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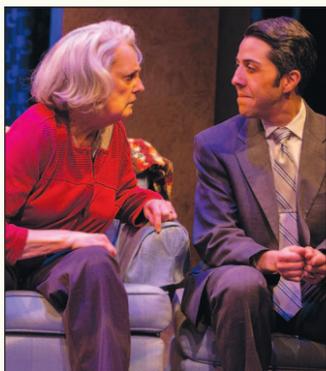


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## Council approves Ryan's changes to Ford site plan

Supporters hail changes for helping preserve the livability of Highland area

By JANE McCLURE

Ryan Companies' plans to construct an entirely new neighborhood on the site of Ford Motor Company's former assembly plant in Highland Park took a big leap forward with the St. Paul City Council's approval of a series of amendments to the master plan for the site. The City Council voted 6-1 on April 10 to approve Ryan's requests to allow more off-street parking, reconfigure some streets, and allow for the building of up to 35 single-family homes on Mississippi River Boulevard.

The single-family homes are just a tiny fraction of the roughly 3,800 new dwellings planned for the 122-acre Ford site. The plans also include a mix of apartment buildings up to six stories in height, condominiums, row-houses and senior housing. Twenty percent of the housing, or about 750 units, will be affordable to people making between 30 and 60 percent of the Twin Cities region's median income. The plans also include more than 50 acres of parks and other open spaces.

The next step in the process is a review of the building design standards for the development. That review will take place from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 23, at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 S. Snelling Ave. A task

FORD SITE MASTER PLAN ▶ 4



St. Paul police officer Santiago Rodriguez directed traffic on Snelling and University avenues during MN United's home opener at Allianz Field on April 13. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

## Stadium traffic plan passes first test

MN United's home opener posed few problems, but locals are pursuing permits for resident-only parking

By JANE McCLURE

Minnesota United's first Major League Soccer game in its new home at Allianz Field ended in an inconclusive tie on April 13. Residents of the neighborhoods surrounding the stadium were also feeling somewhat ambivalent about the game-day experience. While there was heavy vehicle traffic at times and some spillover parking on

residential streets, the general feeling seemed to be more favorable than unfavorable.

Volunteers from the Union Park District Council (UPDC) Transportation Committee monitored traffic and parking congestion within five blocks of the stadium on April 13 and will do the same at Allianz Field's first evening soccer game on April 24. They noted soccer fans parking on residential streets as far south as Selby Avenue and as far north as Thomas Avenue on April 13. However, the fans appeared to obey the "no event parking" signs in the commercial parking lots in the area.

Traffic backed up at times on the I-94 ramps and on Snelling Avenue north and south of the

SOCCER STADIUM TRAFFIC ▶ 5

## St. Paul takes closer look at assessments for street work

Summit Hill residents join those protesting high bills

By JANE McCLURE

Major changes in how and what St. Paul charges for mill and overlay street repair work have prompted protests from property owners and a demand for further scrutiny by the City Council. A decision on assessments for some street projects, including one in the Summit Hill neighborhood, has been laid over until May 8. Council members said they want to look more closely at the work and what

it is costing abutting property owners.

The layover followed a heated public hearing on April 3, when more than a dozen residents appeared at City Hall to protest assessments for mill and overlay work as well as seal coating. The council on April 10 approved assessments for projects on Third Street and Western, Franklin, Prior and Wilson avenues. Assessments for work done on Victoria and Forest streets and Stryker and Arlington avenues were laid over.

That disappointed some of those in attendance who wanted all of the 2018 assessments postponed so the costs could be considered together. Some of the bills for mill and overlay projects ranged from \$1,200-\$8,000.

Mill and overlay projects involve grinding off the top of the street surface and replacing it with new asphalt. Seal coating involves spraying liquid asphalt onto a street and then covering it with gravel.

A city policy change that became effective for street projects in 2018 greatly increased the amount that property owners are charged for that work. The city also is no longer notifying property owners of the cost in advance. Instead, they receive a postcard stating that the project is coming up and directing them to check a city website for the rates.

STREET WORK ASSESSMENTS ▶ 3



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# The Pitch's six stories OK'd for N. Snelling

## Mixed-use apartment building gets permit for 2 drive-thru lanes

By JANE McCLURE

Wellington Management's plan for a mixed-use development at 427 N. Snelling Ave. is on track for a fall groundbreaking. The St. Paul Planning Commission on April 19 approved a conditional use permit for the project for additional height, a variance for additional density and a nonconforming use permit to accommodate two drive-through lanes.

Wellington's six-story project, dubbed the Pitch in reference to the Allianz Field soccer stadium directly across Snelling, was one of two mixed-use developments approved by the Planning Commission that day. Raymond Station, an 83-foot-high apartment building with first-floor retail at 2250-2264 University Ave., was granted a conditional use permit for additional height.

The two projects reflect a growing trend for mixed-use, market-rate housing on and near University Avenue. A third project, Scannell Properties' six-story mixed-use building just north of the Pitch, will be reviewed by the Planning Commission's Zoning Committee on April 25 for a conditional use permit and variance to allow additional height and density.

The Pitch will be built on the current site of Bremer Bank, which will relocate while its new office is built. The Pitch will include 13,000 square feet of commercial space for the bank and possibly a Walgreens pharmacy. Wellington had



Wellington Management expects to break ground this fall on the Pitch, a 152-unit apartment building with ground floor retail at 427 N. Snelling Ave.

hoped to include in the project land owned by the Minnesota Department of Transportation just south of the bank property, but balked at the price. However, that land could be incorporated into the Pitch later.

The Pitch will have two levels of underground parking. Its 152 apartments will be a mix of micro, studio and one- and two-bedroom units. The rents, which have not been announced, will be market-rate, according to Wellington project manager Casey Dziejewczynski, to address the demand for apartments that are midway between luxury and affordable housing.

The development will be privately funded. It lies within a federally designated Opportunity Zone that offers capital gains tax incentives to private investors. The property is zoned for Traditional Neighborhoods 3 (TN3), which allows a height of up to 55 feet, or 90 feet with a conditional use permit.

The Pitch will be 75 feet tall with a

floor area ratio of 3.97, up from the 3.0 allowed under TN3 zoning. Floor area ratio is the measurement of a building's floor area in relation to its lot size.

The Planning Commission's Zoning Committee debated the merits of the two drive-through lanes. Bremer Bank has two drive-through lanes currently, but committee members were still concerned about pedestrian safety on Snelling. Motorists will enter the drive-throughs and the building's parking ramp off of Shields Avenue, but they will exit onto southbound Snelling.

Wellington Management representatives have discussed the project with neighbors and members of the adjacent Central Baptist Church. Central Baptist, whose congregations have used the Bremer Bank parking lot on Sundays, is working with Wellington to move or tear down two Roy Street houses to make room for a new church parking lot. The northern end of the alley between Roy Street and Snelling will be vacated.

# Plans revealed for vacant Lex-Ham parcel

## Six-story mixed-use building eyed near Lexington-University

By JANE McCLURE

Representatives of Minneapolis-based developer Alatus and about a dozen neighbors met with the Union Park District Council's Land Use Committee on April 15 to discuss the construction of a mixed-use building on a long-vacant parcel at 411-417 N. Lexington Pkwy. No timeline for the development has been set.

The 2.05-acre site is in the Lexington-Hamline neighborhood, and borders the Frogtown, Hamline-Midway and Summit-University neighborhoods. It lies just south of TCF Bank and White Castle and is owned by the Wilder Foundation, whose headquarters is located just to the northwest. A new building would complete the southeast corner of the site, which was originally the home of the St. Paul Saints minor league baseball team before the stadium was torn down in the 1950s to make way for a strip mall.

That property has been redeveloped over the past decade with an Aldi

supermarket, TCF Bank, Wilder Center and Episcopal Homes' senior living facility called Carty Heights. An original retaining wall for the old ballpark is still in place.

Alatus is considering constructing a six-story building, with first-floor commercial space and apartments above. About 250 housing units and an undetermined amount of structured parking spaces are planned.

ESG Architects is working with Alatus on the plans. The property is zoned for Traditional Neighborhoods 4, which allows buildings of up to 75 feet tall.

The site is one block south of the light-rail Green Line and close to several bus routes, which should make it attractive for people who use public transit, said Chris Osmundson, Alatus' director of development.

About a dozen neighbors attended the committee meeting, as did a representative of the Aurora-St. Anthony Neighborhood Development Corporation. The nonprofit organization has expressed interest in buying the parcel for lower-density affordable housing, a hotel and an ice skating rink.

Committee member Tania New encouraged Alatus officials to do extensive outreach to neighbors in planning the project. "This is an area people feel

ownership of outside of Union Park," she said.

Neighbors said they were unaware of the proposal until a few days before the meeting. "I feel totally behind," said Louverne Williams, who lives east of the site. "We already have a great deal of car traffic."

The Alatus project could undermine city plans to extend Fuller Avenue through the site as a bicycle and pedestrian connection to the new Midway Peace Park on Griggs Street. Osmundson said other ways to extend bike and pedestrian access in the area are being considered.

The property has been vacant for more than two decades. While it has also drawn interest from other developers, this is the first time in almost three years that any plan has come forward.

The site was recently placed in a federally designated Opportunity Zone, which Osmundson cited as an incentive for redevelopment. Opportunity Zones were designated to revitalize economically distressed areas using private rather than taxpayer dollars. Investors can benefit from capital gains tax incentives available exclusively through that program. The city just launched an interactive guide on the zones at [stpaul.gov/opportunityzones](http://stpaul.gov/opportunityzones).

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# City Council approves \$3.5 million resurfacing of Ayd Mill

## Vote calls into question future design of roadway

By Jane McClure

A \$3.5 million mill and overlay project on Ayd Mill Road is moving forward, but not without controversy. The St. Paul City Council voted 5-2 on April 17 to approve bonding for the project as part of the \$12.5 million St. Paul Streets Program for 2019. City Council members Mitra Jalali Nelson and Jane Prince voted against the bonding for Ayd Mill Road. According to them, the city ought to consider long-range plans for Ayd Mill Road before spending that amount on a mill and overlay project.

The split vote recalled the decades-long debate over Ayd Mill Road, a city street that was constructed in the 1960s as a future con-

nection between I-35E and I-94. The 1.5-mile roadway has roiled local neighborhoods since the 1980s when two city task forces were formed to study options for rebuilding or even removing the street. Those options were cast aside when then-Mayor Randy Kelly ordered the south end of the street connected to I-35E in 2002, primarily to reduce traffic congestion on Lexington Parkway. The north end still begins and ends at Selby Avenue.

Nelson said that while she does not disagree with the need to fix the pothole-ridden Ayd Mill Road, the city should hold off on more extensive work in favor of a citizen engagement process on Ayd Mill Road's future.

Prince agreed. When Mayor Kelly made the decision to connect Ayd Mill Road at the south end and repave it, "there was no thoughtful plan as to how Ayd Mill Road would function," she said.

The city is looking at four options for re-

configuring Ayd Mill Road and adding new accommodations for bicyclists and pedestrians, according to Kathy Lantry, director of the St. Paul Department of Public Works. Those options will be revealed in the next few months, she said.

Mill and overlay improvements typically last about 10 years. Other City Council members said the project needs to move forward, whether or not the city studies a future redesign of the roadway.

"You can go on GPS at home and actually see the potholes," said Ward 1 City Council member Dai Thao. "I think it's important that we get this work done."

Not making the repairs could force Ayd Mill Road's 24,000 vehicles per day elsewhere, said Ward 3 City Council member Chris Tolbert. "We need to be very careful when we talk about shutting down Ayd Mill Road," he said, recalling the years before the south-end

connection when Lexington Parkway was bumper-to-bumper during rush hour between I-35E's ramps at Randolph Avenue and Ayd Mill's ramps at Jefferson Avenue. "Those cars will just find another route. Those cars will be in our neighborhoods."

The mill and overlay of Ayd Mill Road was originally scheduled for 2021, but it was moved up when a large street reconstruction project in Macalester-Groveland was postponed due to local residents' opposition to getting sidewalks where none now exist. That project was to be the second phase of the Woodlawn-Jefferson street reconstruction project.

The city has been spending about \$240,000 per year fixing Ayd Mill Road's potholes, an amount Lantry called "extremely high." Last year alone, city crews spent about 1,800 work hours patching Ayd Mill Road, she added.

### 1 ◀ STREET WORK ASSESSMENTS

The cost of the work on Victoria Street between Summit and St. Clair avenues came to \$366,705, with \$99,723 assessed to 33 abutting properties. Property owners were assessed \$44.37 per foot and the city covered the rest.

Public Works Department director Kathy Lantry said that mill and overlay costs depend on several factors, including the width of the street, the depth of the new pavement and the number of street corners needing to be reconstructed. Seal coating is done on residential streets every eight years. Arterial streets receive mill and overlay work every 10 years. Assessments can be repaid over a decade.

Several Victoria Street property owners argued that mill and overlay costs should be shared by all those who use the street, not just

adjacent property owners. "Victoria gets a lot of wear and tear. It carries more than 3,000 motor vehicles per day," said Michael Brennan, who is facing an assessment of more than \$4,800.

Tina Anderson-Taghioff, whose bill is also more than \$4,800, complained about the cost and the lack of notice and any means to object to the project. She presented the council with 59 written complaints from property owners around the city, noting that some of them are being charged as much as \$58 a foot for mill and overlay work on their streets.

"We're not responsible for 50 percent of the traffic," stated her husband, Simon Taghioff. "We all should share the costs of thoroughfares we benefit from." The couple has created a website to protest the assessment costs at victoriastreetassessment.com.

*"Victoria gets a lot of wear and tear. It carries more than 3,000 motor vehicles per day," said Michael Brennan, who is facing an assessment of more than \$4,800.*

Sherri Mortensen Brown is paying more than \$5,500, an amount she called "exorbitant and incredibly unfair." Brown said that when she called about her bill, a city staff member told her to "blame the churches."

Street maintenance costs were originally

covered by the city's general fund. When the right-of-way maintenance assessments were enacted in 2003, all St. Paul property owners shared in the costs depending on the length of their street frontage, including nonprofit, tax-exempt organizations such as religious institutions, colleges and hospitals.

However, that arrangement was challenged in 2011 by several downtown churches. That court case and other related litigation reached the Minnesota Supreme Court in 2016, which ruled that the assessments were taxes and not a specific benefit for a property.

Following the decision, the city winnowed the services that right-of-way assessment covers. For mill and overlay projects as well as seal coating, abutting property owners now pay directly for a portion of the work. The city pays the rest out of its general fund.

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# City seeks new powers in imposing fines

## Opponents of charter change ask council to consider ramifications

By JANE McCLURE

The St. Paul City Council will vote on April 24 on a proposed change in the city charter that would give the City Council and all city departments broad powers in setting and imposing administrative fines.

The charter amendment, which was recommended earlier this year by the St. Paul Charter Commission, is being promoted by the city's Department of Safety and Inspections (DSI) as a more effective tool for encouraging compliance to ordinances ranging from animal control to property codes and a way to impose civil sanctions in matters where criminal citations are now the only recourse. The city has about 100 cases per year of code violations where a criminal citation is issued, according to DSI director Ricardo Cervantes. Administrative fines in these cases could actually be less punitive, he

said, especially when fines are preferable to a criminal record.

