



The 570-foot-tall smokestack of Xcel Energy's old High Bridge plant nears the ground after being imploded on June 28. The new power plant is pictured in the background. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

Symbolic smokestack comes down

Xcel topples landmark, prepares to dedicate new natural gas-fired plant

By Jane McClure

St. Paul's skyline is missing a familiar feature today. The 570-foot-tall smokestack of Xcel Energy's old coal-fired High Bridge plant hit the ground at 7:30 a.m. Saturday, June 28. The stack was imploded on time and without a hitch. A crowd on the High Bridge and spectators on both sides of the Mississippi River bluff roared as the stack came down. The 36-year-old concrete stack toppled slowly, with puffs of dust

visible at its base and a small trail of dust at its top as it fell. Demolition crews had worked for several days to prepare for the implosion. They demolished parts of the base, which left visible openings, and created a series of berms where the stack was to fall to cushion the impact when it hit the ground. Water cannons and foggers were used to minimize the cloud of dust that rose from the debris. Residents along the river had been warned by Xcel to close their windows and turn off their air conditioners before and after the implosion. Xcel closed the streets around the plant as well as the High Bridge a half hour before the implosion. It

will take crews a few days to clear the debris. Plans call for the old plant site to become a park. High Bridge plant manager Jim Zyduck said before the implosion that he was a bit nervous about the demolition project, noting that the smokestack would be falling toward the new natural gas-fired High Bridge plant, which is now operational and will be officially dedicated this month. "It's the end of an era for us," said Xcel regional vice president Kent Larson. The new High Bridge plant, which is part of the Metro Emis-

IMPLOSION ► 5

Petition for instant runoff voting is beset by flood of uncertainty

Questions about its constitutionality may keep electoral innovation off ballot in '08

By Kevin Driscoll

The St. Paul City Council is expected to reject placing instant runoff voting (IRV) on the November 4 general election ballot despite a petition signed by 5,386 citizens and certified by the Ramsey County Elections Bureau. As of late last week, City Council president Kathy Lantry planned to introduce two resolutions at the council's July 2 meeting: one to reject the ballot placement and a second committing the City Council to address the question following the resolution of a lawsuit in Hennepin County District Court challenging the introduction of IRV in Minneapolis city elections. "If the courts rule in favor of IRV in Minneapolis, we would put it to St. Paul voters at the next general election," Lantry said. "Obviously, if IRV is struck down as unconstitutional, the question becomes moot." Lantry said she had the support of five other council members for both resolutions. The petition by the Better Ballot Campaign of St. Paul would amend

the City Charter to eliminate primary elections for mayor and City Council and ask voters in a single general election to rank their choices if more than two candidates are running for a single seat. If no candidate receives more than 50 percent of the vote, the candidate with the fewest votes would be eliminated and his or her voters' second choices would be allotted to the remaining candidates and the ballots counted again. The process would then be repeated until a candidate gets a majority of the votes. St. Paul City Attorney John Choi issued a 10-page opinion on June 18 that stated, "IRV is more likely than not to be determined by a reviewing court to be in violation of the Minnesota Constitution.... (T)he City Council is not obligated to place the proposed IRV charter amendment on the ballot. (In fact) the city is expressly precluded from enacting IRV as its voting system by Minnesota statute 205.02." The only way St. Paul's or any other city's voting system can be changed, Choi wrote, is by an amendment to the

INSTANT RUNOFF ► 2

Rash of armed robberies in area traced to same suspects

By Dale Mischke

Just after twilight on Memorial Day, May 26, two young men and a young woman were walking near the corner of Jefferson and Prior avenues in St. Paul when they were surprised from behind by two or three assailants, immediately ordered to a face a nearby hedge and not turn around, shown a black handgun and ordered to surrender their wallets and purse. Eight-five minutes later, a

young couple out for a stroll on Mississippi River Boulevard near St. Clair Avenue were robbed in a similar fashion. Two days later, the woman who was robbed in the first incident found her purse on the front steps of her home, devoid of its valuables but with her ID inside along with a note from the woman who had returned it, saying she had found it in her yard near Jefferson and Woodlawn avenues, a quarter-mile from the location of the second robbery.

That is just one of the clues that led St. Paul Police Sergeant Bill Gillet to link a total of nine armed robberies that occurred between April 21 and June 11 in the southwestern quarter of St. Paul. The mode of operation in all nine robberies was almost identical, Gillet said. The victims were all pedestrians no older than 30. They were surprised from behind by two or three assailants, at least one of whom had a gun. "Very few words are exchanged," Gillet said. "They get their stuff and are gone

just as quickly as they appeared." Gillet has only a vague description of the suspects—three black males age 17 to 24. One has a slender build and is between 5 feet 10 inches and 6 feet tall. The other two are shorter with medium builds and heights of 5-foot-5 to 5-foot-8 and 5-foot-6 to 5-foot-9. The suspects' clothing has varied from incident to incident, but they have used a hand-

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1◀ INSTANT RUNOFF VOTING

state constitution.

