neighbors gone? Turning inward everyone,” *Villager*, January 30). Sometimes perspective is everything. She states that neighbors are not as neighborly as they once were in the Macalester-Groveland area. My wife and I also live in Macalester-Groveland, and though we don't have the history in it that she has, we have been here going on 32 years. At 73, we are just a year younger than Ms. Deming, yet we probably interact with our neighbors now more than we ever have.

In a world of electronic gadgets, people are less inclined to interact, but that world is not going away. In our neighborhood we have started sharing happy hours through the summer, and we still make a point of inviting any new neighbors each time. Those names are also added to our

Christmas party list each year. Also, often when we go on vacation, it's not surprising to see our lawn mowed, leaves raked or snow shoveled without any asking. Tools are swapped and help is shared.

Ms. Deming regrets that she has to reach out to the Neighborhood Network for Seniors for help or companionship, asking, “What's wrong with our culture that we must have organizations to look out for our elders?” Why is this a problem? These might be the same people from whom she is looking for help and they are taking the time and effort to do so.

*Mike Casey  
Macalester-Groveland*

### Licensing illegal immigrants

Regarding the letter “Giving the vote to illegals” (*Villager* Inbox, January 30): As a landscaper in the Twin Cities, I work with many crew members from Central America. They are the most courteous, hard-working, intelligent and skilled people I have ever known. They are not illegal. They have H2B visas, designed to enable seasonal workers to come to the United States and return to their families in the offseason.

The reason to allow undocumented immigrants living and working in the United States to get driver's licenses is so that they will take the test and pass the driving exam, making them better drivers. Otherwise, they are forced to get false licenses in order to work. Those documents have no training requirements. The letter writer claims that giving noncitizens an ID or driver's license would entitle them to vote. Noncitizens are not allowed to vote in any federal or statewide election even with a legal ID.

I worked at a different landscaping company that unknowingly hired undocumented immigrants who had false papers. I tried to help those workers get unemployment benefits in the offseason and discovered that their Social Security numbers were not valid. This meant that they were paying Social Security taxes but would never receive the benefits. These kind, dedicated workers lived in fear of being discovered. They led upstanding lives, contributing to society here in Minnesota.

*Meg Arnosti  
Macalester-Groveland*

### Socialized services fall short

Socialized trash collection has come to St. Paul. My recycling hasn't been picked up for three of the last four weeks. My trash wasn't picked up last week. Thanks a lot to our Democratic friends at City Hall.

*Vernon Jorgensen  
Macalester-Groveland*

# MH to get upgraded, expanded fire station

By Kevin Driscoll

The city of Mendota Heights' only fire station is going to be expanded and remodeled for the first time since it was built in 1984, according to City Administrator Mark McNeill. A limit of \$7 million has been allocated for improving the station, which is located on Dodd Road south of Highway 62.

"That figure was lower when research and development began in 2015," McNeill said, "but construction costs have forced it up so the City Council put a cap on it last August."

Last month, the council authorized advertising for bids for the project. McNeill said the bids are scheduled to be opened on February 20 and the hope is to have the council award the contracts on March 5.

"We've hired our own construction manager rather than a general contractor," he said, "with an idea of keeping a closer tab on costs. We want to break ground in mid-April."

The expansion and remodeling will be financed with capital improvement bonds over 15 years. That will increase taxes by about \$91 per year on a median-priced home of \$356,000 in Mendota Heights and around \$129 a year on a \$500,000 home.

About \$5.9 million of the bond issue will go toward construction, McNeill said, and the rest will pay for architectural and construction management fees and bond insurance.

"If the cost goes any higher, we'll have to find more funding sources or reduce the scope of the project," McNeill said.

Fire Chief Dave Dreelan, who has been



Mendota Heights plans to nearly double the size of its fire station on Dodd Road.

*"If the cost goes any higher, we'll have to find more funding sources or reduce the scope of the project,"*  
McNeill said.

with the department since 1991 and was promoted to chief in 2017, said the current 18,000-square-foot station operates with a total staff of 36, including officers and firefighters, and houses two fire engines, one ladder truck, one tanker, one rescue truck and several support vehicles. Two HealthEast ambulances are left parked outside.

"We're pretty tightly squeezed in there," Dreelan said. The project will add a total of nearly 15,000 square feet to three areas of the existing building.

A large addition to the north of the current station will be used to expand the apparatus

bay and add a mezzanine to "allow us some breathing and moving space," Dreelan said. "We'll also be adding a new training facility, new classroom, gear washing and equipment-decontamination facilities, upgraded heating and air conditioning equipment, and complete upgrades of all information technology equipment."

The project also will provide new administrative offices, a day room, dining area, kitchen, dorm rooms, restrooms, laundry and locker room.

Two smaller additions southeast and southwest of the existing station will provide space to display the station's history and original fire truck, and garage bays for the two HealthEast ambulances.

The Mendota Heights Fire Department, which has been in existence since 1947, also serves Lilydale, Mendota and Sunfish Lake. It handles about 300 service calls a year, according to Dreelan.

# Mendota Heights puts finishing touches to 2040 Plan

By Kevin Driscoll

The Mendota Heights Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the city's 2040 Comprehensive Plan at 7 p.m. Tuesday, February 26, at City Hall, 1101 Victoria Curve in Mendota Heights. The hearing will be the third and likely final public hearing on the plan, which could be approved by the Mendota Heights City Council as early as March 5.

A blueprint for development over the next 20 years, the 2040 Plan recommends courses of action in the areas of land use, transportation, housing, economic development, parks and trails, natural resources and the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area.

Several changes to the plan were made in response to comments received at a January

22 Planning Commission hearing. The biggest change was in the Natural Resources section, which according to master gardener Cindy Johnson was not "anywhere near ready for presentation to the City Council." Another heavily changed section is the one for the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area, according to planning commissioner John Mazzitello.

Also changed was a provision calling for the creation of two new zoning districts with minimum lot sizes of 5,000 and 9,000 square feet, respectively. The minimum lot size in Mendota Heights is currently 15,000 square feet. Although the above provision would have only applied to two areas of Mendota Heights where the smaller lots already existed, residents were concerned that it would allow property owners across the city to subdivide

larger lots, according to Planning Commission chair Litton Field Jr.

Nevertheless, the Planning Commission removed the provision and instead will recommend that the City Council pass an ordinance relieving those who own lots of under 15,000 square feet from having to pay fees for zoning variances when they want to build an addition.

If the Planning Commission approves the plan on February 26, it will be presented to the City Council on March 5 for final approval. The plan will then be forwarded to the Metropolitan Council for inclusion in the region's 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

For more information on the 2040 Plan, contact Mendota Heights Community Development director Tim Benetti at 651-452-1850 or timb@mendota-heights.com.

# VILLAGER

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Maurice F. Mischke, 1920-1991

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# Boomers & Beyond */Living on the upside of 50*

## Caravan of mercy

Rice makes his 19th annual mission trip to Honduras with the Int'l Health Service

BY ANNE MURPHY

Steve Rice spent the early part of February packing for his annual excursion to the tropics. The three-week trip is not a winter vacation in the usual sense. He left for Honduras on February 10 as a volunteer with the International Health Service of Minnesota (IHSMN).

Rice, 76, serves as a Spanish interpreter for the medical professionals who volunteer with the IHSMN. He has been making the trip every year for the past 19 years, since before he retired as a mortgage counselor for the city of St. Paul, and he now serves as a member of IHSMN's board of directors.

IHSMN was founded in 1982 by Knute Panuska, Don Watson and Jim Alexander, two dentists and a pharmacist, respectively. "Thirty-seven years later, IHSMN organizes 50 to 100 volunteers each year to work in Honduras," Rice said. "They provide free medical, dental and eye care services in areas as remote as Minnesota's Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness."

Rice became an IHSMN volunteer in 2001. "My wife and I had worked in the Peace Corps in a remote section of Honduras from 1973 to 1976," he said. "We had grown to appreciate and respect the Honduran people who lived in extremely difficult circumstances. They were very self-reliant and humble, hard-working people."

*"People are hurting (in Honduras)," Rice said.... "Many of the patients are Miskito Indians and as such are largely ignored by the Latino power structure."*

"I had learned of IHSMN by accident at a booth at a Midwest Mountaineering tent sale in downtown," Rice said. "The proprietor had just run a whitewater rafting trip down one of the rivers where my wife and I had done our Peace Corps work. I had the cash and the vacation time available and so I decided to give the group a try. I came home thoroughly impressed. IHSMN actually benefitted the people. They were well organized. And the volunteers carried the attitude of being humbled by the opportunity to make a positive difference in the lives of the people they served. IHSMN volunteers tell me the experience has changed their lives for the better. In any given year, there is a 50 percent return rate of volunteers."