The fines could be a more effective way of getting compliance in the area of repeat property code violations, Cervantes added. The city's current "excessive consumption" ordinances have escalating fines, but some violators pooh-pooh these fines of a few hundred dollars each as just part of the cost of doing business. With the new administrative fines, the city could punish landlords who do not make needed repairs without having to force the eviction of their tenants.

The charter change has the support of the St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce and the St. Paul Business Review Council. Charter amendments require the approval of all seven City Council members. At the April 17 public hearing on the charter change, three speakers asked the council not to approve it but instead put the amendment on the November ballot and let voters decide. A petition pushing for the ballot question is already being circulated.

Opponents of the charter change said it would give city officials too much

power and could impose fines that are excessively punitive. Speakers urged the City Council to move slowly if the charter change is approved and to gather public testimony before adopting the ordinance establishing the actual fine schedules.

"This needs much more review," said Ramsey Hill resident Colleen Halpine, who suggested the fines could become abusive.

"If you think you only need a fly swatter, don't arm yourself with a baseball bat," said Patricia Hartman, one of the leaders of St. Paul Trash, the group opposed to the city's new organized trash collection system.

St. Paul Trash is concerned that new, more punitive fines will be assessed against residents who fail to pay their trash bills on time. Currently, residents who are late in paying their trash bills face late fees and, if still not paid, assessments on their property tax statements.

City staff members have said that until the ordinance is drafted setting up the fine schedule, it is not known whether there will be additional penalties tied to unpaid trash collection bills.

# Civilian board reviews police misconduct

## 77 allegations in 2018 resulted in disciplining of 22 police officers

By KEVIN DRISCOLL

The St. Paul Police Civilian Internal Affairs Review Commission (PCIARC) announced at its annual summit on April 9 that it reviewed 77 allegations of police misconduct in 2018 but recommended only 19 to Police Chief Todd Axtell for disciplinary action.

This was the first time the PCIARC had held its annual summit in the spring. The event attracted only 25 citizens, a far cry from the turnout in previous years.

Two years ago, the make-up of the PCIARC was changed from a seven-member body with two police officers to a nine-member all-civilian board. Oversight of the group was also transferred from the St. Paul Police Department to the city's Department of Human Rights and Equal Economic Opportunity.

The 77 allegations in 2018 involved 70 of the St. Paul Police Department's 626 officers. Sixteen officers were exonerated of any wrongdoing, and 26 of the allegations were deemed unfounded. One police officer was referred for supervisory counseling, four were sent for retraining, nine received oral reprimands, seven received written reprimands and one was suspended.

Sixteen of the allegations were complaints of excessive force, seven were for improper conduct, seven were for improper procedure, which might involve "failure to write a report, failure to properly investigate a case and failure to activate a body-worn camera when policy requires it," according to police spokesperson Steve Linders.

For the past two years, citizen complaints about St. Paul police officers have been referred to both the PCIARC and the Police Department's Internal Affairs Division. Internal Affairs investigates the complaints and then sends its find-

ings to the PCIARC without a recommendation for disposition. The PCIARC will hold a hearing where the complainant may testify and bring witnesses. The PCIARC then votes on a recommendation for disposition and possible department policy changes. Complaints that are sustained by the PCIARC are sent to Chief Axtell, who makes the final decision on what if any disciplinary action will be taken.

The PCIARC holds monthly meetings at 6 p.m. on Wednesdays at neighborhood locations to review cases and take testimony, among other business. Seven more meetings are scheduled this year. Locally, they will be held on June 5 at the Rondo Library, 461 N. Dale St.; August 7 at the Palace Community Center, 781 Palace Ave.; September 4 at the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy.; and November 6 at the Wellstone Community Center, 179 E. Robie St.

For more information on the PCIARC, visit [stpaul.gov/pciarc](http://stpaul.gov/pciarc) or call 651-266-8966.

## 1◀ FORD SITE MASTER PLAN

force made up of representatives from the Highland District Council, Highland Business Association, Ryan Companies and city staff has been meeting for the past several weeks to discuss the design standards, which are required by the Ford site master plan that was adopted by the City Council in 2017.

Ward 2 City Council member Rebecca Noecker cast the sole vote against the Ryan amendments. She objected to having any single-family housing on the site and preferred only multi-family housing on Mississippi River Boulevard.

Ryan had requested the single-family option to give it some flexibility in responding to market demand. The city's master plan for the Ford site had required the developer to construct buildings of from two-to six units along the river road.

City Council member Chris Tolbert, whose Ward 3 includes the Ford site, spoke in favor of the single-family option. He also supported Ryan's amendments doubling the amount of off-street parking in the commercial zone and

reconfiguring streets to allow, among other things, the preservation of two of the three ballfields operated by Highland Ball.

When the City Council adopted the Ford site master plan in 2017, Tolbert said, it was understood that the plan was a framework and that the eventual master developer would seek some changes. "I want to be very specific," he said. "The amendment adds single-family homes as an option. Two- to six-unit structures could still be built along Mississippi River Boulevard. There's nothing that prohibits that."

When Ford Motor Company originally put the old assembly plant up for sale, no single-family housing was planned. However, Ryan officials negotiated with Ford to ensure that some single-family housing was possible. Ford still owns the property, but Ryan officials plan to close on the purchase within months.

Following the City Council's vote, Ryan Companies President Mike Ryan said he was going to "savor the moment" and regroup for the work that lies ahead. "This is a big win for us," he said. "We've been at this for so long."

The public hearing on the master plan amendments drew a large crowd to City Hall. Two groups of mostly Highland Park residents took opposing sides in the debate. The group Sustain Ward 3 issued this statement: "We're disappointed the council voted to alter the Ford site plan. We think those changes dilute the plan's vision and threaten equity and sustainability on the site." The group Neighbors for a Livable St. Paul stated that it "believes these amendments are one step forward in improving the plan and preserving the livability of Highland neighborhoods."

Ryan is now requesting up to \$107 million in public assistance for the development to help pay for infrastructure, affordable housing and the parks and other open spaces on the site. That request will be reviewed in the months ahead by the St. Paul Housing and Redevelopment Authority and City Council. If all goes as planned, Ryan would begin construction this fall on the new sewers, streets and other infrastructure. The entire redevelopment could easily stretch out over a decade.

1 ◀ **SOCCER STADIUM TRAFFIC**

stadium, especially near Selby where one lane was closed to traffic. However, it appeared that soccer fans as a whole responded in great numbers to Minnesota United's request to walk, bike or use mass transit or shuttle buses to get to and from the game.

City, soccer team and Metro Transit staff met after the April 13 game for a debriefing on traffic flow, pedestrian safety and neighborhood parking, among other issues. According to St. Paul Police Department spokesperson Steve Linders, the first game went smoothly in terms of traffic. Some changes will be made before the first night game, he said, but those changes were not finalized as of press time.

Light-rail and bus riders indicated that arrivals before the game went fairly smoothly. One hiccup was the closure of one lane of northbound Snelling near Selby a construction project is underway. That closure slowed all traffic, and it will remain in place for several more weeks. There were also large crowds and long waits on Green Line light-rail platforms as trains filled up quickly, and that drew complaints.

Meanwhile residents in parts of Merriam Park and Snelling-Hamline are moving ahead with requests for new resident-only parking restrictions in their neighborhoods to pre-



Nathan Willar and Mike Breiling tailgated at the State Fairgrounds before taking a shuttle bus to the Loons' home opener.

PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

vent any stadium event spillover parking. The UPDC Transportation Committee voted 8-4 on April 8 to recommend the approval of an expansion of Permit Parking Area 8 just east of Snelling Avenue and south of I-94 and the creation of a new permit parking district just west of Snelling Avenue and south of I-94. Those recommendations will be reviewed by the full UPDC on May 1 and then forwarded to the St. Paul City Council.

More than 50 residents attended the UPDC committee meeting to push for permit parking. Elizabeth Stiffler, who oversees permit parking in the city's Department of Public Works, said that while she is not a fan of permit parking, she will work with residents. One idea she raised, which several residents were amenable to, is narrowing the scope of the permits to April through October.

"Everyone here is terrified that we're going

to get swamped with parking," said Don Brabeck. He and his family live near Aldine Park, and Brabeck said his neighbors are hoping the park does not become a popular spot for game-day parties.

UPDC committee members had mixed feelings about expanding resident-only permit parking. "Streets are public property," said committee co-chair Barb Thoman, and creating permit parking districts can just push the problem with spillover parking into adjacent neighborhoods. "People who are determined to drive and park are going to do it, and they're going to just go to the next street," said UPDC board member Scott Berger.

UPDC board member David Rasmussen and committee member Danette Lincoln spoke in favor of the permit parking requests. "We already accommodate a lot of commuter parking in the neighborhood," Lincoln said. She noted that the always-popular University of St. Thomas-St. John's University football game will be played at Allianz Field this fall, and that will also draw large crowds and spillover parking.

"These permit-parking requests have been in the works for a very long time," Rasmussen said. "We're supposed to represent the people of the neighborhood, and I think we'd be insulting them if we told them they didn't know what they're talking about."

# Local projects wishing on Neighborhood STAR grants, loans

## Expo School parents again seek funds for playground

By JANE McCLURE

Fifty-three projects totaling more than \$6.5 million are competing for about \$2.5 million in 2019 St. Paul Neighborhood Sales Tax Revitalization (STAR) funds.

One large recurring STAR request is for a \$100,000 grant, with a \$316,470 match, to replace the Treasure Island playground at Expo Elementary School, 540 S. Warwick St. The school's parent-teacher organization is making its second bid for funding after just missing the cut last year.

The requests were considered by the city's Planning Commission on April 19. The Neighborhood Star Board will conduct its own reviews in early May and then send its recommendations to the mayor and City Council. The council will likely make its decisions in June.

City planning director Luis Pereira said 28 of the projects would support one or more of

the city's designated "cultural destination areas." About \$1.8 million in new funding for those areas was included in the 2019 city budget, and a majority of that money went to the Neighborhood STAR program.

One cultural destination area is the Shepard-Davern area in Highland, where Sang Mouacheupao is proposing to convert the longtime Kruger Wholesale building at 2366 W. Seventh St. into an Ethiopian cultural center. A \$75,000 grant and a \$75,000 loan are being requested, with a \$150,000 match proposed.

Other local projects seeking Neighborhood STAR funding, which comes from the city's half-percent sales tax, include the following:

- Ain Dah Yung Center, 771-785 University Ave. The center for homeless Native American youths is seeking a \$100,000 loan with an equal match to add a cultural component to its housing project now under construction.
- ArtStart, 1459 St. Clair Ave. The arts education and material center is seeking a \$6,000 grant with an equal match to create a mosaic on the east side of its building.
- Rondo Commercial/Residential Grant

Program. The nonprofit Center for Energy and the Environment is seeking a \$175,000 loan with an equal match for facade improvements to up to 34 businesses and 13 residences on Selby Avenue between Dale Street and Lexington Parkway.

- Jibba Holdings, 1328 Grand Ave. The company is seeking a \$25,000 grant and a \$127,475 loan to make improvements to its building. A \$152,475 match is proposed.
- Junior Achievement, 1745 University Ave. The nonprofit organization is seeking a \$100,000 grant to tuckpoint and repair the east wall of its new learning center. A mural also would be replaced. A \$120,000 match is proposed.
- Express Bike Shop, 1158 Selby Ave. Keystone Community Services is seeking a \$25,000 grant with an equal match to update exterior signs and bike racks, and make other improvements inside the youth-run shop.
- Natural Sound Studio, 989 Selby Ave. The company is seeking a \$5,000 grant with an equal match to improve its windows and exterior. It is also requesting a \$50,000 grant with a \$220,000 match to convert the building at

1040 Selby Ave. into a rehearsal studio.

- Rondo Center of Diverse Expression, 315 N. Fisk St. A \$100,000 grant is being sought with an equal match to renovate the building and make it accessible to people with disabilities.
- Rondo Community Land Trust, 626 Selby Ave. A \$25,000 grant is being sought with a \$50,000 match to construct or rehabilitate 10 owner-occupied houses over two years.
- St. Paul Conservatory of Music, 1524 Summit Ave. A \$50,000 grant is being sought with an equal match for disability-access improvements.
- St. Vincent de Paul store, 461 W. Seventh St. A \$50,000 grant and a \$50,000 loan are being sought to repair its building. A \$50,000 match is proposed.
- The Coven, 165 N. Western Ave. A \$200,000 grant is being sought with an equal match to develop co-working space at the Blair Arcade.
- YWCA of St. Paul, 375 Selby Ave. A \$177,500 grant is being sought with an equal match to rehabilitate housing that the Y owns in the Summit-University neighborhood.

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## News Briefs

### HDC election results in huge turnover of board members

The Highland District Council will start the 2019-2020 year with a large amount of board turnover. Redrawing of the district boundaries resulted in all 12 grid areas and two at-large seats being on the ballot during the HDC's annual meeting and elections on April 10 at Highland Park Middle School.

Nine people left the board, with six stepping down voluntarily. Two board members, Frank Jossi and Jack Dobier, had each served for 10 years. The Grid 11 seat was not filled, but is expected to be at the board meeting on May 2, along with two at-large alternates.

With so many new board members, returning board leadership and district council staff plan additional orientation and training for them. The turnover also means there will be new chairs for the board's Community Development and Transportation committees.

The board elected eight new members, including a slate of five candidates put forward by the group Neighbors for a Livable St. Paul. The group formed a few years ago to combat high density in the master plan for redevelopment of the Ford site.

Neighbors for a Livable St. Paul has clashed over the plan with the pro-density group Sustain Ward 3, which chose not to run a slate of candidates for the board this year.

### St. Paul allows liquor sales closer to churches, schools

Two of St. Paul's last remaining blue laws are no more, as a result of unanimous approval of the St. Paul City Council on April 17. Liquor can now be sold within 300 feet of religious institutions throughout the city. In the downtown area, liquor can be sold within 300 feet of a school. The sales apply to liquor stores and restaurants with on-sale liquor licenses.

The council action strikes down regulations that have been in place since the 1960s. The changes did not draw public comment and no one attended public hearings earlier this month to speak for or against them.

Schools and places of worship have long had the ability to veto liquor stores or on-sale liquor licenses within 300 feet of their locations. Those requests also needed at least five of seven City Council votes for approval.

Ward 2 council member Rebecca Noecker brought the changes forward as part of regulatory issues she is working on to help make it easier for downtown businesses to operate. The liquor regulation centered on places of worship removes language in city code that has been found to be unconstitutional.

The changes came forward after a disagreement between the Gray Duck Tavern at 345 N. Wabasha St. and the St. Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists at 16 W. Fifth St. The liquor license for Gray Duck was approved in 2017 after an extensive building renovation. Charter school officials objected last December, noting that they had not been asked to weigh in on the matter. School officials asked the city to suspend liquor sales at the restaurant, but the city declined to do so.

### Storefronts purchased for new Lunds & Byerlys on Grand Ave.

Grand Avenue is one step closer to having a Lunds & Byerlys. In mid-April the supermarket's parent company Lunds Inc. purchased the three commercial storefronts at the northeast corner of Grand and Avon Street for \$6 million. Plans call for a 24,000-square-foot grocery store on the first floor and 69 apartments on four floors above.

Lunds already owns the building at 977 Grand Ave. where Brasa restaurant is located. Brasa and the other buildings would make way for the new development. Plans for the five-story project were presented at a public

meeting in March.