However, Jay Benanav, an attorney representing the Better Ballot Campaign and a former St. Paul City Council member, is having none of it. "If the City Council doesn't put this question on the ballot this year, we intend to take legal action," Benanav said. "(Choi) says in his opinion that IRV is 'manifestly unconstitutional.' I strongly disagree with that interpretation. The law says the council 'shall,' not 'may' or 'can,' put the question on the ballot. If they don't...well, I'll be uncomfortable suing my former colleagues, but Better Ballot will, if necessary.... I find it hard to believe that the council would ignore the wishes of the citizens of St. Paul."

The Better Ballot Campaign's petition had 7,168 signatures. Elections Bureau manager Joe Mansky certified 5,386 as valid signatures of registered St. Paul voters—288 more than were needed to place the measure on the ballot.

Benanav's successor in Ward 4, City Council member Russ Stark, said that despite Choi's opinion, he would not support a resolution that does not let St. Paulites vote on IRV. "In the absence of certainty over its constitutionality," he said, "I believe we should put it on the ballot."

Stark said he supports the concept of IRV, "especially because I believe it will increase voter turnout. If IRV is found to be unconstitutional, the state Legislature will have to change the law."

If the Legislature does change the law, the state constitution would still have to be amended before IRV could be approved, and that would require a referendum. Success at the ballot is harder to come by at the state level because amending the state constitution requires a majority of all votes cast, not just a majority of those who vote on the ballot ques-

ELECTION '08



tion. Ballots that leave the referendum box blank are counted as "no" votes.

Ward 1 council member Melvin Carter III also supports IRV. "It's a means of increasing democracy and it stimulates higher voter turnouts," he said. However, Better Ballot's petition calls for implementing IRV in 2009, and that concerns Carter. "I'm not sure that's technically or financially possible," he said. Carter has indicated that he intends to support both of Lantry's resolutions.

Ward 6 council member Dan Bostrom said he opposes IRV "because it doesn't make any sense to me. I've been in politics a long time and I've never even heard of this before." Bostrom said he prefers the present system, "and that's that the top vote-getter is the winner, period. IRV is a very complex system to try to explain, and I think the law of unintended consequences might well come into play here. I think this is a solution looking for a problem."

Lantry opposes the concept of IRV. "If John Choi's opinion was different, I wouldn't hesitate to put IRV on the ballot, because it's part

"If the City Council doesn't put this question on the ballot this year, we intend to take legal action," Benanav said. "(Choi) says in his opinion that IRV is 'manifestly unconstitutional.' I strongly disagree with that interpretation."

of the process," she said. "But I just don't think the system is broken. We've been voting this way for a long time, and it works great. I don't know what the rush is to get it on this year's ballot, other than a high turnout during a presidential election year."

"I think it behooves the city to wait for a ruling on the Minneapolis case," said Ward 3 council member Pat Harris, who indicated he will support both of Lantry's resolutions. "If they rule in favor of IRV, I'm all for putting it on our ballot."

Harris said he is still not sure whether or not he favors replacing the current voting system with IRV.

Ward 2 council member Dave Thune is. "Contrary to many claims by supporters," Thune said, "IRV will limit debate because there will be no primary and because candidates will be afraid to offend or criticize the records of each other for fear of losing an opponent's second-choice votes. The notion of voters having more choices is ridiculous because they have the choices in a primary

election. IRV is nothing more than a calculated formula for popularity." Nevertheless, he added, "if it's found to be legit, which I doubt, I'm all for having the voters decide."

Mansky cited several problems with implementing IRV in city elections. The first involves School Board elections, which are governed by state law, not the city charter. Since the St. Paul Public Schools hold its elections concurrently with the city's, St. Paul is virtually guaranteed of having a primary election even with IRV, he said, and conducting an election with two different voting methods and possibly two different ballots, could be problematic.

According to Mansky, the voting equipment necessary to implement IRV is not currently on the market. "Nor do I foresee having any such equipment available for use in a city election until 2011 at the earliest," he said. Mansky estimated the equipment cost at \$1.5 million, including precinct ballot counters, accessible ballot marking devices, central counting equipment and the hardware and software necessary to program the voting system.

"That equipment would only be used to elect eight people," Lantry said. "We're not allowed to use financial limits as a reason not to do something, but the Legislature has capped our levy increase at about \$3.1 million for each of the next three years. Meanwhile, the city is facing a \$13 million deficit this year, and with the economy the way it is, it's not likely to improve soon. Such an expense would be hard to justify in lieu of the other priorities that need attention."

IRV could be implemented in 2009 using the city's current voting machines, Amy Brendmoen of the Better Ballot Campaign pointed out, as long as the city is willing to count the ballots by hand in the event no candidates for a particular office receive a majority of the vote in the first round of machine counting.

1◀ ARMED ROBBERIES

gun in each robbery and usually take the victims' cash, wallets, purses and jewelry. The suspects have fled on foot, but car doors have been heard slamming and a vehicle speeding away a short time later.

The nine robberies have all happened between 7:35 p.m. and 2:00 a.m. Three of them occurred in Macalester-Groveland, one in Summit Hill, one in Highland Park, two in Summit-University, one in Hamline-Midway and one in Frogtown. In three of the robberies, the victims were alone. In the other six, they were in groups of two or three. Nobody has been seriously injured.

Gillet surmises that the robbers have been driving through neighborhoods looking for unsuspecting victims. When they spot their prey, they may turn a corner out of sight, park the car and then approach their victims from behind or lie in wait out of sight ahead.