IHSMN sends teams twice a year to Honduras—in the fall to identify locations where help is needed and in February to provide the care, according to Dr. Joseph Tombers, the organization's medical director. All of the trips are to the remote La

Mosquita region where the need for medical and dental care is especially great. "I felt obligated to reach out and help. We all do," said Tombers, a retired Twin Cities physician who began volunteering with IHSMN 20 years ago.

The desire to help the Honduran people is also why IHSMN board member and project director John Pope became involved. An IT specialist at a large Twin Cities corporation, Pope started volunteering for IHSMN in 2005. "When I first contacted them, they said they didn't have a need (for a radio operator) at the time," Pope recalled. "But they said if I spoke Spanish, I could go as a translator. I did, and I ended up helping as a radio operator, too."

As project director, Pope focuses on trip logistics. This includes making arrangements for equipment as well as communicating with the volunteers. Mike Stapp, a project manager with U.S. Bank in St. Paul, also became an IHSMN volunteer out of his interest in ham radio operations. That was nine years ago, and he has traveled to Honduras every February since. Now he is part of the team that provides eye care and eye glasses to the Hondurans.

"Many of the volunteers are at retirement age," Stapp said. "I'm not there yet, but I'm fortunate to work for an employer that supports volunteerism. I use vacation time, but they're always delighted that I'm going."



Steve Rice will wear the hat of an International Health Service volunteer in Honduras this month. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

"Minnesotans have always been known for a high level of volunteerism and supporting volunteerism," Tombers said. "Our organization reflects Minnesotans' desire to help those who don't have what we have. Going to Honduras is a life-changing experience."

"We always ask ourselves, 'Does it make a difference?'" Rice said. "Being able to see a doctor or dentist or getting a pair of glasses to help you see is a big deal when the alternative is no dentist, no doctor or impaired

vision.

"People are hurting (in Honduras)," Rice said. "They suffer from infections, cuts, parasites, burns, malnutrition and a host of other maladies. Many of the patients are Miskito Indians and as such are largely ignored by the Latino power structure. Our American, Canadian and European volunteers show up yearly and attend to their needs. It's an affirmation of their importance

STEVE RICE ► 10

St. Paul native, Nick Diffatte, has won multiple national awards for both magic and comedy. At only 23, he's already headlined on the Las Vegas strip, at the famous Magic Castle in LA, and on the Late Late Show with James Corden

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June Peterson holds one of the hundreds of baby blankets she has made for Ramsey County's Mothers First program. She is shown with other volunteers who have regularly convened at her Minneapolis home over the years to assemble layettes for newborns of moms struggling with substance abuse. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

## A helping hand for Mothers First

BY IRIC NATHANSON

June Peterson has lost track of the number of baby-sized flannel blankets she has made over the years. "People keep telling me that I've made over 1,000, but I think the real number is closer to 700," said the South Minneapolis resident.

Peterson's blankets are a labor of love for Mothers First, a Ramsey County program that helps women struggling with substance abuse have successful pregnancies. Her blankets are included in layettes assembled by a group of volunteers.

Tina Fahnestock, a Highland Park resident and longtime Mothers First volunteer, said she and a group of friends, many of them from Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, first came together in 2006 when they learned that the county needed layettes for the women in the program. The group is now chaired by Gretchen Cudak, one of the original members from Gloria Dei.

"We get together every January to put together about 60 layettes," Fahnestock said. "Each one includes baby products, infant care books and a gift for the mother. We always include one of June's lovely handmade blankets."

"Often our layettes are the only gifts the moms have received while they're in the hospital or after they've come home with their babies."

Peterson is retiring this year from making the blankets, but she still plans to stay involved with Mothers First. On January 22, her work was recognized at a celebration hosted by her fellow volunteers at the Becketwood senior cooperative where she lives.

Peterson said her involvement with Mothers First has been very fulfilling. "I've had a chance to work with and get to know some very capable women who come back year after year to assist in this worthwhile effort," she said.

Peterson and the other volunteers make their contributions anonymously, so they do not get to meet the women and children who receive their layettes.

"It'd be difficult for us to connect with the families directly, knowing all the challenges they're facing," Peterson said, "but Ramsey County does forward the thank-you letters from the mothers, so we know we're helping them in a very tangible way."

Peterson's husband, Gene, often had a chance to help with her blanket-making. The two of them would work as a team when Jo-Ann Fabrics put its bolts of flannel on sale the day after Thanksgiving.

"We'd get to the store at 6 a.m. so we could be in the front of the line when the doors opened," Gene said. "I'd get a number for us, while June went searching for the best material before it got picked over. It was always something of a madhouse on Black Friday, but people were good-natured and there weren't a lot of sharp elbows trying to push in front of us."

While June Peterson will no longer be contributing to the layettes on a regular basis, she is passing her blanket-making mantle to several new volunteers. "It's the right time for me to stop, knowing that the work will continue," she said.

Judith Maddux, one of the newer Mothers First volunteers, lauded Peterson's contribution to their cooperative effort. "She's so compassionate and she's always ready to give of herself. We're all so lucky that she's been part of our group for so long," Maddux said.

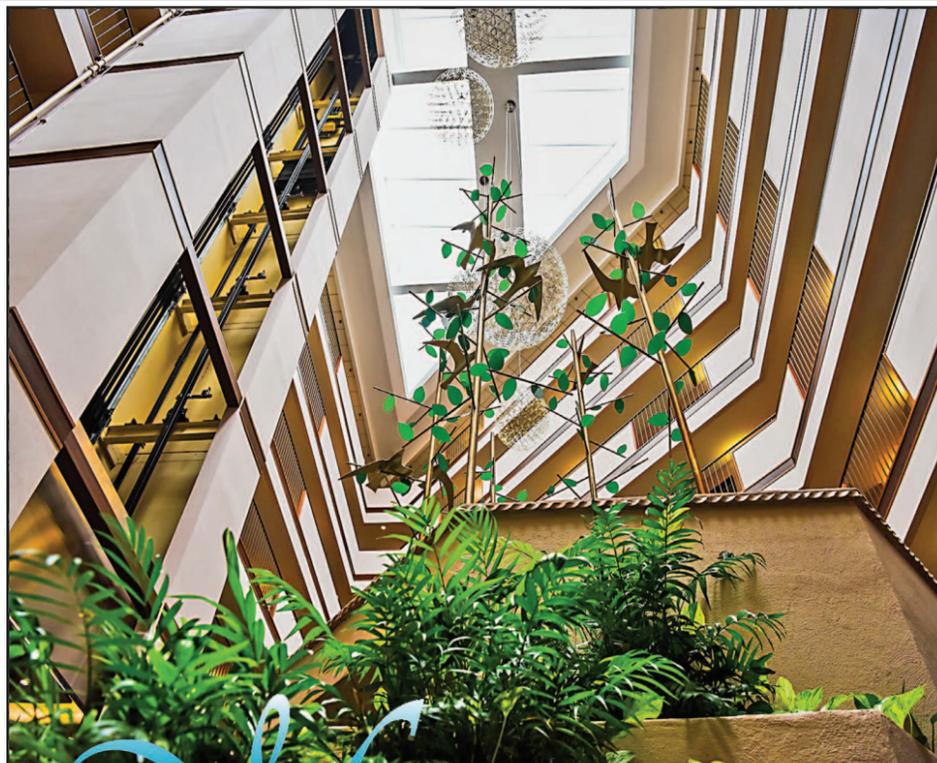
Fahnestock, a speech pathologist with the St. Paul Public Schools, said the volunteers get a lot of joy from coming together to assemble the layettes. "We've been able to celebrate our own time as mothers and now we're able to help those expectant moms who may not have had the support and friendship we received," she said. "Many of us are educators, and we understand how important it is for children to come into the world chemical-free."

Nikki Miller, program manager for Mothers First, said she knows the program's work has a significant return on the investment the volunteers make.

"If we can help mothers give birth to healthy, substance-free babies, we can head off significant expenditures later on by Ramsey County and other public agencies," Miller said. "Those of us on the staff here at Ramsey County, along with our clients, are so appreciative of the work done by June Peterson and her volunteer group. They've been with us over the long term. That's particularly heartening to those of us who work with Mothers First on a day-to-day basis."

Miller added that Peterson's blankets are really appreciated. "Because they're handmade, they mean so much to our clients who are facing serious challenges during their pregnancies," she said. "All of us in the program owe June a vote of thanks for the contributions she's made over so many years."

Mothers First has assisted women struggling with substance abuse since 1988. The program provides prenatal, nursing, chemical health and case management services. For information, call 651-266-7820 or visit the office at 1919 University Ave., Suite 112.