A group calling itself Livable Summit Hill Coalition is forming in opposition to the development, citing concerns with the proposed building height, potential traffic and parking congestion, and whether or not the neighborhood needs an additional grocery store.

As of the *Villager's* deadline, Lunds had not filed any requests related to the project. A change from commercial to traditional neighborhoods zoning would be required. Also needed would be a variance from the long-standing East Grand Avenue overlay district, which limits the heights and footprints of new commercial and mixed-use developments.

### Midway Marketplace is sold to Kraus-Anderson for \$31M

Midway Marketplace on University Avenue was recently sold to Minneapolis-based Kraus-Anderson Realty. The company purchased the center from RVI, an Ohio company, for \$31 million.

The shopping center occupies the block bounded by University, Hamline and St. Anthony avenues and Pascal Street. It was built after the 1996 demolition of Midway's longtime Montgomery Ward's store. Kmart, Mervyn's and Cub Foods also were anchor tenants, but only Cub remains.

Ward's was replaced with Herberger's, which closed last year. Mervyn's space is now LA Fitness and the former Kmart now houses a Walmart. T.J. Maxx, Discount Tire and several smaller businesses also lease space in the center.

Midway Marketplace is considered to be the largest, modern-era, ground-up retail development on University. During planning for the light-rail Green Line, it was rezoned for Traditional Neighborhoods 4, which allows for high-density, mixed-use redevelopment.

Jeff Hildahl, senior vice president of properties and leasing for Kraus-Anderson Realty, issued a statement indicating that existing leases will be honored, and the tenant mix will not change. The new owners are looking at ways they can partner with the adjacent Allianz Field soccer stadium.

### Planet Fitness to join Aldi as new tenants at Sibley Plaza

After Sibley Plaza in Highland Park is renovated this year, new businesses are expected to open there. Among them will be Planet Fitness, which will be joining a new Aldi's supermarket at the West Seventh Street shopping center. Representatives of mall owner Paster Properties recently presented an update on plans for the renovated mall to a committee of the Highland District Council.

The \$2.5 million renovation project is scheduled to begin this month at the 1950s-era strip mall, according to Mike Sturdivant, director of development for Paster. Building permits for the work were pulled in March.

The mall is currently at less than 50 percent occupancy. Anchor tenant Cooper's Foods closed in late 2017, and other stores have also moved out. Cooper's has been especially missed by residents of the nearby Sibley Manor Apartments. The Sibley Manor food shelf and other food programs have stepped in to fill the grocery gap.

Tuesday Morning was scheduled to close its store in the center on April 21, after failing to reach agreement on a new lease. Planet Fitness will move into that space and the adjacent space that was occupied by Champpps restaurant for many years.

The remaining tenants reportedly are staying. Marshalls and T.J. Maxx discount stores were rumored to be coming to Sibley Plaza, but Paster representatives said that is not the case.

*News Briefs were compiled by Jane McClure.*

# Development of Gateway, riverfront properties are moving ahead in St. Paul

By JANE McCLURE

Two of downtown St. Paul's most challenging redevelopment projects—the Seven Corners Gateway site near Xcel Energy Center and the former West Publishing and Ramsey County jail site along the city's riverfront—are making headway.

The 2.4-acre Seven Corners Gateway is being sold by the city for \$5 million to Kaeding Development as a result of a St. Paul Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) vote on April 10. Kaeding subsidiary Gateway QOZ Ventures is proposing to build a six-story apartment building and a five-story hotel on the site, with ground-floor commercial space in each of the buildings.

The apartment building would have 137 underground and otherwise enclosed parking spaces, along with 6,800 square feet of commercial space. The hotel would have at least 120 rooms and 5,660 square feet of commercial space, and would have a long-term lease for up to 84 parking spaces in the nearby Smith Avenue ramp. A large plaza would occupy the space between the two buildings.

The site is bounded by Kellogg Boulevard, Smith Avenue, West Seventh and Fifth streets. It is located in the downtown commer-

cial district and is zoned B5. No zoning changes or variances are anticipated.

Kaeding will be required to complete the project within 1½ years after closing on the sale of the property. The HRA staff report does not outline any requests for public subsidies.

On April 9, the Ramsey County Board launched a six-month due diligence period with AECOM to develop the riverfront property along Kellogg that was once occupied by West Publishing and the county jail. The developer is proposing up to four modernistic towers of apartments, a hotel, offices, condos and commercial space above a 1,500-space parking ramp.

The negotiation period gives AECOM exclusive rights to develop the property, though some county commissioners raised concerns about the demand for office space and the project's lack of affordable housing. Commissioners also indicated that they do not favor providing tax increment financing for the project. In its presentation, AECOM officials indicated they would seek some level of public investment for the open spaces being proposed.

The initial phase of that development calls for the construction of a parking ramp extending from Wabasha to Market streets with access from Kellogg Boulevard and



Mixed-use projects are planned for the Seven Corners Gateway property (above) near the Xcel Energy Center, and the old West Publishing and county jail site along Kellogg Boulevard (right).

Shepard Road. An 8.22-acre public space would be created along Kellogg from Market to St. Peter streets.

The project's first building would be a tower at Wabasha and Kellogg, with 80 condos and a 150-room hotel. A second tower at St. Peter and Kellogg would have 300 luxury apartments. The third and fourth buildings would be between St. Peter and Market streets and would provide office space. One building would have a garden for outdoor activities.

At least one of the towers could be as high as 40 stories, which would equal that of downtown's tallest building, Wells Fargo Place.

Public realm zones are planned between the buildings and along the top and base of the bluff as part of the city's proposed River Balcony



that is called for in the city's Great River Passage plan.

After talks with various developers fell short, the county spent \$17 million to clear the riverbluff property of its old buildings and erect a huge retaining wall. Another development proposed for the site fell through again last summer.

AECOM representative Brian Dusek told commissioners that the "true" Class A office vacancy rate in

downtown St. Paul is currently less than 4 percent, and little if any large spaces are available. The Greater St. Paul Building Owners and Managers Association, in its most recent report from six months ago, indicated that downtown has 17.7 percent or almost 400,000 square feet of vacant office space.

The plan does not include any affordable housing, which AECOM contends is ample in downtown.

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# Viewpoint

## Kids could do without a new sports complex

BY SCOTT RASKIEWICZ

Many people have commented in these pages on the folly of destroying the natural beauty of the Highland 9-Hole Golf Course to make room for a massive and expensive youth sports complex that may not be needed after a few years due to demographic changes. However, there are other arguments against the multi-sport facility.

Our nation has a variety of serious problems. Many of them are rooted in a belief that bigger is always better. Do big banks serve us better than the smaller banks of yesteryear? Have the bigger portions of American meals in recent decades made us any healthier? Has our 24/7 enough-is-never-enough consumer society made us happier? Have the gigantic corporations that dominate our economy and government made us a better nation?

This pathological desire for bigger, faster, louder and more that is degrading American society has an antidote: decentralization. In terms of youth athletics, it means a return to neighborhood-based sports.

Yes, there may be a shortage in youth sports facilities in St. Paul currently. However, that can be remedied by a wiser use of public lands and the public use of land owned by private schools, colleges and religious organizations. If these private entities don't want to be good neighbors and share their playing fields and open spaces, it would be wise to end the direct and indirect subsidies these organizations get from taxpayers each year.

Highly organized sports can have a negative impact on youngsters. I was fortunate to grow up in a small city on the eastern shore of Lake Michigan. From 1st through 6th grade, kids in my neighborhood played football, basketball and baseball on local playgrounds. We sometimes rode our bikes to other neighborhoods to play these sports against the kids at other playgrounds. (Somehow we managed this without parental help or email, cell phones or texting, but that is a subject for another essay.)

With a few exceptions, middle school is early enough for highly organized, adult-run competitive sports. However, for the vast majority of youths, self-organized or lightly supervised neighborhood sports played for fun rather than championships will properly facilitate their athletic and emotional development. To quote Marie Montessori, "The child who has never learned to act alone, to direct his own actions, to govern his own will, grows into an adult who is easily led and must always lean upon others."

Over the past 40 years or so, American children have not been allowed to fully explore and enjoy being a kid. From helicopter parenting to the over-organization of youth sports and youth activities in general to a cultural obsession with pop culture, materialism and the Internet and its gadgetry, many young people, though technically more savvy, are less mature than youths of previous generations.

The Highland 9-Hole Golf Course is a small gem and an irreplaceable community resource. To destroy it for a massive youth sports complex is a mistake that must not be made.

Scott Raskiewicz is a semi-retired tennis teaching professional from Macalester-Groveland.



## Inbox

### Safe firearm storage saves lives

On April 17, something happened that shook my family and me to our core: A young student brought a loaded gun to Highland Park Elementary, the school that my three beloved nephews attend. One of my nephews is in the same class as that student. I'm so grateful to the principal, Dr. Nancy Flynn, and all the others involved in addressing the situation quickly and resolving it safely. As frustrated and angry as I am with the adult who allowed that firearm to fall into the hands of a 7-year old, I'm also very grateful there was a trigger lock in place.

My urgent plea to everyone who chooses to keep a firearm in a home where children live or visit: Please practice safe storage by keeping firearms locked and unloaded, with ammunition locked and stored separately. Just hiding a firearm is not enough. According to a 2006 study in *Archives of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine*, 70 percent of children in gun-owning homes reported knowing where their parents hid guns and 36 percent reported handling guns without permission.

We've all seen the tragic stories in the news about children causing injury or death, whether intentionally or not, to themselves or someone else by using firearms that weren't safely stored. Thank goodness this particular situation at Highland Park Elementary didn't come to a tragic end, as could easily have happened without that trigger lock.

Keeping children safe from firearms is all of our responsibility. For more information about safe gun storage and how to talk to children about gun safety, visit [besmartforkids.org](http://besmartforkids.org), [familydoctor.org](http://familydoctor.org) or [healthychildren.org](http://healthychildren.org) and search "guns in the home." Let's make this the last time one of our local schools makes this kind of news headline.

Dr. Emily Benzie  
Merriam Park

### Playing by the rules

Andrew Rorvig asks us to believe that the failure of 11 land-use appeals in 2018 is proof that the fix is in (*Villager Viewpoint*, April 10). Despite my antipathy for the way things often are done in St. Paul, he'll need a great deal more evidence to convince me. What evidence he did present might just as well be taken to prove that city staff and lower levels of review have done their jobs and done them well—so well that only one appeal has succeeded in the past four years, according to Mr. Rorvig.

In my experience, which is admittedly limited in recent years, the average resident does not have a good understanding of land-use law. Public opposition to a project, no matter how widespread or strenuous, is not a legitimate reason to deny a permit, variance or rezoning. Each zoning district has its own permitted uses. The city

must follow the standards and requirements of the ordinances it has adopted. If an application meets the requirements of an ordinance, generally the city must grant it.

The public should bear in mind that while their opinions on such matters must be heard, they need not be accepted by the city. Those who challenge the opinions of qualified city staff on issues such as traffic, congestion, noise, etc., must be prepared to offer more than their lay opinions. Without that, they can expect staff recommendations to continue to be accepted.

James M. Hamilton  
Macalester-Groveland

### Let's make a better deal on trash

I write to congratulate the City Council on its decision to have organized trash collection in St. Paul utilizing 15 private haulers. This week we received notice that our small hauler had sold its business to Waste Management. The number of haulers in the system has now been reduced to seven, and I'm fairly certain that number will continue to shrink until Waste Management has control of the entire system.

I look forward to the cost savings we will see once a single hauler has control. I'm sure the City Council took this into consideration when it decided that homeowners would no longer be able to select their own trash haulers and seek the best competitive price. I look forward to how the City Council will negotiate costs with our best interests in mind when it is only negotiating with one firm.

Terri Fishel  
Highland Park

### Crosswalk law creates safer streets

Barry Riesch writes about his "old school" approach to pedestrian safety (*Villager Inbox*, March 27). It's important to note that the practice he describes is unlawful according to Minnesota Statute 169.21. As a driver, as long as it's safe to slow down, you're required to stop for a pedestrian waiting to cross at an intersection. It doesn't matter if there's a painted crosswalk or not. If it's at an intersection, a driver must stop. Is it really that big of a deal to be delayed 20 seconds while you wait for someone to cross the street? And heaven forbid they do so at a leisurely pace!

Mr. Riesch goes on to grumble about how we now have a full-time staff person at the city with a budget to help pedestrians bear no responsibility for watching out for oncoming traffic before crossing the street. When our Public Works Department hired

8 ◀ INBOX

pedestrian safety staff a couple of years ago to work on a citywide pedestrian plan that prioritizes the safety of the elderly as well as kids traveling to and from school, I was proud of our city. How many city staff people are devoted to the needs of drivers? I invite Mr. Riesch to investigate the answer to that question.

While I agree there are some pedestrians who enter the street without giving drivers ample time to slow down, I believe that for every one of them, there are 10 drivers who don't obey the law and stop for pedestrians waiting to cross. I'm glad the city continues to invest in staff and infrastructure that considers our most vulnerable road users.

*Jimmy Shoemaker  
Hamline-Midway*

**Girl Scouts changed my life**

In my experience, if you want to be adventurous, join the Girl Scouts.

The front-page article in the April 10 *Villager* quotes a girl who says, "I wanted to join Girl Scouts, but I didn't want to do just girly things." So she joined the Boy Scouts of America's new Scouts BSA. It is unfortunate that she does not know the history and track record of the two organizations. My experience is a case in point.

At age 8, 71 years ago, I was lucky to become a Brownie Scout. As a Girl Scout I was encouraged to test and stretch both my mental and physical abilities. Long before there were opportunities for girls to participate in sports, the Girl Scouts enabled me to go on canoe trips in the Boundary Waters, mountain hikes in Wyoming and to a world camp in England. The Girl Scouts convinced me that I was not a fat girl nerd, but someone who had value and talent. In many ways the organization changed my life, so I became a Girl Scout leader, a member of its board of directors and an advocate.

The Girl Scouts' mission to embrace groundbreaking programs included encouraging girls to participate in science, technology, engineering and math careers in the 1970s. While the Boy Scouts have been openly anti-gay through much of their history, the Girl Scouts have been supportive and open.

I encourage parents and girls to look at both organizations and then choose the one with a long history of providing unique opportunities to challenge and empower girls.

*Judy Mahle Lutter  
Macalester-Groveland*

**Girl Scouts has broad appeal**

I was disheartened by the article "Boy Scouts open ranks to troops exclusively for girls" (*Villager*, April 10). It quotes a new female Scouts BSA member saying, "I wanted to join Girl Scouts, but I didn't want to do just girly things." That attitude is precisely the problem. It furthers harmful stereotypes about gender.

What are "girly things"? The reporter ought to have asked the girl what she wanted to do that isn't part of Girl Scouts. Any scouting activity can be a Girl Scout thing.

The organization endorses leadership and life skills through a wide range of programs. It offers a multitude of science, technology, engineering and math activities and such outdoor activities as orienteering, climbing, survival skills and more—anything that a Scout of any gender could want to learn.

Statistics show that it's crucial to provide girls with leadership education in a girl-centric environment. This story indirectly

(sometimes directly) disparages the Girl Scouts by implying that they offer only "girly" activities and that families can find better, more convenient opportunities for their children through the Boy Scouts of America.