Robberies generally increase in the

spring when people are out later in the evening. In the seven weeks between May 1 and June 18, St. Paul police recorded nine robberies in Highland Park; four in Macalester-Groveland; seven in District 13 (Merriam Park, Snelling-Hamline and Lexington-Hamline); four in the West End; two in Summit Hill; seven in Ramsey Hill and nine in the rest of Summit-University. Those numbers include robberies on the street and in people's homes, but not in businesses.

"If squads don't apprehend the perpetrators with the goods shortly after the robbery," Gillet said, "they're difficult to prosecute unless the victims are able to identify them. Our intent is to alert people. Be aware of your surroundings. If you see something out of the ordinary, give us a call."

Gillet told of a young couple who were out for a walk shortly after 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 4, when they were accosted near the intersection of Portland Avenue and St. Albans Street by sus-

pects fitting the same M.O. as the Memorial Day suspects. The couple were able to get to a phone quickly and alert the police, who immediately set up a perimeter in the area, hoping to close in on the perpetrators. A police dog picked up their scent and was able to follow it for a while, but to no avail.

Marie Nelson, community outreach coordinator for the Macalester-Groveland Community Council, has advised local residents to be cautious when out walking at night. "Do not wear headphones, do use a cell phone and always be aware of your surroundings," she stated in an e-mail message.

Gillet advises pedestrians who see a car that looks out of place in their neighborhood, or one that is driving slowly by with several occupants who look suspicious, to take caution, change direction and call 911. If they should be accosted, "comply with the robbers," he said. "No matter how much money you have on you, it isn't worth your life."

Nine robberies linked

Investigators in the St. Paul Police Department's Western District have linked nine pedestrian robberies to suspects fitting the same description and mode of operation. The dates, times and street locations of the nine robberies are as follows:

April 21, Monday	7:35 p.m.	Charles-Victoria
May 24, Saturday	11:18 p.m.	Fairmount-Finn
May 25, Sunday	2:00 a.m.	Lincoln-Chatsworth
May 26, Monday	9:20 p.m.	Jefferson-Prior
May 26, Monday	10:45 p.m.	St. Clair-River Blvd.
June 3, Tuesday	10:15 p.m.	Lafond-Avon
June 4, Wednesday	9:22 p.m.	Portland-St. Albans
June 6, Friday	10:55 p.m.	Portland-Chatsworth
June 11, Wednesday	1:34 a.m.	Ford-Finn

Anyone with information regarding any of these crimes is asked to call Sergeant Bill Gillet of the St. Paul Police Department's Western District Robbery Investigations unit at 651-266-5415.

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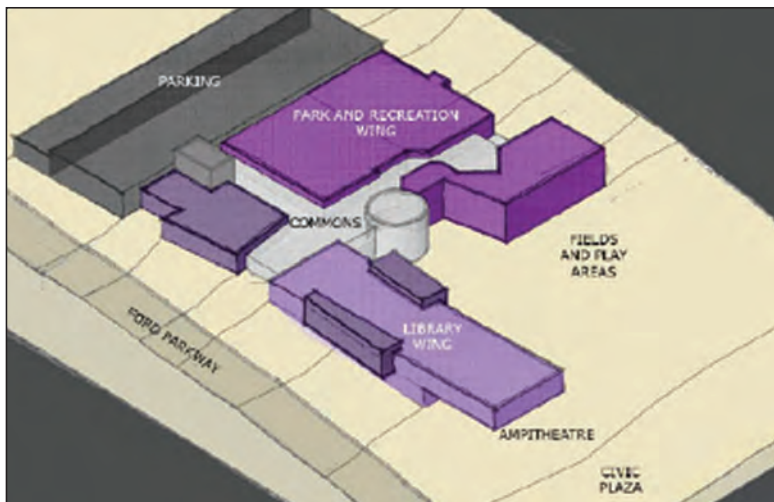
City inaugurates a long-range plan for Highland Village site

By JANE MCCLURE

Rebuilding most of the Highland Park Library, adding a half-gym to the Hillcrest Recreation Center, eliminating the current surface parking lot and building a two-level parking ramp are among the proposals in a long-range plan for improving the city facility at Ford Parkway and Kenneth Street. According to Ward 3 City Council member and Library Board chairman Pat Harris, the plans are still "extremely preliminary."

"This visioning process is a very early step," Harris said. "Right now we're just trying to get a picture of what people want and what can be done." He noted that although turn-outs at public meetings on the plan have been sparse, the city did receive more than 1,000 responses to a survey on the improvements.

The "visioning" for the library and adjacent recreation center is part of a larger planning process now under way for all of the city's public libraries, according to Melanie Huggins, director of the St. Paul Public Library. The city's plan for the future is to operate its libraries



A possible layout for a bigger and better Highland Library and Hillcrest Recreation Center.

as joint-use facilities whenever possible, she said. Highland-Hillcrest is one of two such facilities. The other is the Sunray Library and Conway Recreation Center. Planning processes are also under way for the Hamline-Midway, West 7th and Arlington libraries.