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# District Council News

## Highland Park

highlanddistrictcouncil.org • 651-695-4005

**Ford site master plan**—Ryan Companies' amendments to the city of St. Paul's master plan for Ford Motor Company's former assembly plant will be discussed by the St. Paul Planning Commission's Comprehensive and Neighborhood Planning Committee from 4:30-6 p.m. Wednesday, February 20, on the 13th floor of the City Hall Annex, 25 W. Fourth St.

**Upcoming meetings**—Community Development Committee, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 19; and Community Engagement Committee, 6:45 p.m. Tuesday, February 26. Both meetings will be held at the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy.

## Macalester-Groveland

macgrove.org • 651-695-4000

**Get involved**—The Macalester-Groveland Community Council currently has an opening for a Grid 5 residential representative on its board of directors. The board also has three standing committees that meet once a month. Those who attend three consecutive meetings can become voting members. For information, visit [macgrove.org/committees](http://macgrove.org/committees).

**Upcoming meetings**—Transportation Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, February 25, Edcumbe Recreation Center; and Housing and Land Use Committee, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 27, Groveland Recreation Center.

## Summit Hill

summithillassociation.org • 651-222-1222

**Book club series**—The second book for the Summit Hill Association Book Club is *White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo. The book club will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, February 19, at the Linwood Recreation Center, 860 St. Clair Ave. A pizza dinner is provided and childcare is available. Register by emailing [director@summithillassociation.org](mailto:director@summithillassociation.org).

**Join the team**—The SHA has openings for volunteers and board members. People can apply on its website, by emailing [info@summithillassociation.org](mailto:info@summithillassociation.org) or by calling Monica Haas at 651-276-2688.

## Union Park

unionparkdc.org • 651-645-6887

**Board openings**—The Union Park District Council has seats open on its board of directors in Grids 1 and 7. Anyone who lives in a grid can apply. The council is especially interested in attracting more renters and improving the board's racial and gender diversity. For information, including a grid map, visit [unionparkdc.org/our-work/our-board](http://unionparkdc.org/our-work/our-board). Applications are due by February 26. Those interested in applying should email [brandon@unionparkdc.org](mailto:brandon@unionparkdc.org).

**Upcoming meetings**—Committee on Land Use and Economic Development, 6:30 p.m. Monday, February 18, at 1821 University Ave., Suite 330; Environment and Parks Commit-

tee, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 20, at the Merriam Park Recreation Center, 2000 St. Anthony Ave; and Neighborhood Involvement Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, February 25, at the Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave.

## West 7th

fortroadfederation.org • 651-298-5599

**Board update**—At its meeting on January 14, the West Seventh/Fort Road Federation's board of directors approved supporting increasing the legal age for tobacco sales from 18 to 21 years old in St. Paul. They also discussed amendments to the Ford site master plan and reiterated the position that the Canadian Pacific Railroad spur line should be used for pedestrian and bike use, not motorized vehicles.

**Board candidates**—Informational sessions for people who are interested in running for a seat on the federation's board of directors will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, February 16, and at 6 p.m. Thursday, February 21, at the federation office, 974 W. Seventh St. For information and to register, call the office or email Emily Northey at [emily@fortroadfederation.org](mailto:emily@fortroadfederation.org).

**Answers sought**—A discussion on "What Does an Improved West Seventh Mean to You?" has been rescheduled for 6:30 p.m. Thursday, February 28, at the Palace Recreation Center, 781 Palace Ave. A task force of the West Seventh Business Association and Fort Road Federation identified nine operating principles related to improved transit on West Seventh and is inviting neighbors to participate in the discussion.

A volunteer nurse from the International Health Service of Minnesota tends to an ill child at a clinic in a rural area of Honduras.



### 8◀ STEVE RICE

and a source of hope.

"Our nurses provide training on simple hygiene issues and tend to a myriad of health issues," Rice said. "We stock tiny regional hospitals with medical supplies that may not otherwise be available. We see needs, and then we return with donated equipment those hospitals don't have."

"I've been to Honduras with my wife, my sister and my daughter when she was in medical school and her residency," Rice continued. "My wife and sister probably wondered why I kept returning,

wondering how much time I was spending on the beach with a rum and Coke. It isn't by accident that a Minnesota-based group goes to Honduras in February. But by doing good for others, we also do good for ourselves. That applies to us individually and to our country. The challenge of the future is to demonstrate our importance as a nation by modeling assistance and generosity to others."

According to Rice, IHSMN has an ongoing need for volunteers, including medical, dental and support personnel and especially surgical nurses. For more information, visit [ihsmn.org](http://ihsmn.org).

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# The Kiosk

## Wednesday/February 13

**“THE UNIVERSE BENEATH** Our Feet: Restoring Soil Ecosystems” will be discussed by the Longfellow Garden Club at 7 p.m. at Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37th Ave S. Minneapolis. Kassie Brown of Renaissance Soil will explain how to promote healthy soil in a garden. Visit [tinyurl.com/LGCminnesota](http://tinyurl.com/LGCminnesota).

## Thursday/February 14

**THE WASHINGTON WAR** author James Lacey will discuss the struggle among FDR’s advisers regarding the efforts to pay for World War II in a history roundtable from 7-9 p.m. in the Visitors Center at Historic Fort Snelling. Admission is \$5, free for students and veterans. Call 612-726-1171.

## Friday/February 15

**PREVENTING SUICIDE** by using the question, persuade and refer approach will be taught in a free class from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the National Alliance on Mental Illness, 1919 University Ave., Suite 400. To register, call 651-645-2948 ext. 198.

## Saturday/February 16

**MIDDLE EAST PEACE NOW** president Janet Tollund will tell about her recent tour of the Yasser Arafat Museum in Ramallah from 10 a.m.-noon at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 S. Snelling Ave. The museum pays tribute to the Palestinian struggle for freedom and recognition. Admission is free and open to all.

**ENDING CHILDHOOD MARRIAGE** will be addressed in a free program from 1-2:30 p.m. at the Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy. Abigail Henchek, Chloe Morse, a Benjamin B. Ferencz Young

Fellow and Ellen Kennedy will speak about the practice, a bill to end it in Minnesota and policies to reduce discrimination and violence against women. Call 651-695-7621.

## Sunday/February 17

**“THE MIDDLE EAST: A Region in Turmoil”** will be addressed in a Great Decisions program at 1:30 p.m. at the Waters of Highland Park, 678 S. Snelling Ave. S. Free and open to all, the program will open with a 20-minute film followed by a discussion of the Trump administration’s diplomacy in the region and the threat of war with Iran. Call 651-363-3040.

## Monday/February 18

**PLANT PROPAGATION** will be discussed by St. Cloud State biology professor William Cook during a meeting of the Garden Club of Ramsey County at 7:25 p.m. at St. Luke Lutheran Church, 1807 Field Ave. Admission is free and open to all.

## Tuesday/February 19

**“ABORTION, RACISM and the Black Community: Dismantling Planned Parenthood”** will be discussed this evening by the Argument Club for Women at the Church of St. Mark, 2001 Dayton Ave. EWTN radio host Gloria Purvis, chair of Black Catholics United for Life, will speak. Dinner will open the affair at 6 p.m., followed by the program from 6:45-9 p.m. Tickets are \$15 at the door, \$10 in advance at [https://acw\\_gloria.eventbrite.com](https://acw_gloria.eventbrite.com).

**THE ST. PAUL CAMERA CLUB** will meet at 6:30 p.m. in Otto Hall in the Gardens building at Episcopal Homes, 1860 University Ave. Photographer Alec Johnson will give a presentation on “Light Painting.” Visitors are welcome.

## Wednesday/February 20

**WANT TO LINE DANCE?** Veteran teacher Dariel Allen is offering an hour-long class at 10 a.m. every Wednesday at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 S. Snelling Ave. Drop in any week. The cost is \$5.

**THE OPTIMIST CLUB** of St Paul will hold a Welcome New Members dinner and informational meeting for prospective members from 6-8 p.m. at Joseph’s Grille, 140 S. Wabasha St. For reservations, call Terry Gorman at 651-690-4576.

## Thursday/February 21

**ST. MARK’S**, a PreK-8 grade school at 1983 Dayton Ave., will hold an open house for prospective students and their families from 6-7 p.m. Meet the teachers and staff and learn about the classical Catholic education offered at St. Mark’s. Call 651-644-3380 or visit [markspride.com](http://markspride.com).

**THE PERSECUTION** of religious minorities in Syria, Myanmar and China will be addressed in a World Without Genocide program from 7-9 p.m. in the Conservatory at Mitchell Hamline School of Law, 875 Summit Ave. Admission is \$10, \$5 for students and seniors. Call 651-695-7621.

## Friday/February 22

**COME AND SEE THE CSJ WAY**, an informational program on the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, consociates and friends will be held from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the Carondelet Center, 1890 Randolph Ave. A two-day overnight retreat is optional. For more information or to register, visit <https://bit.ly/2qIRzgr>.