*Jennifer Noice  
Macalester-Groveland*

*Editor's note: The writer of the article to which our correspondent refers tried to contact a representative of the local River Valleys Council of Girl Scouts USA for comment, but her calls were not returned. The article did include a quote from River Valleys Council CEO Tish Bolger from the council's website about the many advantages of Girl Scouts.*

**Shedding a light on Scouting**

The article "Boy Scouts open ranks to troops exclusively for girls" (*Villager*, April 10) shed a good light on the Boy Scouts of America and was spot on. Mr. Dosch was my scoutmaster before he transitioned to our sister troop at Pilgrim Lutheran Church. He always encouraged us to set goals for ourselves and to not stop striving to be the best we can be. I'm glad to see that he's getting some well-earned recognition and hope that progress in Scouting keeps going.

*Noah Snyder  
Macalester-Groveland*

*Editor's note: The writer is a member of Boy Scout Troop 91.*

**A goose by any other name**

I'd like to congratulate the *Villager* for publishing a groundbreaking political cartoon by Steve Michaels in the April 10 issue. As this cartoon touches on nuanced issues in St. Paul politics, I'd like to offer a guide to the Pulitzer committee or other interested parties analyzing Mr. Michaels' subtle allegory.

In the cartoon, a farmer (labeled "City Council") prepares to stab a sleeping goose (labeled "Community Business Converted Zone") with a large knife (labeled "TN2 Rezoning"). To grasp the sophisticated satire at play here, it's important to know that the knife represents an ice cream shop and the goose represents another ice cream shop.

Mr. Michaels is deserving of all the accolades he will surely achieve for this intelligent addition to our local discourse.

*Ryan Ricard  
Macalester-Groveland*

**Promoting turnout in Highland**

At the annual meeting of the Highland District Council on April 10, at which the election of a new slate of board members took place, many comments and questions focused on how the council could better represent the diverse voices and population in Highland Park. Much hand-wringing took place over the lack of turnout from Grid 11 and the absence of even a single candidate to represent that area, which spans the area south of West Seventh Street to the Mississippi River.

The meeting was scheduled from 6:30-8:15 p.m. At 8:45 p.m. voting was still taking place for two at-large seats. I suspect the more than 2¼-hour time commitment may have been a significant factor in the lack of turnout from Grid 11, not to mention the lack of representation overall.

*Kelly Maynard  
Highland Park*

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Maurice F. Mischke, 1920-1991

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# District Council News

## Highland Park

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**Annual meeting**—Nearly 240 people braved the snow-storm on April 10 to attend the Highland District Council's annual meeting. Elections were held for all 12 grid seats and two at-large seats on the board of directors. Representatives were elected to all seats with the exception of Grid 11, which will be filled at the board meeting on May 2, along with the appointment of two at-large alternates. Contact the HDC office for more information

**New board members**—Those elected to the HDC board on April 10 include: Grid 1-Howard Miller, Grid 2-Tim Morehead, Grid 3-Lynn Varco, Grid 4-Kristina Mattson, Grid 5-Paul Langenfeld, Grid 6-Mat Hollinshead, Grid 7-Kevin Gallatin, Grid 8-Michelle Doyle, Grid 9-James Winterer, Grid 10-Bob Whitehead, Grid-12 Rebecca Reiners, and at-large members Sally Bauer and Matt McGuire. Leaving the board are Frank Jossi, Amanda Willis, Nate Hood, Darcy Tennes, Tyler Teggatz, Mike Lindsay, Jack Dobier, Nate Hurse and Brandon Long.

**Ford site design**—An open house will be held by the city of St. Paul on Tuesday, April 23, regarding the design standards being developed for the site of Ford Motor Company's former assembly plant. The open house will be held from 6:30-8 p.m. at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 S. Snelling Ave.

**Garage Fest**—Registration will open on April 24 for the Highland Park Garage Fest that will take place on Friday and Saturday, May 31-June 1. The \$15 fee covers the cost of promotion, a garage sale sign and a map of all sale locations. Visit the HDC website for more information and to register.

**Tour de Highland**—The sixth annual Tour de Highland will be held from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, May 18. Participants may take part in a 10- or 20-mile bike ride either on their own or with a guide. There will also be a guided walk to learn about the history of Highland Park. Visit the HDC website to register.

**Upcoming meetings**—board of directors, 7 p.m. Thursday, May 2; and Transportation Committee, 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 14. Both meetings will be held at the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy.

## Macalester-Groveland

macgrove.org • 651-695-4000

**Mini-grants**—The Macalester-Groveland Community Council is hoping to award two to four mini-grants this year to increase involvement in activities that benefit the neighborhood. Applications are due by April 29. Learn more by visiting [macgrove.org/minigrants](http://macgrove.org/minigrants).

**Call for judges**—The community council is looking for judges to help walk the alleys of the neighborhood from June 20-27 to nominate the recipients of Alley Garden Awards. Email [mgcc@macgrove.org](mailto:mgcc@macgrove.org) for information.

**Garden Fest**—Garden Fest will be held from 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, May 11, at the Edgcombe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St. Representatives from A Backyard Farm will be on hand to talk about gardening in small spaces. There will also be a plant share, seed swap, Ask a Master Gardener and flower planting activity for children. For information, visit [macgrove.org/what-we-do/gardenfest](http://macgrove.org/what-we-do/gardenfest).

**Call for artists**—The community council has received a grant from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council for the 2019 Mac-Grove Fest on September 7 at Groveland Park and is looking for talented people to participate. Performers, artists and others with creative ideas are asked to contact the council. Visit [macgrove.org/what-we-do/macgrovefest](http://macgrove.org/what-we-do/macgrovefest).

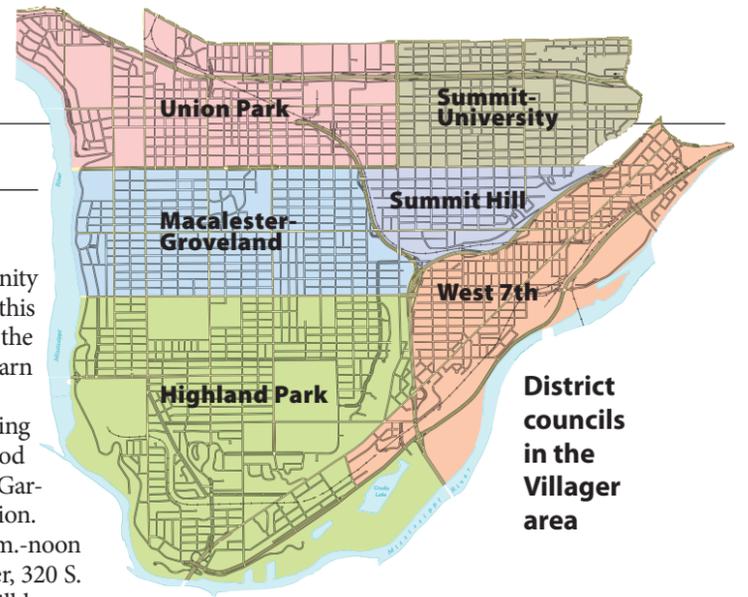
**Get involved**—Macalester-Groveland currently has openings on its board of directors for Grids 2 and 5 and an at-large business representative. The board also has three standing committees that meet monthly. Those who attend three consecutive committee meetings can become voting members.

**Upcoming meetings**—Community Building Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, May 13, Edgcombe Recreation Center; and Housing and Land Use Committee, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 22, Groveland Recreation Center.

## Union Park

unionparkdc.org • 651-645-6887

**Union Park micro-grants**—Residents of Union Park, either individually or as small groups, are being invited to apply for



District councils in the Villager area

grants of \$200-\$600 to complete improvement projects in the neighborhood. Applicants are also being encouraged to form partnerships with other neighbors, businesses and organizations. The application deadline is May 15. Email [microgrant@unionparkdc.org](mailto:microgrant@unionparkdc.org) with questions or visit [unionparkdc.org/micro-grant](http://unionparkdc.org/micro-grant) for information.

**Staff addition**—Abdulrahman Wako has been named the new community engagement coordinator for the Union Park District Council. Wako lives in the neighborhood, having moved to Minnesota with his family from Lansing, Michigan, in 2006. He can be reached at [wako@unionparkdc.org](mailto:wako@unionparkdc.org).

**Upcoming meetings**—board of directors, 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 1, Otto Hall at Episcopal Homes, 1860 University Ave.; Transportation Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, May 13, Room 127 at 1821 University Ave.; Environment and Parks Committee, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 15, Merriam Park Recreation Center, 2000 St Anthony Ave.; Committee on Land Use and Economic Development, 6:30 p.m. Monday, May 20, Suite 330, 1821 University Ave.; and Neighborhood Involvement Committee, 6:30 p.m. Monday, May 27, Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave.

**Stay in touch**—The public is invited to "like" the Union Park District Council on Facebook, follow it on Twitter @UnionParkDC and subscribe to its e-newsletter, "Neighborhood Matters," by emailing [info@unionparkdc.org](mailto:info@unionparkdc.org).

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Jasper Zarkower (right) poses before the Peterhof Palace outside St. Petersburg in 2016 with his parents David Zarkower and Vivian Bardwell and brother Sebastian.

# Russian cohesion

## Language study has given Central youth firsthand experience in foreign relations

BY ANNE MURPHY

When he elected to add Russian to his freshman class schedule at Central High School, Jasper Zarkower didn't know his decision would take him half-way around the world and set him on a course for studying linguistics in college. Zarkower is now a senior at Central and about to graduate with a trove of knowledge gained in the classroom and on the streets of Russia.

A resident of St. Paul's Lexington-Hamline neighborhood, Zarkower has taken two trips to Russia. The first was as a freshman when he and his parents, David Zarkower and Vivian Bardwell, and younger brother Sebastian participated in a trip led by Oksana Cox, the Russian language teacher at Central. The second trip was late last year when Zarkower and three other American students competed in the International Olympiada of Spoken Russian in Moscow.

"I wasn't thinking about things like that when I first registered for Russian," Zarkower said. "I'd taken French, and I had an open class period because I was taking math at the University of Minnesota. I went to registration night at Central and talked to the Russian teacher, who was very enthusiastic and made Russian seem like an interesting mix of language, history and culture."

Russian has been offered at Central for the past 30 years. It's now part of the school's Indigenous and World Languages program that also includes French, Chinese, German, Latin, Japanese and Spanish. Cox has taught Russian since 1996, and according to her, Central is the only public school in Minnesota to offer the language.

Cox, who is from Russia, is also chair of the Minnesota Olympiada of Spoken Russian, the state competition that led Zarkower to the national competition and eventually to the International Olympiada in Moscow. His participation in the Olympiadas coincided with his work in the International Baccalaureate program at Central, a diploma program that teaches students to relate what is learned in the classroom to world affairs with an emphasis on international understanding.

"Jasper was the top qualifying student at our 2018 Minnesota State Olympiada of Spoken Russian," Cox said. However, he still had to pass a written test and an oral interview at the national level to qualify for the Interna-

tional Olympiada at the Pushkin State Russian Language Institute and compete against students from throughout the world.

"There were four of us from the U.S. who went to Moscow," Zarkower said. "Two were from Baltimore and one was from Philadelphia. We were totally outnumbered in the sense that we were among the only kids without a Russian heritage or background. But we learned how to speak the language as it's spoken there pretty quickly."

Students at the Moscow Olympiada came from 35 countries. The experience allowed for the kind of cross-cultural communication that is so important in today's world, according to David Zarkower. "The students all had a common language, and it wasn't English," he said.

"Being able to meet young people from all over the world was an unforgettable experience," Jasper Zarkower said. "There were some extremely interesting characters, and people were deeply curious about each other's lives, especially ours since we came from so far away."

Outside of the formal competition, Zarkower had the opportunity to learn much about Russian history and culture, according to David. "It was eye-opening," he said. The students attended a play that was written over 100 years ago and visited the renowned Tretyakov Gallery. The gallery houses over 1,100 works of Russian art from the 11th through the early 20th century.

"The value of language study goes beyond a single marketable skill," David said. "In our modern world, it's important to be bilingual. It's important to understand other cultures. And it's enjoyable to be able to read Russian literature (in Russian). It gets at the value of being able to translate."

Asked if he was ever concerned about his safety in Moscow in the face of strained international relations, Jasper said, "I felt safe. People were welcoming and were curious about the U.S. The Pushkin Institute had organized things well and the American Council for International Education sorted out visas ahead of time so there weren't any issues. We did try to keep quiet about politics, but that was a matter of courtesy."

For students at Central who are considering taking a class in Russian, "I'd encourage it," Jasper said. "Being able to study Russian at Central has solidified my interest in pursuing linguistics in college."

*Students at the Moscow Olympiada came from 35 countries. "They all had a common language, and it wasn't English," said David Zarkower.*

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# Gardening

## Now is the time to spring into action: Prepare your yard for season of growth

BY MARY MAGUIRE LERMAN

Winter is finally over, or so those of us who are just itching to get out in the yard so fervently hope. That means it's time for such early-spring tasks as raking lawns, pruning shrubs, cleaning gardens, turning over compost piles and addressing the ravages that winter has wrought.

Wait until you can walk on the lawn without leaving an impression before you try to clean up your lawn. Use a bamboo or wood rake to gently remove last year's dried leaves. Don't use a hard-tined rake or you'll damage the crowns of grass. If you didn't apply lawn fertilizer last fall, put down an application of zero-phosphorus lawn fertilizer now.

Do you have rhubarb? Those crinkly leaves are emerging. If you want to divide the plant, now is the time. Push a spading fork into the soil in a circle 12 inches out from the cluster of leaves. Carefully lift the clump and split it into two or more clumps. Blend a bushel of compost and 1/3 cup of 10-10-10 fertilizer into each planting hole before setting the clump back in place. Then mulch around the new rhubarb plant and water thoroughly. After transplanting, you should wait a year before harvesting any rhubarb.

Wait for warm temperatures before cutting down last year's perennial flower stems or pulling out any annual stems. Insects and pollinators will winter in stems that have pith, and they need time at temperatures above 55 degrees to develop and leave their winter quarters. If you cut the stems too early,

you'll lose the benefits these insects provide.

Once your compost pile thaws, turn it over and spread the brown-gold compost in a thin layer (1 to 2 inches) over your garden. If you don't have a compost pile, now is a good time to start one with the soft-bodied plant matter you rake up. Then get in the habit of taking grass clippings and fruit and vegetable scraps from the kitchen to the compost pile. Compost provides a nutrient-rich, slow-release fertilizer for gardens.

Tulips and daffodils provide early color. When their blooms are past, don't be in a hurry to remove their foliage. The leaves of these bulbs should remain until they yellow. Energy from the leaves will feed next year's blooms. If the site of the yellowing foliage doesn't appeal to you, sow the seeds of colorful varieties of lettuce as the bulbs emerge in the spring. The lettuce will grow to hide the yellowing foliage while providing you with tasty salad greens.

If you wrapped young trees last fall or protected them with plastic tubes or fencing, now is the time to remove those coverings. Evergreens can be damaged by heavy snow, causing them to split or bend. Install a stake near the main trunk and attach the trunk to the stake with Velcro plant tape or heavy wire or rope threaded through an old section of garden hose. Never bind a tree with bare wire or rope.

Magnolias are dealing with a major insect pest these days. Healthy magnolia bark is gray. If your bark is black, your plant is likely infected with magnolia scale, which is indi-

cated by orange-gold bumps on the branches. Underneath these bumps are insects that will suck the life out of the tree. To remove the scales, rub a cloth soaked in rubbing alcohol along the branches. Place the scales in a container and toss them in the trash. Repeat this procedure monthly.