Library staff, who have been working with outside consultants on the plans, are hoping to make a recommendation to the City Council later this year. The planning process will eventually be used to determine costs and formulate time lines for the projects.

According to Harris, public comment on the plans is still welcome.

Given the public's limited participation in the process to date, he said, "it's fair to say we need to hear from more people."

"Some of the ideas look good, but you also have to consider how the facilities are used," said Scott Bunin, a former member of the Highland District Council who co-chaired the committee that oversaw the design of the Hillcrest Recreation Center and chaired the committee that oversaw the redesign of the library. For example, the parking lot was put along Ford Parkway so that people would have easy access to the Hillcrest fields, Bunin said. That feature is missing in the current proposal.

The Cunningham Group is leading the planning process for Highland-Hillcrest. In its preliminary layouts, the library would expand from 21,500 to 22,300 square feet and the recreation center from 21,900 to 32,800 square feet. However, the shared space between the two facilities would grow from an atrium of 900 square feet to a commons of 50,400 square feet that could include meeting rooms, a coffee shop and a copy center.

Much of the existing library would be demolished. The new library would include a reading area, more space for books, a multipurpose room, an electronic classroom, a homework center and more spacious children's areas.

Ninety to 95 percent of the Hill-



Whitney Smetana directs an activity at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, which her Skyhawk Day Camp leases from the city. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

crest building would be retained, including the theater, gym and locker rooms. A half-gym would be added at the southwest corner of the building. Areas for dance, crafts, weightlifting and other uses would be improved.

The current surface parking lot would be replaced with a "civic plaza" and small covered amphitheater at the corner of Ford Parkway and Kenneth Street. Part of the new library would hang over the amphitheater. The small parking deck beneath the current library would be replaced with a two-level, 120-car parking ramp on the east side of the building. The ramp would be

built into the slope and could have a tennis court or play equipment on its roof.

According to Bunin, the sloped site has always had water problems, which could be a factor in building underground parking. "There's a stream under this building," he said.

One issue that was raised on June 18 was the desire to preserve field space. Hillcrest currently has three baseball fields, and the preliminary layout shows two softball fields and one baseball field ringed by a walking trail, plants and play areas, including a "splash pad" water playground.



Skyhawk day camper Sian Vanderhaar, 5, is consoled by coach Gillian Bjerke during a summer session at the Hillcrest Recreation Center.

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Committee suggests bow hunt to lower Highland's deer population

By JANE MCCLURE

Bow hunters would be called on to kill deer at Crosby Farm Regional Park this fall if a plan to manage the growing deer population in the Highland Park neighborhood is approved.

The Highland District Council's Community Services Committee unanimously recommended approval of the plan on June 23. The full district council is expected to consider the plan on July 17.

Almost two dozen neighborhood residents attended the June 23 committee meeting to ask that something be done to reduce Highland's deer population. Ramsey County and St. Paul Parks and Recreation staff estimate that there are 40 to 50 deer now living on the bluffs and river bottom areas of Highland.

District council members and city officials have received numerous complaints from homeowners this spring about deer eating the plants in their yards. "You have to do something about the deer," said Montcalm Place resident Richard Streeper, who said he has lost several large Japanese yews on his property to deer foraging.

Some Highland residents said the deer problem is the worst they have seen. In addition to damaging yards, they said, the deer are posing a hazard for motorists on neighborhood streets. Countywide, deer-car accidents caused about \$2 million in damage last year. No figures are available for just the Highland area.

The proposed deer management plan would permit trained and licensed bow hunters to shoot in Crosby Farm Regional Park during a couple of organized two- to three-day hunts. The hunters would be stationed in deer stands and would shoot toward the ground to minimize the risk to other park users. The hunts would be conducted after the state of Minnesota's deer hunting season opens on September 15.

The Highland District Council would also conduct a public education campaign about the neighborhood's deer population. Although many people complain about the deer, some people are putting out salt licks and food for

the deer in violation of a city ordinance. The violation is a misdemeanor.

A variety of ideas for managing Highland's deer population were reviewed last month in a meeting between city staff and Ward 3 City Council member Pat Harris' office. Harris said he will review the deer management plan again once it receives HDC approval and is forwarded to the City Council.

City officials and Highland residents have wrangled over the neighborhood's deer population ever since the early 1990s when flooding of the Mississippi River on two occasions drove many deer from the river bottoms to the bluffs. However, John Moriarity of Ramsey County Parks and Recreation noted that Highland's deer population is by no means the highest concentration in the county.

About 200 deer were killed by sharpshooters during a hunt that was conducted a few years ago in the Highwood neighborhood of St. Paul and adjacent South Maplewood area. That hunt took out only about half of that area's estimated deer population.

St. Paul has used a trap-and-shoot program to control deer in Highland in the past. However, that program had several drawbacks, according to St. Paul Animal Control director Bill Stephenson. The traps must be checked daily, which requires considerable city staff time. Raccoons and other smaller animals could inadvertently trip the traps, and people who were opposed to the trap-and-shoot program could purposely trip them.

The last time the traps in Highland were in place, only one deer was lured in over a period of several weeks. "I can't pick up the deer and throw them in there," Stephenson said.

Other measures were discussed to curb the deer population, including birth control, physically rounding up the deer, feeding the deer at Crosby to keep them in the river bottoms and using repellents, but none of those options was considered practical.