**WHAT CAN BE LEARNED** from *Fiddler on the Roof* will be discussed this

evening at a meeting of the Institute of Theological and Interdisciplinary Studies in the Weyerhaeuser Building at Macalester College. The film will be screened at 6 p.m. Admission is free and so is the buffet dinner that will be served at intermission. For dinner reservations, call 651-430-0361.

## Saturday/February 23

**ST. PAUL MAYOR** Melvin Carter will host a community conversation on the challenges and opportunities faced by local citizens from 1-2:30 p.m. at Plum’s Neighborhood Bar & Grill, Randolph and Snelling avenues.

## Monday/February 25

**NEED A BUTTON REPLACED?** A hole patched? A pair of pants hemmed? Bring your clothing to the West Seventh Community Center at 265 Oneida St. and Mobile Menders will fix it free of charge between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. For more information, visit [mobilemenders.org](http://mobilemenders.org)

## Tuesday/February 26

**THE MAKE IT O.K. CAMPAIGN** encouraging open conversations about mental illness will be the topic of a Lunch, Learn & Laugh program from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Episcopal Homes Seabury building, 1830 University Ave. The seniors program includes a lunch of baked ziti, mixed salad and bread sticks. The cost is \$8 (cash or check). For reservations, call 651-379-5102.

## Wednesday/February 27

**THE AMERICAN RED CROSS** will be accepting blood donations from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the University of St. Thomas. To make an appointment, visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or call 1-800-733-2767.

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# Crime Report

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

## Highland Park

**Robbery**—A strong-arm robbery occurred at 9:10 a.m. Tuesday, January 22, at BMO Harris Bank, 522 S. Snelling Ave. The suspect handed the teller a note demanding money.

—A robbery at gunpoint occurred at U.S. Bank, 711 S. Cleveland Ave., at 12:39 p.m. Thursday, January 24.

**Theft**—Two pool cues, a case and a handicap sign were stolen from a vehicle on the 2100 block of Pinehurst Avenue on Saturday, January 19.

—Hand tools and power tools were stolen from a work van on the 1700 block of Colvin Avenue during the evening of January 20-21.

—Two flatbed carts were stolen from Seventh Street Storage, 2060 W. Seventh St., between January 24-26.

—Vehicles were stolen on the 1300 block of West Maynard Drive on January 27 and on February 3, and on the 2000 block of Saunders Avenue on February 1.

—Camera equipment was stolen from a vehicle on the 1700 block of Graham Avenue during the evening of January 28-29. Several items also were stolen from a vehicle on Davern Street and Graham between 2:05 a.m.-1:05 p.m. Tuesday, January 29.

**Weapons**—An assault with a gun was reported on the 1400 block of Randolph Avenue on Friday, January 18.

—An assault with a dangerous weapon occurred on the 1700 block of Graham Avenue at 10:28 a.m. Tuesday, January 29.

## Lexington-Hamline

**Burglary**—Suspects tried to steal a mountain bike from a garage on the 1200 block of Portland Avenue at 9:30 p.m. Tuesday, January 22. They were driving a stolen vehicle and fled after damaging the garage door.

**Theft**—A 29-year-old man was arrested for trying to steal more than \$500 in merchandise from the Midway Target at 4:59 p.m. Friday, January 18.

—A MacBook computer was reported stolen on the 1200 block of Concordia Avenue at 2:26 p.m. Wednesday, January 23.

—Vehicles were stolen on the 1100 block of Dayton Avenue on January 19, on the 1200 block of St. Anthony Avenue on January 29 and on the 1100 block of Marshall Avenue on

February 2.

**Weapons**—A student brought a weapon to Gordon Parks High School, 1212 University Ave., at 10 a.m. Friday, January 18.

—Gunfire was reported near the Lexington Parkway light-rail station at 1:26 p.m. Sunday, January 20.

—A tenant armed with a knife tackled another male to the ground around 2:28 a.m. Thursday, January 24, on the 100 block of North Lexington Parkway. Police transported the victim from the scene, but were unable to contact the suspect.

## Macalester-Groveland

**Robbery**—A woman was robbed of her cellphone, backpack, work shoes and sketch book by two suspects on the 1600 block of Grand Avenue at 1:15 p.m. Saturday, January 26. She was treated at a hospital for head, rib and hip injuries.

**Burglary**—An apartment was broken into on the 2100 block of Grand Avenue during the evening of January 25-26.

**Theft**—A Schwinn bicycle, two toolboxes, checkbooks, glasses and other items were stolen from a garage on the 1500 block of Osceola Avenue during the evening of January 21-22.

—Vehicles were stolen on the 1700 block of Sargent Avenue on January 25, on Lincoln Avenue and Wheeler Street on January 29, on the 1500 block of Grand Avenue on February 2, and on Cleveland and Grand avenues on February 3.

## Mendota Heights

**Burglary**—A business was broken into on the 1000 block of Northland Drive between January 11-14.

**Theft**—Several items were reported stolen from an underground garage on the 1300 block of Riverside Lane at 11:57 p.m. Saturday, January 12.

—Around \$2,900 in lumber and tools were stolen from a construction trailer on the 2300 block of Lexington Avenue during the evening of January 17-18.

## Merriam Park

**Robbery**—Two suspects stole a cellphone and cash from the front desk at the Days Inn, 1964 University Ave., at 8:04 p.m. Wednesday, January 23.

**Burglary**—A cash register and two laptop computers were stolen from Play It Again Sports, 145 N. Snelling Ave., around 8:10 p.m.

Sunday, January 27.

—Break-ins were reported during the morning of Wednesday, January 30, at Izzy's Ice Cream, 2034 Marshall Ave.; Kim's Chow Mein, 2048 Marshall Ave.; and Choo Choo Bob's, 2050 Marshall Ave.

**Theft**—Attempts were made to steal the catalytic converters from two vehicles on the 1700-1900 blocks of Iglehart Avenue on January 19-20.

—Vehicles were stolen on the 1700 block of Ashland Avenue on January 23, on the 1900 block of St. Anthony Avenue on January 24, on the 300 block of Dewey Street on January 25, on the 1900 block of Iglehart Avenue on January 25, on the 1800 block of St. Anthony Avenue on January 25, and on the 100 block of Exeter Place on January 29.

## Snelling-Hamline

**Burglary**—Two males tried to enter an occupied residence on the 1400 block of Carroll Avenue at 2 p.m. Wednesday, January 23, but were scared off and fled before police arrived.

**Theft**—Two boys pulled the cash register drawer out in the sporting goods department of the Midway Walmart and fled with the cash at 8 p.m. Wednesday, January 23.

—Four juveniles were apprehended for trying to smash a cash drawer and steal several items at the Midway Walmart at 4 p.m. Wednesday, January 30.

**Assault**—A 52-year-old man was arrested for making felony threats on the light-rail train near the Hamline Avenue station at 8:41 p.m. Sunday, February 3.

## Summit Hill

**Theft**—A laptop computer was stolen from a vehicle at Palm Beach Tan, 1059 Grand Ave., between 4:30-5:15 p.m. Friday, January 18.

—A wallet and iPhone were reported stolen on the 800 block of Grand Avenue at 10:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 23.

—Backpacks containing iPads were stolen from three vehicles at Punch Pizza, 769 Grand Ave., between noon-1:35 p.m. Thursday, January 24.

—Jewelry worth more than \$1,000 was stolen from a residence on the 600 block of Grand Avenue between January 25-27.

—An iPhone was stolen from a vehicle on the 1000 block of St. Clair Avenue at 12:09 p.m. Sunday, January 27.

—Vehicles were stolen on the 800 block of Osceola Avenue on January 30 and on the

1000 block of St. Clair Avenue on January 30.

## Summit-University

**Robbery**—A robbery at gunpoint occurred on the 700 block of Iglehart Avenue at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 23.

**Burglary**—Break-ins were reported at Revival restaurant at 525 Selby Ave. and Great Harvest Bread Co. at 534 Selby Ave. on January 25-26.

**Theft**—Two bicycles valued at more than \$1,000 were stolen on the 300 block of Marshall Avenue between January 17-26.

—A guitar and Nintendo Switch game console were stolen from a vehicle on the 300 block of Dayton Avenue between 1-9 a.m. Sunday, January 20.

—A laptop computer was stolen from a vehicle on the 600 block of Selby Avenue between 5:30-7:22 p.m. Wednesday, January 23.

—A pizza delivery driver left his vehicle running and came out to find it stolen on the 900 block of Carroll Avenue at 10:29 p.m. Sunday, January 27.

—A running vehicle was stolen at the Martin Luther King Center, 270 N. Mackubin St., at 7 p.m. Tuesday, January 29. The suspect was described as an African woman in her late teens to early 20s wearing a dark-colored hijab.