Deep snow this winter allowed rabbits and deer to get above protective fences and chew the bark and stems off shrubs and small trees. Directly under the bark is phloem, plant tissue that transports nutrients from the leaves to the roots. When the protective bark is removed, these transports can no longer happen and the plants will die above the damaged area. To save the tree or shrub, remove the portion of the plant above the damage.

According to horticulturist and pruner extraordinaire Philippe Gallandat, now is the best time for pruning some deciduous shrubs because there is no foliage on the stems and it's easier to see crossing, rubbing or broken branches that ought to be removed.

However, early-blooming shrubs such as lilacs, forsythia, azaleas, magnolias, rhododendrons, plums and large-leaf hydrangeas should not be pruned until after they finish blooming. These shrubs produce their flower buds during the previous growing season, and a thorough pruning before blooming could eliminate the flowers.

Pruning provides many benefits to woody plants. It removes damaged, diseased or infected stems, provides better air circulation, and encourages new growth that benefits the plant. To begin, examine the shrub to determine the various ages of the stems. It's best to prune a shrub every year, removing one-third of the oldest stems. Choose the oldest stems that may be bending at angles that cause them to cross other stems. This way you'll encourage vertical growth.



Using a curved pruning saw, horticulturist Philippe Gallandat removes rabbit-damaged stems from an ornamental tree. All growth above the damaged area will eventually die. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

Uncover your roses in the early spring and prune down to green stems with an outward facing bud. If you have large shrub roses that have swellings along the stems, prune beneath the swellings to remove cane borers.

Some shrubs, known as subshrubs, don't have strong wood in their stems. Dwarf spiraeas and potentillas fall into this group. Often, heavy snow or ice will crush their branches. In this case, simply cut all of the stems down to a few inches above the ground. This may be ter-

rifying to do, but the plants will recover and will bloom heavily this summer when they produce their flower buds.

If your shrubs haven't been pruned in many years and the stems are very large in diameter, you may want to undertake a major renovation, although this will often delay reblooming for two or more years. You can do this with old lilacs that have thick stems and very few blooms.

SPRING CLEANUP ► 13

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# Garden plant sales and swaps are sprouting up all over area

Gardeners hankering for hostas or searching for sedums will find the following local plant sales and shares in full bloom in the next few weeks:

**The Summit Hill Association's** Spring Plant Sale will be held from 5-7 p.m. Friday and 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, May 3-4, at the Linwood Recreation Center, 860 St. Clair Ave. Individual packs of annuals will be sold. Contact the SHA at 651-222-1222 or info@summithillassociation.org.

**Mississippi Market**, 1500 W. Seventh St., will hold its annual spring plant sale from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. May 3-27. The sale will feature native plants and locally grown vegetables and herbs. Master Gardeners will be on hand from 1-3 p.m. each Saturday to offer tips. Topics include building pollinator gardens on May 4, gardening with children on May 11, vegetable container gardening on May 18, and growing and preserving herbs on May 25. Children's gardening activities also will be held during those hours. Visit [msmarket.coop](http://msmarket.coop).

**Friends School** will hold its 30th annual plant sale on May 10-12 at the Minnesota State Fair Grandstand. The event will offer more than 2,450 varieties of annuals and perennials, climbing plants, water plants, herbs, trees, shrubs, wildflowers, vegetable plants and more. The sale will run from 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday. Parking and admission are free. Visit [friendsschoolplantsale.com](http://friendsschoolplantsale.com).

**The annual Garden Fest** will be held by the Macalester-Groveland Community Council from 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, May 11, outside the Edgumbe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St. Representatives from A Backyard Farm will be on hand to talk about gardening in small spaces. The fest will feature a spring plant share, seed swap, Ask a Master Gardener and planting activities for children. A donation of \$2 per item is suggested for those without plants to share. In case of rain, the fest will move indoors. Call 651-695-4000 or visit [macgrove.org/what-we-do/gardenfest](http://macgrove.org/what-we-do/gardenfest).

**The Dowling Community Garden**, 3901 46th Ave. S., Minneapolis, will hold its annual plant sale from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, May 11. A variety of heirloom vegetables will be available, as well as some hybrids and flowers. Email [info@dowlingcommunitygarden.org](mailto:info@dowlingcommunitygarden.org).

**The Mendota Heights Garden Club** will host its annual plant sale from 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Saturday, May 11, at 1422 Delaware Ave., West St. Paul. There will be perennials from members' gardens, and native ferns, herbs and more from local growers.

**The Association for Nonsmokers**-Minnesota will hold its 36th annual garage and plant sale from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, May 17-18, at 1647 Laurel Ave. Heirloom tomatoes will be available, along with peppers, herbs and a large variety of annuals and perennials for sun and shade. Call 651-646-3005 or visit [ansrmn.org/garagesale](http://ansrmn.org/garagesale).

**The Garden Club of Ramsey County** will hold its annual plant sale from 8-11 a.m. Saturday, May 18, at the Edgumbe Recreation Center, 320 St. Griggs St. Choose from hundreds of plants, many plucked from some of the best gardens in Ramsey County. Included are perennials, natives, grasses, vegetables and herbs. Visit [ramseygardeners.org](http://ramseygardeners.org).

**The Longfellow Garden Club** will hold a plant swap on Saturday, May 18, at Sanford Middle School, 3524 42nd Ave. S., Minneapolis. People can bring plants beginning at 11 a.m. The swap starts at noon and most plants are typically gone in 30 minutes. A donation is required for those without plants to swap.

**Ramsey County Master Gardeners** will hold their annual plant sale from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, May 18, at The Barn, 2020 White Bear Ave., next to Aldrich Arena. The sale will feature native plants and perennials, tomatoes, hostas, seedlings and more. Master Gardeners will answer gardening and landscape questions. Proceeds will support youth horticultural programs and University of Minnesota scholarships. Call 651-704-2080 or visit [ramseymastergardeners.org](http://ramseymastergardeners.org).

**The Temple of Aaron**, 616 S. Mississippi River Blvd., will hold a plant sale from 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday, May 19. A variety of annuals and perennials that are pollinator magnets grown pesticide-free will be available along with heirloom vegetables, herbs and disease-resistant basil. Order forms are now available at the temple office.

**A Blooming Plant Sale** will be held from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, May 25, at Spirit of Hope Catholic Community on Highway 62 and Charlton Road in Sunfish Lake. The sale will feature more than 50 varieties of tomatoes, along with perennials, vegetables and native plants. Master Gardeners will be on site to answer questions.

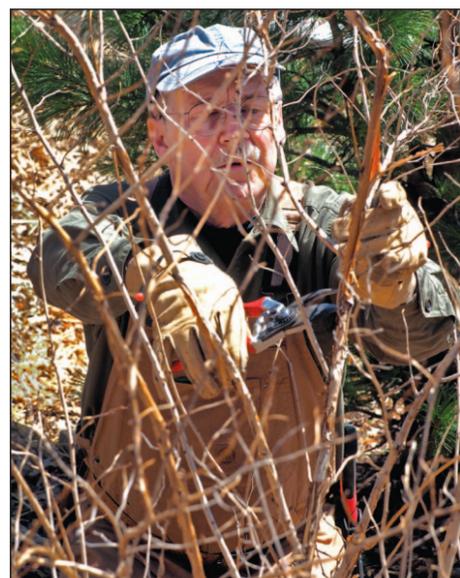
## 12◀ SPRING CLEANUP

This intense method of pruning should be done when the plants are dormant or just beginning to emerge in the spring. Cut the large stems down to 6 to 8 inches above the ground, leaving the top of the cut slightly angled so that water will shed. It's important to make the wound as small as possible and to avoid tearing the bark. This pruning will result in numerous new stems developing at the base of the shrub. In the fall, you can thin the number of stems to open up the shrub.

Pruning should only be done with clean, sharp tools to avoid crushing stems. Clean and sterilize your pruners with 70 percent isopropyl alcohol between every shrub to avoid spreading disease. Always prune just above a bud and at an angle. The direction the bud is facing will be the direction of new growth, so choose buds that face out from the shrub to allow for better air circulation.

Also remember that every curb on a city street is the shoreline of a freshwater lake or river. Anything you rake or blow into the street will enter the storm sewer.

Discarded leaves and grass clippings are the biggest source of the phosphorus that pollutes our rivers, streams and lakes. Do your part to protect water quality by raking, bagging or composting grass clippings and other plant debris.



Philippe Gallandat prunes select stems on this Ninebark shrub to open it up for better light and air penetration.

*Editor's note: Mary Maguire Lerman is a graduate of the University of Minnesota's Department of Horticulture Science. She directed horticulture operations for the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board for 32 years and now helps organize gardening projects at the Temple of Aaron in Highland Park and the St. Anthony Park Library.*

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# Crime Report

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

## Highland Park

**Burglary**—Cold Front, 490 S. Hamline Ave., was broken into at 5:03 a.m. Thursday, April 11.

—A burglary was reported on the 600 block of Montcalm Place at 1:42 p.m. Saturday, April 13.

**Theft**—The catalytic converter was reported stolen from a vehicle on the 1300 block of St. Paul Avenue at 11:13 a.m. Monday, April 1.

—Vehicles were stolen on the 600 block of Kenneth Street on April 2, on the 1700 block of West Seventh Street on April 13 and on the 2000 block of Ford Parkway on April 15.

—Thefts occurred at the T-Mobile and AT&T stores on Ford Parkway on April 3 and 7, respectively.

—A male ran off with a \$300 pair of Beats Solo 3 headphones at 2:36 p.m. Thursday, April 11, at the AT&T Store, 2132 Ford Pkwy.

## Lexington-Hamline

**Robbery**—A strong-arm robbery was reported on the 1100 block of University Avenue at 4:05 p.m. Tuesday, April 2.

**Burglary**—An 18-year-old man was arrested for felony possession of burglary tools at the Midway Target at 10:35 p.m. Thursday, April 11.

**Theft**—A vehicle was stolen on Marshall Avenue and Syndicate Street between 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesday, April 2.

—Bank bags were reported missing from the safe at Noodles & Company, 470 N. Hamline Ave., at 2:09 p.m. Sunday, April 14.

**Miscellaneous**—A community notification meeting regarding five Level III sex offenders who are moving to St. Paul will be held at 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 24, at the West District Police Station, 389 N. Hamline Ave. The offenders include Robert Michael Benike, 47, who has registered to live on the 1200 block of Dayton Avenue.

## Macalester-Groveland

**Burglary**—Dunn Brothers Coffee, 1569 Grand Ave., was broken into at 4:47 a.m. Thursday, April 11.

**Theft**—A bronze plaque was stolen from a statue at Macalester College on April 3-4.

—A male suspect stole a sweatshirt valued at more than \$1,000 from Jibba, 1326 Grand

Ave., at 2:20 p.m. Thursday, April 4.

—Vehicles were stolen on the 1800 block of Sargent Avenue during the evening of April 4-5, on the 1700 block of Jefferson Avenue on April 9 and on the 1200 block of Wellesley Avenue on April 13.

—A laptop computer, lacrosse gear, a wallet and house keys were stolen from a vehicle on Grand and Hamline avenues between 8:30-9:24 p.m. Friday, April 5.

—A cash machine was reported stolen at the Lexington Hills Apartments, 360 S. Lexington Pkwy., at 10 p.m. Monday, April 8.

—Two laptop computers were stolen from a vehicle on the 1800 block of St. Clair Avenue at 12:18 a.m. Tuesday, April 9.

—A woman's wallet was stolen at Walgreens, 1585 Randolph Ave., between 8 a.m.-noon Tuesday, April 9.

**Assault**—A male victim suffered a bloody nose after he was hit in the head by an unknown suspect on Cleveland and Summit avenues at 2:57 p.m. Tuesday, April 2.

**Miscellaneous**—The University of St. Thomas cancelled classes and evacuated McNeely Hall at Grand and Cleveland avenues as well as surrounding buildings due to a bomb threat that was received on the morning of Wednesday, April 17. A search was conducted, but no bomb was found and an all-clear was issued at 4:08 p.m.

## Mendota Heights

**Theft**—Several items were reported stolen from a vehicle on the 100 block of E Street in Mendota at 5 a.m. Tuesday, April 2. Other vehicles in the area also were gone through. A suspect was in custody.

—Mail was seen strewn across several yards on Hingham Circle at 4:14 p.m. Friday, April 5. Officers returned the mail to its owner. It appeared that other mailboxes in the area had been gone through as well.

**Miscellaneous**—An officer came across an unconscious driver whose vehicle was stopped in the turn lane on Highway 13 and Victoria Curve at 1:24 a.m. Friday, March 29. When the officer got out to check on him, the driver awoke, drove into a sign and was arrested for DWI.

—Police observed a vehicle parked on a bike trail on the 1000 block of Highway 13 at 7:27 p.m. Sunday, March 31. The driver apologized for parking there, saying he and another individual were just stopping to smoke marijuana. Multiple bags of marijuana were recovered and the two were cited for

drug possession.

## Merriam Park

**Burglary**—A burglary was reported at a residence at the University of St. Thomas at 11:02 a.m. Monday, April 1.

—An apartment was broken into on the 2200 block of Marshall Avenue during the evening of April 8-9.

**Theft**—A vehicle was stolen on Cleveland and St. Anthony avenues on April 1-2.

—A group of around 10 people pretended to get into a fight and then ran away to avoid paying the tab at Denny's, 1664 University Ave., at 10:26 p.m. Sunday, April 14.

**Assault**—A man said he was threatened with violence by his neighbor for trimming trees along a property line on the 2000 block of Dayton Avenue at 7:27 p.m. Friday, April 5.

**Weapons**—Gunshots were reported near Herschel Street and University Avenue at 12:45 a.m. Monday, April 8.

**Miscellaneous**—Police observed a loud house party on the 2200 block of Selby Avenue with 20-40 individuals drinking in the front yard at 12:20 a.m. Sunday, April 7. When police approached to tell them to quiet down, 50-60 people ran out of the back of the house and another 50 or so left through the front door. A 19-year-old female was cited for violating the city's social host ordinance and giving false information to police. Two others were cited for underage drinking.

## Snelling-Hamline

**Robbery**—A strong-arm robbery was reported at Whole Foods, 1575 Selby Ave., at 1:20 p.m. Saturday, April 6.

**Theft**—A 45-year-old woman was cited for shoplifting at the Midway Walmart at 2:57 p.m. Monday, April 15. Police said it was the fifth time she had been caught stealing there. Previous thefts totalled thousands of dollars.

## Summit Hill

**Robbery**—A robbery with a gun was reported on the 1100 block of Grand Avenue at 8 p.m. Thursday, April 11.

**Burglary**—A vehicle was stolen from a garage on the 800 block of Grand Avenue during the evening of April 3-4.

—A bicycle was stolen from the basement of an apartment building on the 800 block of Grand Avenue between April 4-6.

—A residence was broken into on the 400 block of Grand Avenue at 3:06 p.m. Friday,

April 5.

—A bag of tools was stolen from a residence on the 900 block of Goodrich Avenue between April 6-16.

—A vehicle was stolen on Grand Avenue and Dale Street at 10:09 a.m. Friday, April 12.

## Summit-University

**Burglary**—Several items were stolen from a garage on the 600 block of Holly Avenue on April 4-5.

—An office at Mitchell Hamline School of Law, 875 Summit Ave., was burglarized between April 5-9.