City and county staff are sometimes asked why the deer can't be trapped here and released elsewhere in the state, but according to Moriarity, that is not a solution.

"Nowhere in Minnesota does anyone want more deer," Moriarity said.



A huge cloud of dust and debris leaps from the site of smokestack implosion.

1◀ IMPLOSION

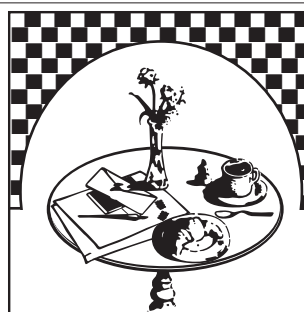
sions Reduction Project, reduces sulfur dioxide emissions by 99 percent, nitrogen oxide emissions by 97 percent and mercury by 100 percent.

Still, some people will miss what has been a landmark along the Mississippi River for nearly four decades. The plant itself was built in 1923, and the largest smokestack was added in 1972. There had been some sentiment for keeping the smokestack, but that was ruled out for liability reasons.

"Personally, I liked the smokestack," said Ward 2 St. Paul City Council member Dave Thune, who lives nearby. "I don't know if I'll ever find the High Bridge again."



Christy Entenman and her kids watch the action from Cliff Street.



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Plan for new Sherwin-Williams store is reviewed on appeal

Lincoln Commons tenants are worried about losing access

By JANE MCCLURE

The site plan for a proposed Sherwin-Williams paint and decorating store on the northeast corner of Snelling and Lincoln avenues is getting caught up in plans for installing a series of medians on Snelling.

The St. Paul Planning Commission is scheduled to vote on the site plan for the new Sherwin-Williams store on July 11. The Macalester-Groveland Community Council has recommended that it be approved. However, the owner of the adjacent Lincoln Commons shopping center continues to fight it.

The Planning Commission's Zoning Committee was scheduled to hold a public hearing on the site plan on July 1, after this issue of the Villager went to press.

Sherwin-Williams has signed a 10-year lease for 80 S. Snelling Ave., according to property owner Bob Brackey. The former site of an auto lube business, it has been vacant for close to a decade. Sherwin-Williams' plan is to tear down the commercial building as well as the house immediately to the east to make way for a new building and parking lot.

Sherwin-Williams' site plan was



A new Sherwin-Williams paint and decorating store is planned for the northeast corner of Snelling and Lincoln avenues, on the former site of an auto lube business. PHOTO BY ANNE BRANDRUD

approved by city staff this spring. However, that approval was appealed by Ross Fefercorn, owner of the Lincoln Commons buildings immediately to the north. Among other things, Fefercorn is concerned about preserving access to his shopping center from southbound Snelling Avenue.

Jeopardizing that access is the plan to put landscaped medians on Snelling between Grand and St. Clair avenues as a way to beautify the street, slow traffic and make it easier for pedestrians to cross. Macalester College and the Minnesota Department of Transportation have offered to finance the medians, which would prevent southbound vehicles from making left turns except at a couple of cross streets.

Providing a break in the median a half block south of Grand to allow southbound motorists access

to Fefercorn's parking lot has been a sticking point for several months. City and state transportation officials have resisted the notion. As an alternative, city officials have suggested allowing access to the Lincoln Commons parking lot through the Sherwin-Williams site. However, Brackey has said he is not interested in sharing access.

The Macalester-Groveland Community Council's Housing and Land Use Committee voted unanimously on June 25 to support the Sherwin-Williams site plan. The council did ask that Sherwin-Williams construct a building with materials that are more in keeping with the surrounding neighborhood.

A one-story 4,500-square-foot building is planned, made of off-white painted concrete block with a large blue stripe around the top. The developer has agreed to consider a

design that is more compatible with nearby commercial and institutional buildings, almost all of which are faced with brick.

The Macalester-Groveland committee did not address any of the issues raised by Fefercorn, including the layout of the store's 20-space parking lot and the possibility of shared access with Lincoln Commons. Fefercorn is also concerned about Sherwin-Williams' plan to construct its building with little or no setback from the corner, effectively blocking the sight lines to most of his tenants in Lincoln Commons, which include Coastal Seafoods, Great Clips, Caribou Coffee and Fed Ex/Kinko's.

Placing new commercial buildings at corners with little or no setback is part of the Macalester-Groveland Community Council's neighborhood plan. Members of

the council's Housing and Land Use Committee said they prefer to have off-street parking behind or beside rather than in front of buildings.

Fefercorn disagrees in this case. "There are better design solutions that could have been used here," he said. He questioned why Sherwin-Williams' design was not reviewed prior to the initial approval of the site plan. According to him, Lincoln Commons went through several weeks of public review before it was built.

According to Brackey and his design team, while the Sherwin-Williams site plan was being reviewed by city staff, some staff members tried to influence the project at Fefercorn's behest. Brackey said Ward 3 City Council member Pat Harris' office tried to force site plan changes that he did not want, including shared vehicular access and parking. However, Harris and his staff have denied those allegations.

A few neighborhood residents attended the community council's site plan hearing. Lincoln Avenue resident Michelle Ulrich said she would like to see more green space and trees on the Sherwin-Williams site. She also objected to moving the building back to line up with Lincoln Commons.