—Vehicle thefts were reported on the 300 block of Ramsey Street on January 29 and on the 700 block of Marshall Avenue on January 30.

**Sex crime**—A rape was reported on Grotto Street and St. Anthony Avenue at 5:35 a.m. Saturday, January 19.

## West End

**Burglary**—Cash was stolen from JR Macs, 1420 W. Seventh St., around 6 a.m. Friday, January 18.

**Theft**—About \$25,000 worth of wedding dresses were stolen from a U-Haul at the Wedding Shoppe warehouse, 325 Randolph Ave., during the evening of January 20-21.

—A handgun was stolen from a vehicle on the 500 block of View Street on Monday, January 21.

—A vehicle was reported stolen on the 800 block of Scheffer Avenue at 2:07 p.m. Sunday, January 27.

**Weapons**—An intoxicated 66-year-old man was arrested for assaulting his roommate and pointing a handgun at him on the 400 block of Daly Street at 8:11 p.m. Saturday, January 19.

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# On the Town

## Love songs of 1600s

### Ladyslipper Ensemble plucks at the heartstrings of French Baroque

BY JANET LUNDER HANAFIN

Ladyslipper Ensemble will celebrate the season of romance on Thursday, February 21, with French love songs of the 17th century performed on period instruments. The program “FinAmor” (Refined Love) promises “a whirlwind of an evening of joy, bliss, passion, anguish and madness” beginning at 7:30 at the newly christened Summit Center for Arts and Innovation, 1524 Summit Ave. Featured artists include mezzo soprano Sahar Hassan, lutenists Paul Berget and Phillip Rukavina, and viola da gamba players Mary Burke and Julie Elhard.

“We’re excited to share some beautiful gems and rarely heard music,” said Hassan, Ladyslipper’s founder and artistic director. “We enjoy connecting with our listeners, telling them about the music and transporting them to another time and place.”

The ensemble is unique in having a singer perform along with the period instruments. As a vocalist, Hassan said, “I take into consideration the colors the composer paints with musically and let that guide me. My ultimate goal is to do the music justice.”

Lutes, like nearly all plucked stringed instruments, are descended from the Middle Eastern oud. They have a round, hollow body with a flat front and a long neck. Depending on the era, they may have as many as 14 strings made of sheep gut, according to Rukavina, who lives in St. Paul’s Macalester-Groveland neighborhood.

Modern lutes may have nylon or faux gut strings, which are easier to tune. The instrument sounds like a quiet guitar, “but it pops more,” Rukavina said. In the upcoming concert, he will also play a bass lute or theorbo.

The viola da gamba, which is akin to a modern cello, first appeared in the late 15th century and became popular in ensemble music during the Baroque and Renaissance periods. The instrument has seven strings and frets on a fingerboard or neck.

*Like the music, the setting for “FinAmor” is also historic. The Summit Center for Arts and Innovation is the former St. Paul’s Episcopal Church on the Hill designed by Emmanuel Masqueray, the architect of the St. Paul Cathedral.*

Elhard, a guest artist with Ladyslipper and a resident of St. Paul’s West End neighborhood, will also play a lirone on February 21. The bass cousin of the viola da gamba, the lirone was popular in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. It also has a fretted neck, nine to 16 strings, and is held between the legs and played with a bow.

“FinAmor” is part of the New Lute Cafe, a new series of concerts at the Summit Center. It is a spinoff of the Lute Cafe, which Rukavina founded a dozen years ago. The monthly concert series featured various configurations of the 10 or so lute players living in the metropolitan area. Since Rukavina and Berget are both members of Ladyslipper, featuring that ensemble in a New Lute Cafe program was a given.

Hassan founded Ladyslipper Ensemble in 2011 with friends who were passionate about early music. “Chamber music is what I love to do the most,” said Hassan, an Egyptian American who moved to the Twin Cities 12 years ago. “I love the interaction between the musicians and the repertoire.”



Ladyslipper members Paul Berget, theorbo; Mary Burke, viola da gamba; Sahar Hassan, mezzo soprano; Julie Elhard, viola da gamba; and Phil Rukavina, lute. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Finding lost works and rarely heard compositions for Ladyslipper requires some intensive sleuthing, Hassan said. Early music was often played in many different arrangements and with as many players as were available at the time. Ladyslipper members have often had to write out their parts in different keys. “It’s almost like the jazz world,” Hassan said.

“Some of the music in this next concert you can’t find except for facsimile script or notes,” she said. “It’s not that easy to come by, and it isn’t that readable. My colleagues, who are good at early music, make it comprehensible.”

Ladyslipper Ensemble took its name from the Minnesota state flower. Although it is primarily a Twin Cities consort, the members hope to perform in other areas of the state as well and they wanted a name that was memorable and easy to pronounce.

Ladyslipper is known for its performance of early music. However, several years ago it added musicians who play modern instruments and branched into more contemporary music. It has seven core members, and guest artists are used as the need arises.

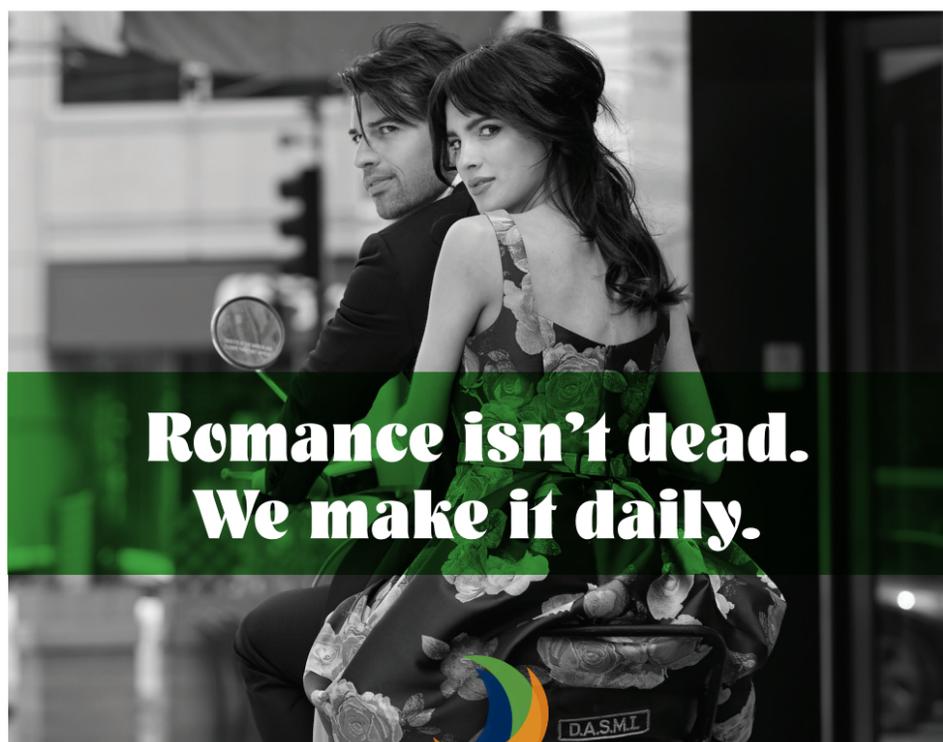
“I didn’t want the group to be pigeon-holed,” Hassan said. “We offer variety on stage. We like to do a whole bunch of combinations in the group. With the modern group we do classical cabaret programs, Gershwin, Kurt Weill. We’re looking to do repertoire that isn’t your mainstream chamber music.”

“We do as much music as possible that isn’t done very often or that people haven’t heard of or that isn’t readily available,” Rukavina said. “It’s a really fun group, very accomplished.”

Like the music, the setting for “FinAmor” is also historic. The Summit Center for Arts and Innovation is the former St. Paul’s Episcopal Church on the Hill, built in 1912 and designed by Emmanuel Masqueray, the French-born architect of the St. Paul Cathedral and Basilica of St. Mary in Minneapolis. It offers exceptional acoustics in a space that seats up to 500.

New Lute Cafe concerts, which last about 80 minutes, tend to be informal, Rukavina said, and include coffee and cookies. Tickets will be available at the door for a suggested donation of \$15.

For more information, call 651-699-1808.



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# On the Town Briefly

## Music

**"Music from the Heart,"** a Valentine's Day edition of Thursday Musical, will feature performances by clarinetist Karen Hansen, flutist Jennifer Kennard, pianist Jeana Ogren and soprano Meghann Schmidt at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, February 14, in Antonello Hall at the MacPhail Center for Music, 501 Second St. S. in Minneapolis. Admission is \$15, \$6 for students. A reception with free coffee and doughnuts will precede the show at 10 a.m. Call 612-333-0313.