—Spa MD, 165 N. Western Ave., was broken into at 8:20 a.m. Friday, April 12.

—JLS Consulting, 595 Selby Ave., was broken into during the evening of April 15-16.

**Theft**—Suspects stole a cellphone from the Jimmy Lee Recreation Center and tried to sell it at a nearby business around 4:05 p.m. Friday, April 5.

—A vehicle was stolen on the 300 block of Marshall Avenue on April 6-7.

**Weapons**—Police received several calls of shots fired on the 700 block of Marshall Avenue at 9:54 p.m. Monday, April 1.

**Sex crime**—A rape was reported on the 900 block of Hague Avenue at 10 p.m. Monday, April 1.

## West End

**Homicide**—Matthew Richard Schramm, 33, was found dead inside his home on the 1700 block of Benson Avenue at 4:50 p.m. Monday, April 15. The case was being investigated as a homicide, which would be the seventh in St. Paul this year.

**Robbery**—BankCherokee, 675 Randolph Ave., was robbed at 1:48 p.m. Tuesday, April 16.

**Burglary**—A 34-year-old man was arrested for breaking into the office of the Bay Street Grill, 731 Randolph Ave., at 6:09 a.m. Wednesday, April 10. The same suspect reportedly broke into Joe & Stan's Pub, 949 W. Seventh St., between 5:30-6 that morning.

—A break-in was reported at the Schmidt Artist Lofts, 900 W. Seventh St., during the evening of April 12-13.

**Theft**—A vehicle was reported stolen on the 200 block of Sturgis Street at 4:30 a.m. Monday, April 8.

—The catalytic converter was stolen from a vehicle on the 900 block of Palace Avenue around 1:50 a.m. Monday, April 8.

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# The Kiosk

## Wednesday/April 24

**TWENTY YEARS** of anti-war protests will be marked from 5-6 p.m. on the Lake Street Bridge by those who have taken part in the weekly bridge vigil. Sponsored by Women Against Military Madness and the Twin Cities Peace Campaign, a celebration will follow at 6:30 p.m. at the Church of St. Albert the Great, 2836 33rd Ave. S. in Minneapolis. The program will include a short video, live music, toasts and a sharing of stories. All are welcome.

## Thursday/April 25

**VICTORIAN PALEONTOLOGY**, a two-hour program on the rivalries and collaborations among gentlemen scientists and academic trailblazers in paleontology during the Victorian era, will be offered at 5:30 and 8:30 p.m. at the Alexander Ramsey House, 265 S. Exchange St. Available for ages 21 and up, tickets are \$26 and include two drinks and snacks. Call 651-296-8760 or visit cart.mnhs.org.

**A TOWN HALL FORUM** on education will be presented by Indivisible St. Paul from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Hamline-Midway Library, 1558 W. Minnehaha Ave. A panel will address ways to make St. Paul's public schools more equitable and better funded. Serving on the panel will be Sara Ford of Education Minnesota and local elected officials, including School Board members Steve Marchese and Mary Vanderwert.

## Friday/April 26

**FIND BARGAINS** on good used furniture, housewares, clothing, books, CDs, bicycles, sporting goods, plants and much more at the spring rummage sale held today through April 28 in the St. Mark's Catholic Church parish hall, 2001 Dayton Ave. The sale will run from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 9 a.m.-noon Sunday.

**PROTECT YOUR PRIVACY.** Shred up to five boxes of personal and confidential

documents between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. in the offices of the Odd Couple Team, 1460 Grand Ave. The free event is sponsored by Jason Koenig and Shane Montoya of Keller Williams Integrity Realty.

**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS** invites the public to attend the opening of the exhibit, "A Century of Civic Engagement: The League of Women Voters in Minnesota," from 5-7 p.m. in the North Gallery at Landmark Center. The exhibit will remain on view through May 28. Admission is free.

## Saturday/April 27

**START SPRING OFF** on the right boot: Take part in St. Paul's Citywide Cleanup from 9-11:30 a.m. Volunteers are needed to help remove a winter's worth of refuse from their favorite park. Supplies and refreshments will be available at several area parks, including Highland, Dunning, Linwood and Carty. Take before and after photos of the area cleaned and enter them in the trashtag challenge at #trashtagSTP on Twitter, Facebook or Instagram. Visit tinyurl.com/y3odbjzp.

## Sunday/April 28

**ROBOT FASHION SHOW**, the third annual modeling competition by robot look-alikes clad in at least 25 percent repurposed electronics, will be held from 6-8 p.m. at Can Can Wonderland, 755 N. Prior Ave. Sponsored by Tech Dump, the free event invites spectators to come and vote for their favorite model and, while they're at it, drop off small electronics for recycling. Visit techdump.org.

**WOMEN EMBARKING** on a mid-life journey are invited to another session of the Next Chapter Series from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Jewish Family Service, 1633 W. Seventh St. The free program will include a showing and discussion of the podcast, "When Your Loved Ones Don't Get It." For information, call 651-313-6623.

## Tuesday/April 30

**THE AMERICAN RED CROSS** will be accepting blood donations from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Allina Health's Highland Clinic, 2120 Ford Pkwy. Walk-ins are welcome, but reservations are recommended. Visit redcrossblood.org or call 800-733-2767.

**WOMEN'S DRUM CENTER**, 2242 University Ave., will offer a class in hand drums for beginners from 5:30-6:30 pm. The cost is \$10. Drums are provided. Visit womensdrumcenter.org.

## Wednesday/May 1

**THE CARD CLUB** will meet for games of bridge, 500 and cribbage beginning at 8:30 a.m. at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 S. Snelling Ave. New members are welcome to join in the competition every Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. An optional lunch is served at noon for \$10 per person.

**WANT TO LINE DANCE?** Veteran teacher Dariel Allen is offering an hour-long class at 10:30 a.m. every Wednesday at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 700 S. Snelling Ave. Drop in any week. The cost is \$5.

**IN OUR OWN VOICE**, a free educational program in which two speakers share their personal stories of living with a mental illness and achieving recovery, will be offered from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the National Alliance on Mental Illness, 1919 University Ave. Suite 400. The program includes a short video and a question and answer session. Call 651-645-2948.

## Thursday/May 2

**"SAVING THE PLACES WE LOVE,"** a forum on the latest findings and possible solutions to climate change, will be held from 7:15-9:15 a.m. at Town and Country Club, 2279 Marshall Ave. Sponsored by the St. Paul Sunrise Rotary Club, the program will feature MPR meteorologist Paul Huttner, Alan Anderson of the Northfield

Rotary Climate Action Team, Kathryn Hoffman of the Center for Environmental Advocacy, St. Paul's chief resilience officer Russ Stark and Nicole Rom of Climate Generation. The cost is \$25 with breakfast.

## Friday/May 3

**FARE FOR ALL'S** monthly distribution of fresh produce and frozen meat will take place from 10 a.m.-noon at the West Seventh Community Center, 265 Oneida St. The food will be available in packages priced from \$10-\$25. Cash, credit and debit cards are accepted. Call 651-298-5493.

## Saturday/May 4

**A RUMMAGE SALE** will be held from 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at Clement's Episcopal Church, 901 Portland Ave. Come grab a pastry and coffee and shop for good used household items, books, small furniture, clothing and miscellaneous surprises. Tours of the Cass Gilbert-designed church will be offered from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Call 651-228-1164.

## Wednesday/May 8

**TIPS ON GROWING** tomatoes, peppers, and potatoes will be offered at a meeting of the Longfellow Garden Club beginning at 7 p.m. at Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37th Ave. S. in Minneapolis. A silent auction on garden-related goods will be part of the program. The public is invited. Auction items should be dropped off by 6:50 p.m.

## Thursday/May 9

**SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS LATER**, D-day is recalled by *Beyond the Beach* author Stephen Alan Bourque and veterans of the Normandy landings of June 6, 1944, in a World War II History Round Table at 7 p.m. in the Visitor Center at Historic Fort Snelling. Admission is \$5, free for students and World War II veterans. For information, call 612-726-1171.

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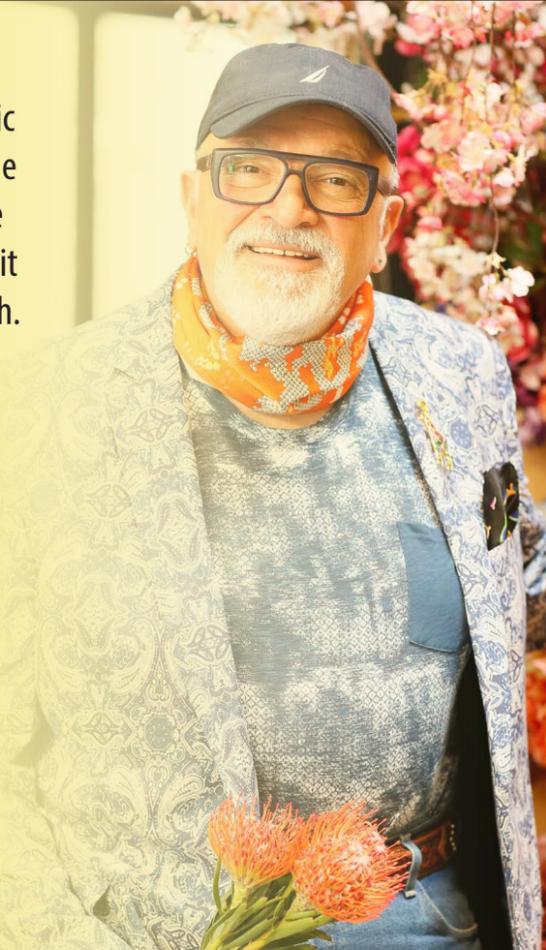
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# On the Town

## *The way you were* 'Marjorie Prime' confronts meaning of memory, limits of artificial intelligence

BY FRANK JOSSI

In *Marjorie Prime*, an 85-year-old woman contemplating the memories of her life has a comforting companion in the form of a hologram that looks, feels and acts like her late husband, Walter. The hologram has resurrected "Walter" through the wonders of artificial intelligence, and his presence forces Marjorie and her family to take a closer look at the meaning of memories and who controls them.

The play "is really about memory—what memory means to us and how memory makes us human," said Elena Giannetti, who directs the play for Prime Productions.

A troupe that specializes in plays about women age 50 and older, Prime will open its production of *Marjorie Prime* at 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 26, on the thrust stage at Park Square Theatre, 20 W. Seventh Place. Written by Jordan Harrison, the play was a finalist for the 2015 Pulitzer Prize and in 2017 was turned into a movie starring Jon Hamm, Geena Davis, Tim Robbins and Lois Smith.

The drama is set in a future where Marjorie, played by Candace Barrett Birk, contracts for the services of a hologram that appears as her husband did at age 30. Marjorie is in the early stages of dementia and recently moved in with her daughter Tess (played by Laura Stearns) and her son-in-law Jon (Andre Shoals).

"The mother-daughter relationship in the play is dynamic," Giannetti said. "It deals with grief. It deals with loss. It asks questions about humanity. It raises the question of what we leave unanswered when we don't ask the right questions."

Walter (James Rodriguez) remembers only what Marjorie and her children choose to tell him. Tess and Jon argue over which memories they should share with the

hologram and which memories they should withhold. The characters also struggle with their own identities as they are challenged by the limits of what technology can replace.

*Marjorie Prime* invites audiences to consider whether the holograms of deceased friends or family members would be a welcome future technological advance. The play has sparked intense discussions among the cast about artificial intelligence, according to Birk, who is a resident of St. Paul's Lexington-Hamline neighborhood and a longtime actor, director, arts administrator and teacher in California and the Twin Cities.

Marjorie has come to a point in her life where she is spending a lot of time recalling the past and wondering about the future, Birk said. The idea of a hologram helping her with memory issues is both astonishing and disconcerting, she said.

"It's all about how humanness and artificial intelligence might meet and how that would work out," Birk said. But more than that, "*Marjorie Prime* questions how we remember, what we remember, what are the stories we remember, who gets to remember them, who gets to tell them, who gets to say what's true and what gets passed on," she said.

Although the play centers on the mother-daughter relationship, the two male characters provide another dimension. Tess' husband Jon is "a fun-loving guy who's an instigator in a good way," said Shoals. Jon calms Tess, relays messages to their children and "clearly loves his wife and wants to fix everything," he said.

A resident of St. Anthony Park, Shoals has performed in musical theater for years. A St. Paul native, he lived on the East Coast for several years working as a dancer, singer and actor before returning to the Twin Cities



Candace Barrett Birk plays Marjorie and James Rodriguez is a hologram of her late husband Walter at age 30 in *Marjorie Prime*, opening on April 26. PHOTO BY DEVON COX

nine years ago. "It's been fun to work with a mature group of actors gifted in their craft," he said.

Giannetti is a veteran actor who has concentrated on directing over the past five years. The Macalester College graduate formed Prime Productions in 2016 with actress Alison Edwards and producer and director Shelli Place. The troupe's first show in 2017 was *Little Wars* at Mixed Blood Theatre, followed by *Two Degrees* at the Guthrie Theater.

"Those were positive portrayals of women over 50," Giannetti said of Prime's previous two productions. One was about a famous literary feud and the other about global warming. "I grew up in this town, and there's an incredible pool of mature female talent here," she said, "but the plays that get done don't often represent that."

In many dramas, older women are marginalized, given minor roles or made the butt of jokes, Giannetti said. "The biggest

demographic in theater are mature women, and they don't see themselves represented on stage very often," she said. "A lot of the feedback we get from audiences and actors is 'thank you for putting us on stage.'"

*Marjorie Prime* will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and at 2 p.m. Sundays through May 19. To stoke the conversation about artificial intelligence and memory issues, the theater will offer a series of postshow discussions.

Professor Maria Gini of the University of Minnesota Department of Computer Science and Engineering will lead a discussion about robotics and artificial intelligence following the 2 p.m. show on April 28. Marysue Moses of Ebenezzer Memory Care will discuss ways of treating dementia following the 7:30 p.m. show on May 11. *Minnesota Women's Press* will host a guest panel on "Endings" after the 7:30 p.m. show on May 17.

For ticket information, call 651-291-7005 or visit parksquaretheatre.org.

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# On the Town Briefly

## Music

**The Palestrina Choir** from St. Mary's Pro-Cathedral in Dublin will perform at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 24, at the Cathedral of St. Paul. Admission is by donation.

**Istanbul-born classical guitarist** Celil Refik Kaya, three-time winner of the Guitar Foundation of America's International Guitar Competition, will perform at 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 26, in Sundin Music Hall, 1531 Hewitt Ave. The Minnesota Guitar Society concert will feature Kaya's own compositions and works by Granados, Mangore, Morel and Domeniconi. Tickets are \$10-\$25. Visit [mnguitar.org](http://mnguitar.org).

**Four local bands** will take the stage on Saturday, April 27, for Band Blast, a concert featuring the local Talking Strings, rock-and-roller Jim Steinworth, the rockabilly of Bad Companions and the Brass Messengers. The music begins at 7 p.m. at the CSPA Hall, 383 Michigan St. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. Admission is a suggested donation of \$10.

**"Reflections of Spring,"** a concert of American folk songs, will be presented by the River Heights Chorale at 7 p.m. Saturday, April 27, in St. Paul Reformation Lutheran Church, 100 N. Oxford St., and at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 28, at Good Shepard Lutheran Church, 7600 E. Cahill Ave. in Inver Grove Heights. Admission is free, though donations will be accepted.