Lee English said he was concerned about Sherwin-Williams' customers using the Immanuel Lutheran Church parking lot across the street, where he is a member.

Commission delays decision on variances for West 7th food co-op

By JANE MCCLURE

Mississippi Market's plans to construct a new food co-op at the Victoria Park development on West 7th Street will go back to the St. Paul Planning Commission on July 17. The commission voted 12-4 on June 27 to approve a modification to Victoria Park's master plan, but laid over the needed variances to the property's traditional neighborhoods (TN) zoning.

Mississippi Market intends to replace its Randolph Avenue store with a new one on a 53,775-square-foot parcel at West 7th Street

and Hathaway Avenue. The one-story building would have 6,900 square feet of retail space and an overall footprint of 9,541 square feet. The building would be designed to accommodate future expansion of an additional 5,000 square feet.

In 2005, the St. Paul City Council approved a master plan for Victoria Park that rezoned the store's site and surrounding property from commercial and industrial to TN3, the most intensive category of a zoning classification that is intended to promote compact, pedestrian-friendly, mixed-use development. Plans for Victoria Park called for a largely mixed

residential development. The Mississippi Market block had been eyed for condos and rental apartments, but Brighton Development has had to look at other options due to the slumping housing market.

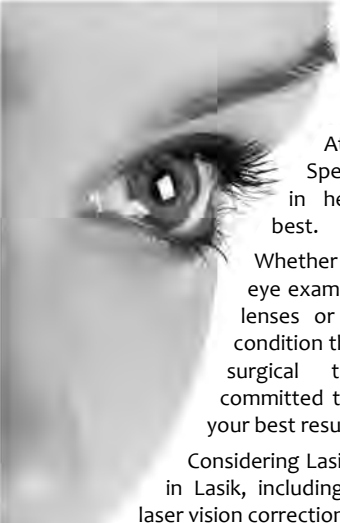
Brighton and the West 7th/Fort Road Federation supported the changes to the master plan and the variances to allow a commercial use there. The Shalom Community Alliance, which is building senior housing in the same area, and the West 7th Community Center also support the project.

The Planning Commission received a letter in opposition from Jim Berg, who owns

property west of Victoria Park. Last year the West 7th Federation opposed Berg's plans to build an ALDI grocery store there. Berg made design changes to his plans, but continued to face opposition from the district council, Brighton and Ward 2 City Council member Dave Thune.

In his letter, Berg objected to amending the Victoria Park master plan and granting the variances for Mississippi Market because it would decrease the value of the property he is now trying to sell.

MISSISSIPPI MARKET ►7



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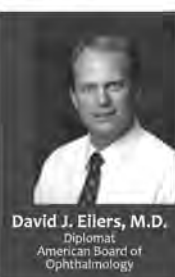
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City Council sets public hearing on proposed sober house regulations

Planning Commission agrees to drop distance requirement

By JANE MCCLURE

A proposal to regulate sober houses was adopted by the St. Paul Planning Commission on June 27 and will be the subject of a hearing before the City Council on July 2. The council is on a tight timeline to adopt the regulations because a moratorium on new sober house expires on September 12.

The regulations would require sober house operators to submit a request to the zoning administrator on a city form before opening a new facility. The operators would have to indicate the number of residents and provide information that shows the house meets city zoning and fire codes.

New sober houses would also be required to provide 1.5 parking spaces for every four residents. If a sober house does not meet the parking requirement, a written plan would have to be submitted for shared parking or some other solution. In single-family residential districts, new sober houses would be limited to 10 or fewer residents. Facilities serving 17 or more residents would need to obtain a conditional use permit.

The Planning Commission voted on June 27 to remove a proposed requirement that new sober houses be at least 330 feet apart. The decision pleased sober house operators at the meeting, but disappointed residents who are concerned about the overconcentration of such homes in their neighborhoods.

The Minnesota Association of Sober Homes, represented by former U.S. Attorney David Lillehaug, argued that the distance requirement was illegal. In a June 19 letter, Lillehaug indicated that the Planning Commission would engage in "intentional discrimination" if the distance requirement was adopted. Lillehaug also warned the commission that the city could face a federal court challenge.

City planner Luis Pereira said the intent

of the ordinance is to make sure sober house residents are safe and that the city is aware of where the houses are operating. Residents of several neighborhoods, including Merriam Park and the West End, contend that some sober houses are currently operating as illegal rooming houses and that their residents are not focused on recovery from addiction.

No one is sure how many sober houses are in St. Paul. The facilities are not licensed by the state or county and have no set model or rules. Their residents are considered disabled and therefore are protected under the Federal Fair Housing Act. That protection makes it more difficult for the city to use traditional land-use regulations to regulate the houses.

St. Paul only allows up to four unrelated people to live in a single-family residence. However, that rule does not apply to people in recovery, who are regulated as if they were a family unit. Currently, the city uses fire and building safety codes to regulate sober houses and asks house operators to voluntarily fill out questionnaires providing information about the number of residents and other details.

In more than two hours of testimony before the Planning Commission, sober house residents, former residents and operators stated repeatedly that sober housing saves lives, and that the ordinance could effectively prevent new houses from opening.