**The OK Factor,** the genre-bending duo of cellist Olivia Diercks and violinist Karla Colahan, will perform from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, February 14, in the Ratskellar at Summit Brewing, 910 Montreal Circle. Admission is free.

**"Music from the Land of Three Faiths,"** early sacred, secular and folk songs of the Jews, Christians and Muslims of the Mediterranean, will be performed by the Rose Ensemble at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, February 14, at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. Guest artists include soprano Nell Snaidas and Palestinian instrumentalist Zafer Tawil. Admission is free, but reservations are requested. Call 651-255-4753.

**Grammy Award-winning songstress** Kelly Clarkson will bring her sensual soul-inspired pop to Xcel Energy Center at 7 p.m. Saturday, February 16. Special guests include Kelsea Ballerini and Brynna Cartelli. Call 800-745-3000 or visit [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com).

**The J.C. Sanford Quartet** featuring Zacc Harris, Chris Bates and J.T. Bates will play jazz at 7 p.m. Saturday, February 16 in Studio Z, 275 E. Fourth St., Suite 200. A master class will precede the show at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door. Call 651-755-1600.

**Black poetry and song** composed by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Florence Price, Margaret Price, H. T. Burleigh and Moses Hogan will be featured in a free Black History Month concert by Macalester College students and staff at 3 p.m. Sunday, February 17, in Mairs Concert Hall of Mac's Fine Arts Center.

**"Love Resounding,"** works by Kim D. Sherman, Michael Ching, Moshe Knoll and Victoria Malawey, will be performed by the ARK Trio at 8 p.m. Thursday, February 21, in the Concert Hall of the Fine Arts Center



**Renaissance woman.** Poet, playwright, artist and composer, Russian-born pianist Lera Auerbach will perform Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition and her own Labyrinth for Piano at 3 p.m. Sunday, February 24, in the concert hall of the Fine Arts Center at Macalester College. Tickets for the Chopin Society recital are \$30, \$15 for full-time students. Call 612-822-0123. PHOTO BY N. FELLER

at Macalester College. The trio includes soprano Allison Charney, pianist Reiko Uchida and cellist Kajsa William-Olsson. Admission is free.

**World-class guitarists,** the duo of Goran Ivanovic and Fareed Haque will perform in a Minnesota Guitar Society concert at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, February 23, in Sundin Hall, 1531 Hewitt Ave. The program includes original compositions inspired by jazz, classical, flamenco and Balkan folk music. Tickets are \$10-\$25. Visit [mnguitar.org](http://mnguitar.org).

**Songs of love from the Jewish tradition** will be performed by the River Heights

Chorale, the Mount Zion Temple adult choir and the women's a cappella group Shir Harmony at 7 p.m. Saturday, February 23, at Mount Zion, 1300 Summit Ave. Admission is free, though donations will be accepted for the chorale's scholarship fund.

## Books

**SubText Books,** 6 W. Fifth St., will play host to poets Adrienne Novy, E.J. Schoenborn and Valin Paige reading from their verse on February 14; author Sarah Stacke discussing *Photos Day or Night: The Archive of Hugh Mangum*, her book about the life and work of early 20th-century photographer Hugh Mangum, February 20; an open reading by local writers, February 21; Maryse Meijer reading from her short story collection, *Rag*, February 26; and author Raymond Strom reading from his debut novel, *Northern Lights*, February 27. The programs are free and begin at 7 p.m. Call 651-493-2791.

**Celebrate Valentine's Day** the old-fashioned way from 7-8 p.m. Thursday, February 14, by listening to classic 19th-century poetry

in the drawing room of the James J. Hill House, 240 Summit Ave. Dressed in 1890s evening wear, actors Craig Johnson, Laura Salvesson and Ann Daly will recite poems by Dickinson, Poe, Longfellow, Browning and others that deal with love, romance, temperance, sports and war. Patrons may bring a short Victorian poem of their own to recite. The cost is \$12, light refreshments and tours included. Call 651-285-7550.

**Diesel Heart,** the autobiography of former St. Paul police officer Melvin Carter Jr., who grew up in the old Rondo neighborhood and

is the father of Mayor Melvin Carter III, will be launched from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 20, at the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center, 270 N. Kent St. The free celebration will feature live music.

## Dance

**Contempo Physical Dance** and Brazilian choreographer Nildinha Fonseca of Balé Folclórico da Bahia join forces in a program of contemporary Afro-Brazilian dance at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, February 22 and 23, in the O'Shaughnessy at St. Catherine University. The program will feature the world premiere of Fonseca's "Agbara Obirin" ("Strong Women"). Tickets are \$27 with discounts for students, seniors and military personnel. Call 651-690-6700.

## Exhibits

**"Winter Nights/Summer Light,"** a solo show by botanical printmaker Linda Snouffer featuring images of the brilliant days ahead, is on view through March 3 in the Cloister Art Gallery at House of Hope Church, 797 Summit Ave. A public reception for the artist will be held from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Sunday, March 3. Call 651-227-6311.

**A retrospective of the works** of book artist Jody Williams is being featured through April 21 in the Literary Commons on the second floor of Open Book, 1011 Washington Ave. S. in Minneapolis. A public reception with a presentation by the artist will be held from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, February 21. Williams is the winner of the 2019 Minnesota Book Artist Award for "For Now," a combination book, box and puzzle.

**The League of Lonfellow Artists** will present its second Winter Fine Art Exhibition show and sale on February 16-17 and 23-24 at Squirrel Haus Arts, 3450 Snelling Ave. S. in Minneapolis. The weekend event will run from noon-5 p.m. each day. Artist demonstrations and craft activities for children and adults will be featured every day. An opening reception with a deejay and wine, beer and snacks will be held from 5-7 p.m. Saturday, February 16. Admission is free. Visit [lolaartcrawl.com](http://lolaartcrawl.com).

**"Mingeisota: Merging Nature and Culture,"** functional pottery by Lee Love and pottery,

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murals and sculpture by Matthew Krousey, will be displayed from February 18 through April 19 at Raymond Avenue Gallery, 761 Raymond Ave. An opening reception will be held from 5-9 p.m. Friday, March 29. For gallery hours, call 651-644-9200.

**“Lest We Forget,”** visual art by Sandra Brick inspired by Minneapolis resident Fred Amram’s stories about his early life in Nazi Germany and as a refugee in the U.S., will be displayed from February 26 to May 21 at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 S. Snelling Ave. Admission is free. For gallery hours, call 651-699-1378.

## Film

**Mr. Soul!** (2018), a documentary about black talk show host Ellis Haizlip and his public-television variety show, “Soul!” will be screened by Sound Unseen at 7 p.m. Wednesday, February 13, at Trylon Cinema, 2820 E. 33rd St., Minneapolis. Also produced by the enigmatic Haizlip, “Soul!” ran from 1968-73, offering an unfiltered and uncompromising exploration of black literature, poetry, music and politics. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. Visit soundunseen.com.

**Anna Karenina**, the 1935 film version of Tolstoy’s tragic tale of passion, revenge and social status in 19th-century Russia, will be screened at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 20, in Best Buy Theater at Northrop Auditorium. Greta Garbo, Fredric Marsh and Basil Rathbone star. Admission is free. Call 612-625-6600.

## Theater

**Not in Our Neighborhood**, a historical play by Tom Fabel and Eric Wood that recalls the bigotry that black homeowners William and Nellie Francis faced upon moving into a new house in Macalester-Groveland in 1924, will be performed at 7 p.m. February 14-16 and 22-23 in Weyerhaeuser Auditorium at Landmark Center. For tickets, priced at \$10, call 651-292-3063.

**Benevolence**, a sequel to Ifa Bayeza’s drama about Emmett Till, the black teenager whose 1955 lynching in Mississippi sparked the civil rights movement, will open on February 14 at Penumbra Theatre, 270 N. Kent St. Directed by Talvin Wilks, the drama tells of a small town in the South that is turned upside down when a young boy from Chicago visits. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays, 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays, and 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays through March 10. For tickets, call 651-224-3180.

**Isaac’s Eye**, Theatre Pro Rata’s production of a drama by Lucas Hnath about science, ambition and an imaginary meeting between British scientists Isaac Newton and Robert Hooke, will close with performances at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday, February 15-17, at the Gremlin Theatre, 550 N. Vandalia St. Tickets are priced on a sliding scale from \$14-\$41. Call 612-234-7135.

**Line of Sight**, a new play by Shannon Kearns that confronts the gun culture in America head-on, will be staged from February 15 through March 2 by Uprising Theatre Company. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays and 1:30 and 7:30 p.m. Saturdays at the Off Leash Area Art Box, 4200 E. 54th St. in Minneapolis. Tickets are \$20. Call 612-520-1230.