**BandWidth**, a six-hour festival featuring the music of six community bands, will be held at noon on Sunday, April 28, at Landmark Center. The free event will feature jazz, pop and Broadway tunes, marches and concert band classics by the Capri Big Band, Northeast Community Band, South Washington Community Band, Capital City Wind Ensemble, Century College Concert Band and the host Lex-Ham Community Band. Visit [LexHamArts.org](http://LexHamArts.org).

**The Bakken Trio's** Stephanie Arado and Pitnarry Shin will be joined by violinist Cece Belcher, violist Sifei Cheng, pianist Wei Yi Yang and singer Momoko Tanno in a performance of Ravel's Piano Trio in A minor and Tan Dun's Eight Colors for String Quartet on Sunday, April 28. The music begins at 4 p.m. at the MacPhail Center, 501 S. Second St. Tickets are \$15-\$25. Call 612-584-1967 or visit [bakkentrio.org](http://bakkentrio.org).

**Macalester College's** Chorale and Concert Choir and a professional orchestra will perform Stravinsky's Symphony of Psalms in a free concert at 8 p.m. Sunday, April 28, in the Concert Hall of the Fine Arts Center at Macalester. The public is invited.

**Cuban vocalist Omara Portuondo**, last remaining singer from the original Buena Vista Social Club, will bring her farewell tour to Ordway Music Theater at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 4. Accompanying her will be pianist Roberto Fonseca, bassist Yandy Martinez, drummer Ruly Herrera and percus-



**"Step Into Tomorrow."** St Paul-based TU Dance will celebrate its 15th anniversary with shows at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday, May 3-5, in the O'Shaughnessy at St. Catherine University. The troupe of 10 will be joined by guest dancers Renaldo Maurice, Demetrius McClendon, Alanna Morris-Van Tassel and Marcus Jarrell Willis in Alvin Ailey's wistful and sassy "Night Creature," Ailey's spiritual ballet "Witness," Ronald K. Brown's "Where the Light Shines Through" and Jawole Willa Jo Zollar's "Walking With Pearl...Africa Diaries." Tickets are \$34 with discounts for students, seniors and veterans. Call 651-690-6700 or visit [theoshaughnessy.com](http://theoshaughnessy.com). PHOTO BY MICHAEL SLOBODIAN

sionist Andres Coayo. Tickets are \$48-\$79. Call 651-224-4222 or visit [ordway.org](http://ordway.org).

**Russian-Israeli pianist** Boris Gilburg will present an all-Rachmaninoff recital at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 5, in the Concert Hall of the Fine Arts Center at Macalester College. The program includes his complete preludes for piano. Tickets are \$30, \$15 for full-time students. Call 612-822-0123.

**Organist Chelsea Chen**, artist-in-residence at Emmanuel Presbyterian Church in Manhattan, will give a solo recital at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 7, in Hamline Church United Methodist, 1514 Englewood Ave. Admission is free, though donations will be accepted.

**Jazz and blues pianist John Sims** will perform from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, May 9, at Summit Brewing, 910 Montreal Circle, as part of the Minnesota Music Coalition's NoVox series. Admission is free.

## Exhibits

**"Close to the Edge: The Birth of Hip-Hop Architecture"** is on view through June 15 at SpringBOX, 262 University Ave. Curated by Sekou Cooke of the Syracuse University School of Architecture, the show explores this new architectural movement through the work of 25 professionals, academics and students. Visit [aia-mn.org/hip-hop](http://aia-mn.org/hip-hop).

**The Catherine G. Murphy Gallery** at St. Catherine University is displaying a retrospective of the paintings and prints of Professor Emerita Patricia Olson; "Nostalgic Femininity," an exploration of the

relationship between nostalgia and gender in Japanese woodblock prints of the late 19th century; and the work of senior studio art major Amanda Grove. Olson will give a gallery talk at 2 p.m. Thursday, May 2. "Nostalgic Femininity" curator Christina Spiker will speak at 6 p.m. Monday, May 13. Admission is free. Visit [gallery.stkate.edu](http://gallery.stkate.edu).

**The St. Paul Art Crawl**, the St. Paul Art Collective's twice-yearly tour of galleries and studios across the city, will return on April 26-28 to more than three dozen venues in 11 different neighborhoods. The multi-media event will run from 6-10 p.m. Friday, noon-8 p.m. Saturday and noon-5 p.m. Sunday. Three dozen special events are scheduled during the crawl. For more information or to download a free Metro Transit bus and train pass, visit [saintpaulartcrawl.org](http://saintpaulartcrawl.org).

**"First Avenue: Stories of Minnesota's Mainroom"** will open with six hours of live music, live deejays, tours, book signings and art activities from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, May 4, at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. The new exhibit tells the story of the Minneapolis nightclub where many of the top musicians of the past half century performed. Through music, interviews, images, artifacts and interactive displays, visitors can relive that history. Admission is \$12, \$10 for seniors and college students, \$6 for children ages 5-17. Call 651-259-3000.

**"The Tree Show,"** an exhibit of paintings, drawings, photography, textiles, ceramics, sculpture and installations inspired by trees, will be displayed from May 4-25 at Vine Arts Center, 2637 27th Ave. S. in Minneapolis. An opening reception with live music and

poetry will be held from 6-9 p.m. Friday, May 4. Demonstrations of botanical printmaking will be offered from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday May 11. Participating artists will discuss their works from 6-8 p.m. Friday, May 17. Visit [vineartscenter.org](http://vineartscenter.org).

**"Minnesota Cloudscapes,"** a collection of large-scale abstract impressionist paintings by Heather Friedli, will be displayed from May 4-15 in the Landmark Gallery at Schmidt Artist Lofts, 900 W. Seventh St. An opening reception will be held from 6:30-9 p.m. Saturday, May 4. The gallery is open from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays. Call 248-660-3771.

**FemFair**, a feminist art fair sponsored by Hamline University's Women's Resource Center, will be held from noon-4 p.m. Sunday, May 5, at Hamline's Andersen Center, 774 N. Snelling Ave. Artists and craftspeople will be showing and selling their works in painting, photography, textiles, jewelry, graphic design, leather and literature. Live music, spoken word and comedy will be featured along with refreshments.

## Dance

**Letters|Home**, a dance-theater production that celebrates the ways in which humans relate to the notion of home, will be performed on April 25-28 by the Macalester College Theater and Dance Department. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday in the new theater of the Fine Arts Center at Mac. Tickets are free with a donation of non-perishable food for the Second Harvest Heartland food shelf. Call 651-696-6359.

## Theater

**The Golden Record Project**, a combination drama, art installation and interactive museum celebrating the time capsules NASA launched into deep space in 1977, is being staged through May 4 by Sandbox Theatre, 3109 E. 42nd St. in Minneapolis. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Sundays. For tickets, priced from \$10-\$30, visit [sandboxtheatreonline.com](http://sandboxtheatreonline.com).

**Octavia E. Butler's Parable of the Sower**, a new folk opera by Toshi Reagon and Bernice Johnson Reagon, will be staged at 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 26, in the O'Shaughnessy at St. Catherine University. A powerhouse ensemble of 20 singers and musicians will give musical life to the late futurist's post-apocalyptic novel of the same name. Tickets are \$27-\$57 with discounts for students, seniors and military. Call 651-690-6700.

**Red Hot and Cole**, a musical revue that traces American songwriter Cole Porter's career from Indiana to New York, London and Paris, will open on April 26 at Theatre in the Round, 245 Cedar Ave. S. in Minneapolis. The scintillating mixture of biography and song is directed by Mary Cutler with musical direction by Christopher Stordalen and chor-

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# next chapter

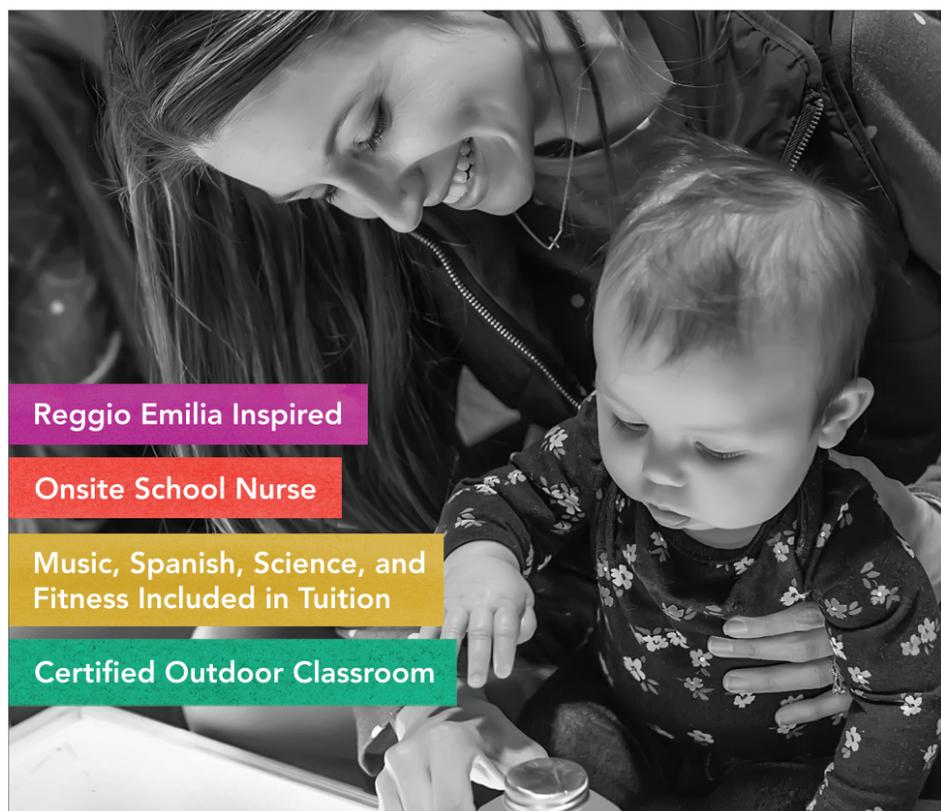
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**Launch of a lullaby.** Highland Park saxophonist and songwriter Rose Duffy will introduce her first children's book, *I Thank God for You*, at a launch party on Sunday, May 5, at Mancini's Char House, 531 W. Seventh St. The bedtime story can be sung as a lullaby, and it comes in separate versions for boys and girls. Duffy will sign copies of the book from 4-5 p.m. Live music with blues artist Scottie Miller will follow from 5-7 p.m.

eography by Brianna Belland. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays through May 19 and at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 16. Tickets are \$25. Call 612-333-3010 or visit [theatreintheround.org](http://theatreintheround.org).

**Shul**, a new drama by Sheldon Wolf about the dwindling membership of a synagogue who must decide what to do with their old building, keep it, sell it or share it with the local Sikh community, will open on April 27 on the Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company's stage at the Highland Park Community Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. Directed by Robert Dorfman, it stars Raye Birk, Nancy Marvy, Charles Numrich, Jöher Coleman, Avi Aharoni, Nat Fuller, Paul Schoenack and Dexiang Yang. The curtain rises at 8 p.m. Saturdays, 1 p.m. Sundays, and 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays through May 19, and at 7 p.m. April 28 and 1 p.m. April 30. Tickets are \$23-\$38. Call 651-647-4315 or visit [mnjewishtheatre.org](http://mnjewishtheatre.org).

**The Gun Show**, a high-caliber drama by E.M. Lewis that aims to bridge the political divide over gun control, will be performed from May 3-18 by Uprising Theatre. Lauren Diesch stars. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Fridays, 1:30 and 7:30 p.m. Saturdays, and 7:30 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays at the Off-Leash Art Box, 4200 E. 54th St. in Minneapolis. Tickets are \$20. Call 612-520-1230 or visit [uprisingtheatreco.com](http://uprisingtheatreco.com).

## Family

**Highland Park Library**, 1974 Ford Pkwy., will offer Baby Storytime at 10:15 and 11:15 a.m. Wednesdays; Children's Storytime, 11 a.m. Saturdays and 10:30 a.m. Mondays; Yarn Night, 6:15 p.m. Thursday, May 2; and a workshop in basic portrait drawing, 1 p.m. Saturday, May 4. Call 651-695-3700.

**"Raptors, Reptiles and Rocks,"** a free family program, will be presented by the Raptor Center, the Minnesota Herpetological Society and the Geological Society of Minnesota from 4-6 p.m. Friday, April 26, in the gymnasium at St. Mark's School, 1950 Marshall Ave. Call 651-644-3380

**Story Pirates**, creators of the family podcast that takes stories written by kids and turns them into hilarious songs and sketches, will perform live at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 27, at the Parkway Theater, 4814 Chicago Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Tickets are \$15, \$12 for children. Visit [theparkwaytheater.com](http://theparkwaytheater.com).

**Tuck Everlasting**, a play by Mark J. Frattaroli based on the book by Natalie Babbitt about aging, dying and what it means to be immortal, will be staged from May 3-19 by the Youth Performance Company. Morning,

afternoon and evening performances are scheduled Thursdays through Sundays at the Howard Conn Fine Arts Center, 1900 Nicollet Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Tickets are \$7-\$15. Call 612-623-9080.

**Nan Xia: The Tramping Tiger** will be presented by the Taiwanese troupe Shinerogy Puppet Show from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Friday, May 3, at SteppingStone Theatre, 55 N. Victoria St. The free show is suitable for all ages.

## Books

**West End author Larry Millet** will discuss his new book *Metropolitan Dreams*, about the ill-fated Northwestern Guaranty Loan Building—the tallest, largest and most splendid commercial structure in Minneapolis when it opened in 1890—at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 25, at the Roseville Library, 2180 N. Hamline Ave. Call 651-222-0701.

**SubText Books**, 6 W. Fifth St., will play host to free readings by Jill Kalz from her short-story collection, *The Winter Bees*, at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 25; and poets Chloe Clark, Crystal Stone, Donna Spruijt-Metz and Debra Marquart at 7 p.m. Saturday, May 4. Call 651-493-2791.

**Hmong-American writer Kao Kalia Yang**, author of the award-winning books *Latehomecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir* and *The Song Poet*, will speak and read from her works at 7 p.m. Monday, April 29, in the library of Central High School, 275 N. Lexington Pkwy. Admission is free. Refreshments will be served, and child care will be available.

**Historian Charles C. Mann**, author of *1491* and *1493*, books about the state of the New World before and after Columbus' discovery, and *The Wizard and the Prophet*, about two 20th-century scientists who laid the groundwork for today's environmental movement, will speak at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 7, at the Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave. Admission is free.

**The Great Books Discussion Group** will delve into the genre of sudden fiction with a program on William Maxwell's "The Country Where Nobody Ever Grew Old and Died" and Grace Paley's "Wants" at 5 p.m. Wednesday, May 8, at the University Club, 420 Summit Ave. New members are welcome. Call 651-285-7550.

**German author Takis Würger** will discuss his novel, *The Club*, about the dark secrets of an exclusive group of privileged young men, at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 8, at Common Good Books, 38 S. Snelling Ave. Admission is free. Call 651-225-8989.

## Et cetera

**Festival of Nations** returns from May 3-5 to St. Paul's RiverCentre. A celebration of the history and cultural traditions of more than 90 ethnic groups, the event will run from 3-10 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday. Featured will be cultural exhibits, folk art demonstrations, live theater, live painting, ethnic foods, imported gifts, and performances by more than 300 dancers and musicians on three stages. Tickets are \$11 in advance, \$13.50 at the door, \$8 for children ages 6 and up. Visit [festivalofnations.com](http://festivalofnations.com).