"My issue today is that there isn't a crisis in sober housing in St. Paul," said Chris Edrington, who owns and operates eight sober houses in the city. "Why seek an ordinance if there isn't a crisis?"

However, proponents of the ordinance said there is a need to protect sober house residents from unscrupulous landlords and from unsafe living conditions.

John Curtiss, a sober house operator and president of the state association, said the city should spend more time focusing on "crack houses, frat houses and party houses" and leave sober housing alone. Curtiss said sober house operators support self-regulation rather than city rules.

6 MISSISSIPPI MARKET

City staff recommended approving the changes to the master plan and the Zoning Committee raised few questions on June 19. However, the variances proved more controversial and will be considered again on July 17. Planning commissioners questioned the building's appearance and the amount of parking.

The June 27 debate centered on the number of variances to the TN standards. The motion to lay the matter over passed 9-6. Planning commissioner Gaius Nelson said that the TN3 district is meant to promote high-density redevelopment and that the findings to support the variances are in error. He said if the city continues to grant variances to TN zoning, it will never get the high-density development it is seeking on major transit corridors.

Nelson, who is the architect for the Sholom campus north of the Mississippi Market site, said the variances should not be allowed. "We're putting a suburban-style development on this parcel of land," he said.

Parking generated the most debate on June 19. For a grocery store in a TN3 district, a maximum of one off-street surface parking space is allowed per 250 square feet of building space. Additional off-street parking must be in a parking ramp, or underground. The size of Mississippi Market's building would allow for a maximum of 38 off-street surface parking spaces, but the co-op wanted to build a lot with up to 59 spaces.

City planner Lucy Thompson recommended denying of the additional parking. She said the Planning Commission needs to balance the intent of TN3 zoning with the develop-

ment's parking needs.

Mississippi Market general manager Gail Graham pushed for the additional parking, which she said was needed to better serve the co-op's customers. Sholom and Brighton representatives also spoke in favor of the additional parking, saying that a larger lot would reduce the potential for spillover parking.

Zoning Committee members debated parking lot design, delivery truck access and other issues before deciding to allow up to a 55-space parking lot.

Another variance was granted for the location of the parking lot. In a TN3 district, parking for new developments is supposed to be at the rear or side of a building. Because Mississippi Market's block is bounded by four streets, parking could not be hidden from a street frontage.

Other variances required for the project include:

- Floor area to lot size ratio. TN3 zoning uses floor area to lot size ratio standards to promote denser development. For the Mississippi Market building, a minimum floor area ratio of 1.0 is required, while the proposed store has a ratio of 0.18.

- TN3 design standards. The standards call for promoting land use diversity so blocks do not look the same. The standards also call for buildings to anchor a corner. Planning staff recommended varying the standards for Mississippi Market.

- Minimum height. TN3 requires buildings to be at least two stories tall. The Mississippi Market building will be one story, with an interior height of 14-16 feet, a 21-foot parapet and a 32-foot tower to create the illusion of a taller building.

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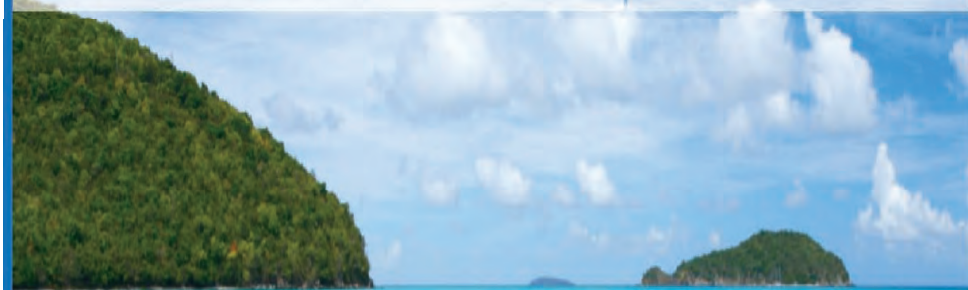
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Viewpoint

Sobering thoughts on fair housing

BY MICHAEL MISCHKE

A three-year effort by residents of several St. Paul neighborhoods, including Merriam Park and the West End, to mitigate the effects of what is perceived to be a growing number and concentration of “sober houses” in their midst was only partially successful in the run-up to the City Council’s consideration of the matter this week.

A proposal to regulate sober houses as a distinct land use for the first time was approved by the Planning Commission on June 27. It will also be the subject of a public hearing before the City Council on July 2. The new regulations are expected to be in place before a moratorium on the establishment of new sober houses in the city expires on September 12.

The *perception* of a growing number of sober houses in St. Paul is just that, because up to now there has been no method for regulating that land use—much less a definition of it—and no one has any idea how many sober houses are already operating in the city or where they are located.

For regulatory purposes, St. Paul is now defining a sober house as a dwelling “occupied by more than four persons in recovery from chemical dependency and considered handicapped under the Federal Fair Housing Act (FFHA) amendments of 1988 that provides a non-institutional residential environment in which the residents willingly subject themselves to rules and conditions intended to encourage and sustain their recovery.”