**The Government Inspector**, Jeffrey Hatcher’s adaptation of the classic farce by Nikolai Gogol, will open on February 15 at Theatre in the Round, 245 Cedar Ave. S. in Minneapolis. The drama demonstrates that the comic potential of government bureaucracy is timeless. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m.

Sundays through March 10. Tickets are \$22. Call 612-333-3010.

**Actually**, an edgy new drama about sexual consent, will open on February 16 on the Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company’s stage at the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. Written by Anna Ziegler and directed by Harry Waters Jr., it stars Miriam Schwarz and JuCoby Johnson as college students who must recount their intimate evening together for a university panel charged with determining whether a sexual assault took place. Sixteen performances are scheduled on afternoons and evenings through March 10. Tickets are \$23-\$38 with discounts for students and those under age 40. Call 651-647-4315.

**The Lincoln Center Theater** Broadway production of Falsettos will be presented at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, February 19-24, at the Ordway Music Theater. The hilarious and poignant musical by William Finn and James Lapine revolves around a charming, neurotic gay man, his wife, lover and adolescent son, and the lesbians next door. It stars Nick Adams, Nick Blaemire, Eden Espinosa, Max von Essen, Audrey Cardwell and Bryonha Marie Parham. Visit ordway.org or call 651-224-4222.

## Family

**Musical Storytime**, a program of movement and crafts, a reading of Gene Baer’s story “Thump, Thump, Rat-a-Tat-Tat” and a playing of Copland’s “Fanfare for the Common Man” and Sousa’s “The Washington Post March,” will be offered from noon-12:45 p.m. Saturday, February 16, at St. Joseph’s School of Music, 450 N. Syndicate St., Suite 350. The free session is intended for families with children ages 3-8. For reservations, call 651-690-4364.

**“The Supercilious Ways of Walter Wading,”** a free workshop and show that introduces children ages 3 and older and their families to theater and dance, will be offered by the Spark Theater on Saturday, February 16, at Powderhorn Park, 3400 15th Ave. S. in Minneapolis. The workshop will begin at 10 a.m. followed by the 40-minute show at 11 a.m. Visit sparktheater.com.

**History and science come together** in family activities focused on the role of science, technology, engineering and math in industry from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, February 16, at the Mill City Museum, 704 S. Second St. in Minneapolis. Learn about kitchen chemistry, experiment with hydroelectricity and mechanical waterpower and discover the simple machines of the milling industry. Scientists and engineers from the National Park Service and the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization will be on hand to answer questions. Admission is \$6-\$12. Call 612-341-7555.

**Balkan Fest**, a celebration of the cultures found on the Balkan Peninsula of Eastern Europe, will be hosted by the Ethnic Dance Theatre from noon-5 p.m. Sunday, February 17, at Landmark Center. Featured will be the live music and dances of Albania, Bosnia, Croatia, Serbia, Romania, Macedonia, Slovenia, Greece, Turkey and Bulgaria. Arts and crafts of the Balkans will be displayed and demonstrated, and the foods of the region will be available for purchase. Admission is \$6, \$4 for children ages 6-12.

**Teddy Bear Story Time** will be held from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesday, February 19, at the James J. Hill House, 240 Summit Ave. Presented in honor of President Theodore Roosevelt, for whom the beloved stuffed animal was named, the event will include a tour of the mansion tailored for preschool through 1st-grade children accompanied by an adult. The cost is \$6 for ages 2 and up. Call 651-297-2555 or visit cart.mnhs.org.



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# Sports



## The Wright Call

By Dave Wright

### Feeling the onset of playoff fever

This is the most wonderful time of the year for winter prep sports. The state high school skiing and dance team tournaments are this week, followed by the state girls' hockey tournament and gymnastics meet on February 20-23. In rapid-fire order, state wrestling, boys' swimming, boys' hockey, and girls' and boys' basketball all follow.

The state tournaments are always the big shows. However, the section playoffs are often where the more thrilling encounters take place. Jim O'Neill couldn't possibly count how many section games he has coached during more than three decades of leading the Cretin-Derham Hall boys' hockey and baseball teams. One thing he does know is that the section playoffs were more nerve-racking to prepare for than the state tournaments.

"Once you get to state, it's all a bonus," O'Neill said. "Getting there is tough though. There are so many little things that can go wrong."

O'Neill took three Raider hockey teams to state. The first of those was in 1988 and followed a memorable comeback win over South St. Paul in the section final. The Packers broke a 2-2 tie with 20 seconds to play. Not to be outdone, CDH came back down the ice, tied the game with a couple of seconds left and then won in overtime.

In 2006, the Raiders demolished Grand Rapids 7-0 for the state Class AA title. Those are fond memories, but they often get blocked out by the ones that got away.

"We lost so many section games in overtime. I remember one against Woodbury. We led 2-0 in the third period and even got a penalty shot. We missed it and they came back to beat us," O'Neill said with a sigh.

This year, he can enjoy the games from the stands and sleep better at night. The Raiders were 14-7-1 through February 9 under first-year head coach Matt Funk. After a 3-4 start, CDH's only setbacks have been to St. Thomas Academy, White Bear Lake and Stillwater. It helps when you have a sniper like Raider junior Matt Gleason, a Colorado College commit who already has 31 goals this season.

CDH will face some heavy lifting when the playoffs begin next week in Section 6AA, which contains Edina and Wayzata. Both of those teams beat the Raiders in December. Still, the beauty of section play is that hope springs eternal.

### St. Paul United may face familiar foe

This may not have been the way St. Paul United girls' hockey coach Mark Johnson planned it, but his players got a feel for what section hockey might be all about on February 2 when they defeated South St. Paul 5-3 at Drake Arena. The

WRIGHT CALL ▶ 17

## A worthwhile pursuit

### Highland's well-balanced Nordic teams return to state

BY BILL WAGNER

It couldn't have been a better day for Highland Park High School Nordic ski coach Brad Moening as both his girls' and boys' teams took the Section 3 championships by storm at Theodore Wirth Park on February 5.

Both squads now advance to the state meet on February 14 at Giants Ridge in Biwabik. The top two teams and the top six individuals from each section qualify for state.

Last winter, the Highland girls finished seventh at state, while the boys were 11th. "Both of our teams are much improved over last year," Moening said.

Moening, who has coached Nordic skiing at Highland for 17 seasons, was almost at a loss to explain how well his two squads did at sections this time around. So he came right to the point: "We pretty much dominated."

The Highland girls scored a perfect 394 that easily outdistanced second-place Central's 347. The Scots were competing in several inches of fresh snow that day, which was somewhat of a novelty for them.

"We'd been skiing in manmade snow all season," Moening said. "I think (the fresh snow) slowed things down."

The Scots left little doubt from the outset who would win the section meet. The girls placed all seven of their skiers in the top nine, starting with freshman Molly Moening winning the event by more than a minute with a pursuit time of 33.59. Highland sophomore Celeste Alden finished second, sophomore Anna Schmidt was third, junior Caroline Harding was fourth, freshman Rayna Axelson was fifth, freshman Addie Fabel was seventh and sophomore Maeve Moening was ninth. Highland had such a tight-knit group that they all finished with less than a 5-minute gap between them.

This potent lineup gives coach Moening ample reason for great optimism going into state. Though Armstrong is rated as the favorite to win, he likes his two top guns in daughter Molly and then Alden, and the way the supporting cast can come through.

"The numbers two through five (team) spots could really be up for grabs," coach Moening said.



Members of Highland's highly successful varsity girls' Nordic ski team, from left, include: (front row) Silja Earl-Tornainen, Rayna Axelson, Molly Moening and Celeste Alden; (back row) Caroline Harding, Maeve Moening, Anna Schmidt and Claire Temali. Not pictured is Addie Fabel. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Molly Moening and Alden complement each other in terms of style, which make the Scots so hard to beat. "Celeste is more of a strength skier, while Molly goes more with finesse," said the coach.

At press time, Molly Moening was rated fourth individually in the state, while Alden was 10th. "We haven't really had that kind of a one-two punch here before," coach Moening said.

In addition to Armstrong, he tabbed Stillwater and Wayzata as threats to be reckoned with in state.

Visitation sophomore Margaret Dalseth finished first among those who qualified for state as individuals with a pursuit time of 38.33.

### Nordic boys' meet

Whereas the Highland girls' team was figured to be a solid contender to make state at the start of the season, the Scot boys have proven to be more of an over-achieving bunch. The boys topped the field at the Section 3 meet with a score of 390. They placed all seven of their skiers in the top 10 while outlasting second-place Minnehaha Academy (346).

The Highland boys had a pretty good grouping of their own as there was only a 1.18-minute difference between senior Nathaniel Alden, who came in second

overall with a pursuit time of 29.39, and junior Cole Johnson, who finished 10th overall at 30.57. Highland sophomore Otto Schmidt was third overall, junior Calvin Boone was fourth, senior Ian Boylan was fifth, junior Conor Gregg-Escalante was sixth and eighth-grader Davis "Dolly" Isom was ninth.