**A show and sale** of arts and crafts by local artists will be held from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, May 4, at J&S Bean Factory, 1518 Randolph Ave. Paintings, prints, pottery and jewelry will be featured along with works in glass, wood, fiber, beads and paper. Greeting cards and herbal products will also be available along with refreshments. For information, call 651-699-7788.

# Sports



## The Wright Call

By Dave Wright

### All hail Mac's national champs

Did you hear the one about the MIAC school in St. Paul that won its third national championship in a row and nobody wants to throw it out of the conference? It's true. It happened on April 14 in New London, Connecticut. The school was Macalester College and the sport was Division III women's water polo.

The MIAC actually doesn't sponsor water polo. In fact, Macalester is the only school in the conference with a varsity team in that sport. Still, there are other MIAC schools with club teams in women's water polo, which is quickly becoming one of the growing sports in the country.

Scott Reed is the coach of the Scots, who defeated Austin College 8-5 to win the Collegiate Water Polo Association (CWPA) championship. It capped a 12-5 season for Macalester, which defeated Wittenberg 17-6 in the quarterfinals and Monmouth 13-11 in the semifinals.

"There are currently 22 teams playing at our level," Reed said. "We have two new ones coming in next year and two more in two years. It's definitely a growing sport."

The CWPA is a wide-ranging association that includes teams from all over the country. Mac rolled through the conference slate with an 8-0 mark. It also added non-conference meets against Virginia Military Institute, Redlands, Chapman College and Cal Lutheran, as well as against club teams that included St. Mary's, Carleton and Augustana (Illinois).

There is Division I women's water polo with schools mainly on the coasts. Participants include Harvard, Brown, Bucknell, Michigan, Indiana and a lot of California colleges. Reed is perfectly content to stay playing in Division III for now. "We can't play against Southern California," he said. "We created this championship to promote growth in the sport at our level—and it's doing just that."

A fellow who knew little about water polo asked if the sport is like gymnastics, which fans understand but not many others do—a cult of sorts. "No, not really," Reed answered. "I think we're a larger community than that."

The denizens at the Division III level did their homework and mapped out a plan to follow what has happened in men's volleyball. It took a decade or so, but there is now a NCAA-sponsored championship in women's water polo at the Division I level. When Division III gets enough teams, Reed hopes the same thing will happen for it.

In keeping with a longstanding tradition, the roster of the Macalester water polo team is dotted with players from 10 different states. Minnesota is not represented—for now.

"I know it's unique to this area," Reed said. "Hopefully, that'll change in time."

Macalester has been playing the sport since 2003. Reed arrived in 2016 and turned things around in a hurry. He had spent 16 years at George Washington University running the men's and women's water polo programs. His first team at Macalester went 4-20. In his second season, the Scots beat Washington & Jefferson College 10-9 in overtime to win the national championship in Macalester's Riley Pool. His next team went 17-5 to defend that title, and now this year's team has made it a three-peat.

"In a way, this might have been the most satisfying because we didn't rely on one or two people," Reed said. "It was truly a team effort. We played good defense in the championship game. We had first years who contributed as much as seniors."

Senior Lucille Moran led the Scots in scoring with 29 goals and junior Oriana Galasso added 21. Galasso scored three in the championship match, as did sophomore Cara Mullery. Senior goalie Courtney Overland recorded 14 saves and was named player of the game. She finished the season with an

WRIGHT CALL ► 20

## Prep baseball preview

### Coaches say part of the game is dealing with parents

BY BILL WAGNER

When high school baseball coaches compare notes about the toughest tasks of their jobs, one topic that's always near the top is how to handle complaints from so-called "helicopter parents" who are upset that their youngsters aren't getting enough playing time.

Some coaches say they haven't had to face such complaints too often, while others admitted that some parents have, in fact, been hostile. They say that it's sad to see so many good coaches getting out of the game because they can't take the "unfriendly fire."

Nova baseball coach Scott Lindholm said he was once accosted by an angry parent who threatened to fight him. Nothing came of it, but Lindholm said he has experienced significant problems in the past with angry parents. He said the best way to ward off such situations is "to be fair and consistent, and to start the best players."

Another favored approach is to meet with parents before and during the season. "That does seem to work," said Roosevelt coach Dan Gynild.

In nine years as a coach, Gynild said he has only encountered one parent who came forward to complain. He turned the matter over to his athletic director and the parent soon called him to apologize.

Central coach Adam Hunkins said he feels fortunate that the issue hasn't presented itself in his 14 years of coaching the Minutemen. "I try to let parents know that I'm more than willing to talk to them as long as it has nothing to do with a player's playing time," he said.

One reason for the parental complaint problem, according to one area coach who preferred to remain anonymous, is the growing influence of booster clubs on the hiring of high school coaches. "They shouldn't be doing that, but they are," he said.

Parental pressure or not, the high school baseball season is underway. Here's how the local squads stack up:

#### CENTRAL

**League:** St. Paul City  
**Last year's record:** 11-10  
**Coach:** Adam Hunkins

**Key players:** senior infielder Liam King, senior infielder Kyle Wichlinski, senior center fielder Luke McElroy, senior catcher Eric Winter, senior shortstop Carl Voigt.

**Team strengths/weaknesses:** The Minutemen have good returning infield and outfield talent, with veterans at all four infield spots and catcher. They have



Central senior infielder Kyle Wichlinski takes a cut during drills in preparation for the start of the new baseball season. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

some unproven though talented pitching and hitting.

**Outlook:** Hunkins believes Central can be right up there with Highland Park, Johnson and Como Park. "I have high expectations," he said. "I can see us winning the whole thing."

#### CRETIN-DERHAM HALL

**League:** Suburban East  
**Last year's record:** 15-7  
**Coach:** Tony Cicalello

**Key players:** senior catcher Ben Galaher, senior outfielder/pitcher Danny Callahan, senior pitcher/third baseman Brian Williams, senior outfielder/pitcher Abe Schwinn.

**Team strengths/weaknesses:** CDH has good team speed and some pitching and hitting skills. Still, it lacks experience on the mound.

**Outlook:** Cicalello said it might be tough for the Raiders to keep up with Stillwater and perhaps Woodbury and East Ridge. "We're a work in progress," he said. "We have some holes to fill. We'll have to work hard."

#### HENRY SIBLEY

**League:** Metro East  
**Last year's record:** 13-9  
**Coach:** Greg Fehrman

**Key players:** senior shortstop Caden Christiansen, senior catcher Nick Linnarte, senior center fielder Anthony Charles, senior outfielder Kodey Johnson, senior pitcher Blake Krisko, senior pitcher Logan Woods, senior first baseman Tommy Buell, senior outfielder Joe Juliette.

**Team strengths/weaknesses:** The Warriors have more experience this year, which should bode well. Still, Fehrman is hoping for the team to mature as the

season progresses.

**Outlook:** The coach thinks his squad is ready for a good late-season run toward the top of the conference. "I like our team a lot," Fehrman said. "We're pretty well-balanced."

#### HIGHLAND PARK

**League:** St. Paul City  
**Last year's record:** 14-8  
**Coach:** Chris Steenberg

**Key players:** senior right fielder Henry Norby, senior pitcher Nick Lucken, sophomore pitcher Aidan Dumond, senior shortstop Benny Hughes.

**Team strengths/weaknesses:** Highland has good team defense and depth, along with some good contact hitters. The team needs to replace last year's first five hitters in the lineup despite the return of seven seniors.

**Outlook:** The Scots are one of four clubs that could win the conference, along with Central, Como and Johnson. "I think we'll be OK," Steenberg said. "We have a lot of good young talent."

#### MINNEHAHA ACADEMY

**League:** Independent Metro Athletic  
**Last year's record:** 18-6  
**Coach:** Scott Glenn

**Key players:** senior shortstop Noah Dehne, senior third baseman Bennett Theisen, senior pitcher Brock Brumley, senior catcher Nick Wong.

**Team strengths/weaknesses:** Minnehaha's pitching and defense are both excellent, but the hitting needs to improve.

**Outlook:** In the past three years, the Redhawks have won two state titles and a consolation crown. Glenn foresees

BASEBALL PREVIEW ► 20

# Minneapolis Athena Awards celebrate their 47th year

The 47th annual Minneapolis Athena Awards will be presented on May 3 to 54 of the top female athletes from public and private high schools in the greater Minneapolis area. The two local recipients are:

**Taytum Jo Rhoades**  
**Minnehaha Academy**

Sports: basketball (6-time letter winner, captain, 4-time all-conference, 6-time section champions, 6-time state participant, 2019 state Class AA champion, all-tournament team, scored 1,000 career points by her junior year, ); track (2-time letter winner, honorable mention); cross-country (2-time letter winner, section participant).

Other activities: volunteer at Regions Hos-

pital and Walker Methodist Health Center.  
Scholastic achievements: National Honor Society, Honor Roll every semester.  
Post-high school plans: attend the University of Minnesota Duluth on a basketball scholarship.

**Kathleen Grube**  
**Minneapolis Roosevelt**

Sports: softball (5-time letter winner, 2-time captain, 2-time conference awards, 2018 Breakdown Sports featured player, starting pitcher in every game for the 2017-2018 season); soccer (4-time letter winner); volleyball (two-time letter winner).

Other activities: volunteer at Wilderness Canoe Base in the Boundary Waters for the

last three years, Math Team, volunteer volleyball coach, piano, bowled a 700 series in her youth bowling club.

Scholastic achievements: National Honor Society, IB Diploma candidate, class valedictorian, Harvard Book Award winner, 2018 National History Day winner, 3-time Minnesota History Day winner, scholarship winner for the 2018 National History Academy.

Post-high school plans: taking a gap year staying with multiple families in India through the Rotary Club, followed by attending college.

\*\*\*

The Minneapolis Athena Awards luncheon will be held at 11:15 a.m. Friday, May 3, at the



Taytum Jo Rhoades



Kathleen Grube

Doubletree Hotel, 7800 Normandale Blvd. in Bloomington. Girls' athletic announcer Allie Cronk will be the presenter. For reservations, email [Pacy Erck at erck@comcast.net](mailto:PacyErck@comcast.net).

## 19◀ BASEBALL PREVIEW

another big year as only one senior graduated from the 2018 squad and eight starters return. "We have high expectations," he said, tabbing Blake and Providence Academy as the Redhawks' top competition in the conference.

**NOVA ACADEMY**

League: Twin Cities Athletic  
Last year's record: 14-6  
Coach: Scott Lindholm

**Key players:** sophomore shortstop Sam Hingsberger, junior second baseman Kevin Tuma, senior pitcher Bill Scheil, senior third baseman John Hingsberger, junior center fielder Sam Sheridan, junior left fielder Kevin Drew.

**Team strengths/weaknesses:** Nova's defense is strong up the middle. Lindholm still wants

to see how well the team's returning players perform.

**Outlook:** The Knights likely will be challenged by Liberty Classical, but they could win the conference for a third straight year. "We're in a good place with our program," Lindholm said.

**ROOSEVELT**

League: Minneapolis City  
Last year's record: 4-9  
Coach: Dan Gynild

**Key players:** senior pitcher Dylan Holte, sophomore catcher Dennis Holte, junior pitcher/center fielder Loren Griffin, freshman infielder Randy Pereya.

**Team strengths/weaknesses:** Roosevelt has good hitting and decent pitching, according to Gynild, but there is almost no depth and little speed.

**Outlook:** The Teddies will probably vie for the league's third spot behind Southwest and Washburn. "It's a rebuilding year every year," Gynild said. "We have a pretty decent team, though. We hope for a .500 season."

**ST. PAUL ACADEMY**

League: Independent Metro Athletic  
Last year's record: 7-16  
Coach: Rob Thompson

**Key players:** senior pitcher Andrew Johnson, senior first baseman Ryan Moore, freshman shortstop Boden Strafelda.

**Team strengths/weaknesses:** SPA's pitching and defense should both be assets. Its hitting will need work, at least early in the season.

**Outlook:** The Spartans had a lot of inexperienced players who started in 2018 and gained some confidence by the end of the season. "I'd like to think that we could be in the top three in the league," said Thompson, who named

Minnehaha and Providence Academy as two teams to beat.

**ST. THOMAS ACADEMY**

League: Metro East  
Last year's record: 7-14  
Coach: Matt Kelly

**Key players:** senior shortstop Callan Happe, senior pitcher Joe Goulet, senior pitcher Jack Ogle, senior pitcher Duke Coborn, senior third baseman Patrick Walsh.

**Team strengths/weaknesses:** The Cadets think they have a good combo of pitching, hitting and speed, though Kelly wants to see the team's baserunning improve.

**Outlook:** Kelly thinks STA is set to become a serious conference contender, along with Tartan and perhaps Mahtomedi. "We're aiming for the top of the league," Kelly said. "We have some good seniors to mix in with the other kids, and we have high hopes."

## 19◀ WRIGHT CALL

excellent 8.30 goals against average and a save percentage of around 60 percent.

Some sports are a perfect fit for schools. Such would appear to be the case with water polo at Macalester. The fact that the Scots are winning national championships is a bonus to be celebrated. It may even inspire other schools to take it up. All you need is a pool and some dedicated athletes.

### A different way to spend vacation time

In 1921, George Mallory became one of the first men to attempt to climb Mount Everest. When asked why he would do such a thing, his reply was succinct: "Because it's there."

Mallory came to mind recently with the news of how 16-year-old Central High School junior Lucy Peterson spent some recent time off. Lucy and her mother, Sarah, decided to visit relatives on the island of St. Kitts in the Caribbean

during spring break. While they were there, the 17th annual Nevis to St. Kitts' race, a 2.5-mile cross-channel swim, took place on March 31. A member of the Central swimming team who also competes for the Minnesota Flyers, Lucy decided that would be a good day for a swim.

She won the race in the category for 16-19 year olds with a time of 1:11.29, which was good for 14th place overall and fourth among all of the women who competed. The total field numbered 250 swimmers, including Olympians Keri-Anne Payne and David Carry.

In an email that Sarah sent on the subject, she quoted her daughter: "The strong current and waves made it challenging, but it was so fun and something I've wanted to do for a long time. I loved the clear water and being able to see turtles, stingrays, starfish and even a small, nurse shark."

It was a little more than Mallory's explanation. However, just like him, Lucy apparently embraces challenges.

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

## Coach's conduct still under review

BY BILL WAGNER

It is closing in on two months since the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) initiated an inquiry into St. Thomas Academy swimming coach John Barnes regarding a complaint over alleged improper behavior during this year's Class A state boys' swimming meet.

STA headmaster Matthew Mohs said last week that the school and league continue to review the matter, but did not specify when that would be completed. MSHSL spokesperson Tim Leighton and executive director Erich Martens declined to respond to requests to discuss the matter.

Barnes, who has led the Cadets to 14 state championships, responded to a phone call last week that he was not at liberty to comment on the issue. As a result of the MSHSL inquiry, he was not able to coach the Cadets on the final day of the state meet on March 2.

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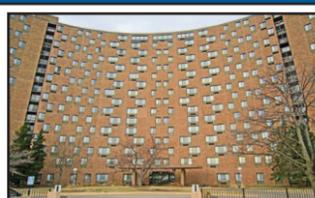
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**815 CALIFORNIA**  
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