Coach Moening said Davis is rarely called by his first name. He got the Dolly nickname after Bjorn Dolly, a prominent European skier.

The coach had great things to say about the role of Boylan in organizing the off-season training regimen for both the boys' and girls' teams and just generally being a great teammate.

"He's hands down the best captain I've had here," coach Moening said. "His leadership has been at the core of our (conditioning and preparation). He's the lynchpin."

Among those who qualified for state as individuals was St. Paul Academy senior Peter Moore, who topped the field by a two-minute margin with a pursuit time of 27.32. St. Thomas Academy senior Joey Motzel finished third among individuals at 30.54, Henry Sibley senior Ben Church was fourth at 31.19 and Central junior Aidan Finnegan was fifth at 31.26.

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# Davis keeps Central clicking in boys' hoops

By BILL WAGNER

Scott Howell really appreciates just how talented senior guard Daveonte Davis is. "He's our leading scorer, but he's also an all-around player," said Howell, the head coach of the Central High School boys' basketball team. "He gives us so much."

Davis was averaging around 20 points per game for the Minutemen, who were 14-5 overall and 7-0 in the St. Paul City Conference through February 6. When the ball's in his hands, he's a threat to score from nearly anywhere on the court. He can pull up and shoot a jumper, he has a nice touch from three-point range and he's tenacious when he drives to the hoop.

He also has a nose for hitting the boards, averaging about 11 rebounds per game, and he adds about a half-dozen assists.

"I like to bring a lot of energy to my game," Davis said. "And I like to get everybody involved—whatever it takes to win."

Howell said that for Davis that includes playing shutdown defense. Davis can be

relied on for tough man-to-man coverage all game long. "He takes great pride in his defense," Howell said.

"I just have that kind of mentality—to shut people down," Davis said.

He's also very durable and doesn't like to come out of a game, even for a short breather. "I've played whole games," he said. "I don't get tired."

Davis can fill the role of either a shooting guard or a point guard. He said he prefers the former and gave a shout-out to classmate Ronnell Porter, who complements him in the backcourt and scores around 14 points a game. "Ronnell is a great point guard," Davis said.

Central, which finished 16-10 last season, now has a senior-laden team that continues to grow in experience. Davis thinks that the Minutemen are much better than a year ago, and that "we have a really good chance for a run at state," he said.

Howell said what he likes most about Davis is the way he seems to turn in his best performances at crunch time. In a 70-64 victory

over Lenox in South Dakota in early January, Davis was a huge presence, both on the scoresheet and on the boards.

"He just took it over down the stretch," Howell said. "We also had a close game against Osseo (in December) when he did the same thing."

Davis, who is 6-foot-3 and has a special talent for grabbing offensive boards, said rebounding requires great anticipation in addition to athleticism.

"You need to get good position and be strong on the ball," he said. "You have to really want it."

Where Davis is particularly dangerous is in putting the ball on the floor and attacking the basket. He's very hard to thwart on the drive, and even teams that manage to keep him from scoring from the field will probably send him to the free throw line.

"That's my strongest point—going to the hoop," he said.

At this point Davis isn't sure where he'll end up playing next year, but Howell said he's getting looks from several college programs.



Central's Daveonte Davis goes up against Highland's Abdalla Mohamed in a win by the Minutemen on February 5. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

## 16◀ WRIGHT CALL

United jumped to a 3-1 lead after one period. The Packers came back to within a goal twice, but each time the United countered with a tally of their own. United goalie Kenzie Giese had 30 saves to help seal the win.

The United finished the regular season 10-13-2 overall. Now it's on to Section 4A play. The United earned the second seed and were set to face Mahtomedi on February 12 at Woog Arena. Top-seeded South St. Paul will face either Henry Sibley or Simley that evening, with the section final to be played on the Packers' home ice two nights later.

None of this appears to faze Johnson, whose team combines players from Visitation and St. Paul Academy. "It took a while for everyone to get together," he said. "They all come from different programs. They had to get used to me and I to them. We did a lot of moving folks around until we

found who fit best together. They're getting it now."

## Tommies dominate MIAC winter sports

The winter sports season is rapidly drawing to a close for the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. The University of St. Thomas' new athletic director, Phil Engen, is witnessing what predecessor Steve Fritz often did as the Tommies sit atop most of the league's standings. Both the UST women's and men's basketball teams are among the top five in Division III in the country. The women held a two-game lead over Augsburg with two games to go and the men had a two-game lead over St. John's with two to play.

The Tommie men and women also are the defending champs and favorites to repeat at the MIAC swimming and diving championships on February 13-16 at the University of Minnesota Aquatic Center.

UST women's hockey has been in a tight race with Hamline all season. Both teams are ranked in the top five in the country and will face each other in the season's final series on February 15-16. UST men's hockey ranks second in the conference to defending champ Augsburg.

The Tommies will likely be favored as well when the conference's track and field teams get together on February 21-23 at St. Olaf College.

MIAC basketball and hockey have playoffs that start the third week of February. Even if St. Thomas should falter in the conference basketball tournaments, its teams have good enough records to easily get into the playoffs as at-large berths. Hockey is a different story. Since not as many Division III schools play hockey, at-large spots are hard to come by and the tendency has been to lean toward Eastern schools.

Dave Wright can be reached at [dwright53@msn.com](mailto:dwright53@msn.com).

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"STUPID CUPID" is a great old song, But today that style is just plain wrong. Cupid keeps on cuz he's no quitter, And works his magic by Zoosk and Twitter. ♥ ANON

DEAR MARY, I ask God to bless you as a woman of strength who understands how much your work, your gifts, and your influence make a difference to those around you—including me and our family. As a wife and a mother you are loved more than you know! Renew her with health and strength...hold her steady...inspire her mind with hope...guide her footsteps...Bless her day with happiness and laughter! Thank you for her! All my love!! ♥ C.S.

ROSES ARE RED, Violets are blue. I love my Finn and kalakukko, too. ♥ ANON

EUREKA! What a garden she grows! Sips her G & T while admiring her yard. Jamie at her feet. Sending love and birthday wishes. Will Baklava be the special treat? Happy Birthday singing doo-dodd---doo-dodd---singing doo-dodd all the day! ♥ Your friend, MH

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**SUNNY 2ND FLOOR CONDO!**

This 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo has fabulous views. Hardwood floors, wood burning fireplace, 3rd floor guest suite. 302 Summit Ave unit F.

**SARAH KINNEY**  
651-282-9621 • \$392,000



**STUNNING 3RD FLOOR CONDO!**

This delightful 2BR/2BA condo, in the historic Horace Rugg house, is open and airy with huge windows and fabulous views, a balcony, a 1 car garage and a building elevator. This is a charming treetop retreat with all the amenities. Must see.

**SARAH KINNEY**  
651-282-9621 • \$415,000



**HOME OF FRANK B. KELLOGG!**

This stately Crocus Hill home features 9,000 sq ft, breathtaking interiors, inlaid and pegged floors, a 1/2 acre lot with reflecting pool and a carriage house. This was an ASID showcase home in 2004 and is a designated National Historic Landmark. 633 Fairmount Ave.

**SARAH KINNEY**  
651-282-9621 • \$2,295,000



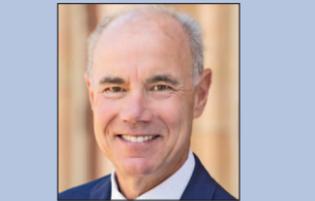
**HISTORIC JAMES J. HILL BUILDING!**

This fabulous 2BR/2BA condo is open, airy, sunny and bright. Features include rare barrel ceilings, arched windows, pristine tile & hardwood floors, updated kitchen and baths, a master BR suite, multiple walk-in closets, a gas fireplace and 2/C garage. 300 Wall Street.

**SARAH KINNEY**  
651-282-9621 • \$525,000



**PETER DONOVAN**  
651-336-8050



**TOM EDELSTEIN**  
651-695-4300



**ABE GLEESON**  
651-329-1990



**ROBBIE GROSSMAN**  
651-434-7887



**SUE JOHNSON**  
651-329-1264



**LOLLY MCNEELY SALMEN**  
612-810-4138



**DAVID NOYES, JR.**  
**REAL ESTATE GROUP**  
651-233-0748



**SUE NICHOLS**  
651-491-0882



**MARY McNANEY KNUDSEN**  
651-690-8578



**NANCY MAAS**  
651-235-8581



**SHAWN LEETZ**  
651-373-8984



**HENRY EDELSTEIN**  
651-270-1667



**SARAH KINNEY**  
651-282-9621