The new regulations would require sober house operators to submit a request to the city’s zoning administrator before opening a new facility, indicate the number of residents, supply information that shows the house meets city zoning and fire codes, and provide 1.5 off-street parking spaces for every four residents or, short of that, submit a written plan for shared parking or some other arrangement. In single-family residential zones, new sober houses would be limited to 10 or fewer residents. Sober houses serving 17 or more residents would need to obtain a conditional use permit.

However, the Planning Commission excised a proposed requirement that new sober houses be at least 330 feet apart. That decision obviously pleased sober house operators, but it disappointed residents who had labored to limit the concentration of such facilities in their neighborhoods.

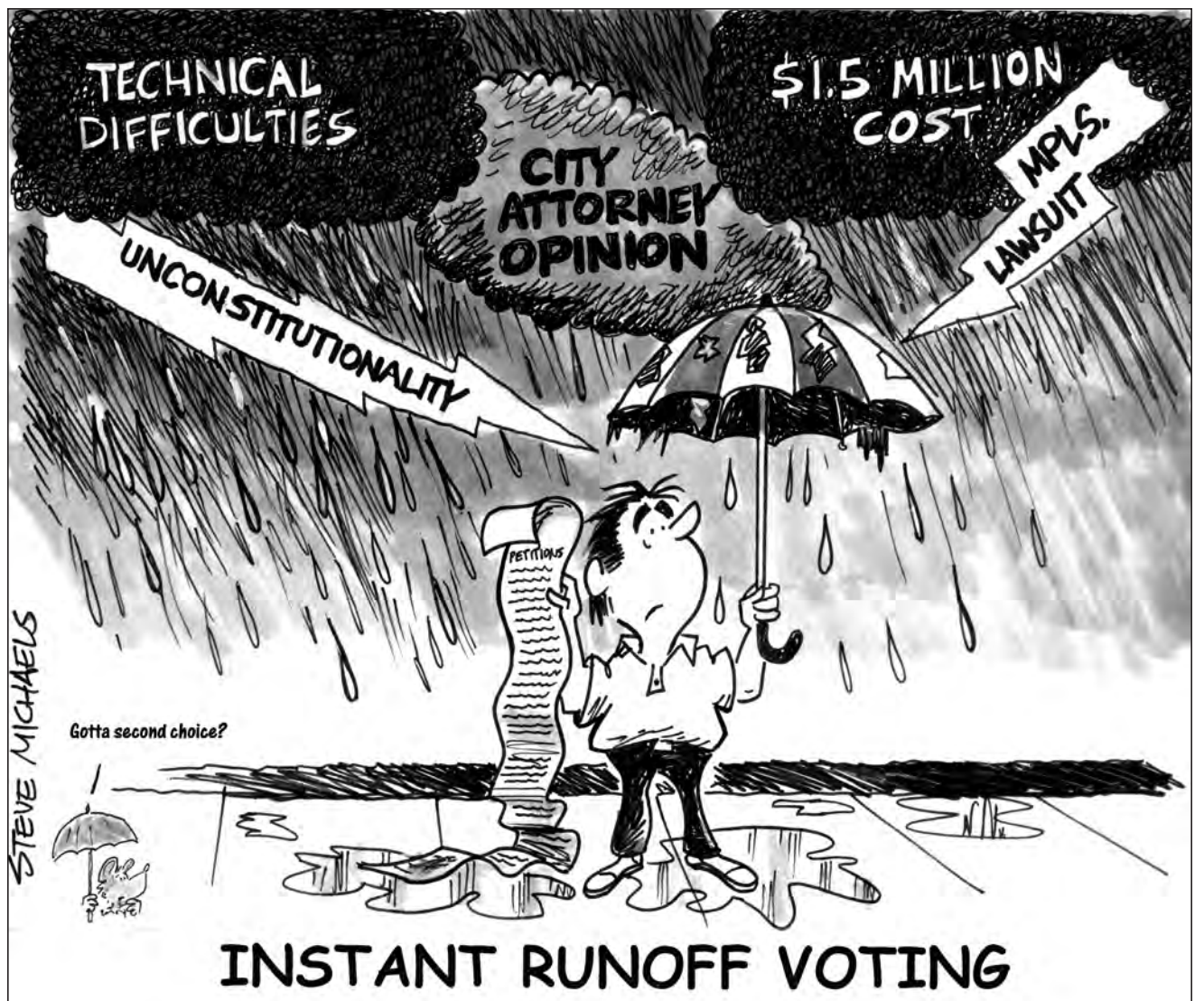
What prompted the Planning Commission to back off from the distance requirement was a testily worded letter from former U.S. Attorney David Lillehaug on behalf of the Minnesota Association of Sober Homes. If the Planning Commission were to ignore the “explicit, written warning from the City Attorney’s Office, the conclusion will be inescapable that Planning Commission members are engaging in intentional discrimination,” Lillehaug wrote. In addition to the city incurring substantial attorneys’ fees, he threatened the commissioners that “violations of the FHAA can result in punitive damages awards against individuals.”

It’s true that U.S. courts have held that under the FHAA any ordinance that singles out disabled people and applies different rules to them from non-disabled people is “intentionally discriminatory,” and that people in recovery are considered by the courts to be disabled. However, it seems that those who operate facilities for people with that particular disability now have more legal rights and protections than those who operate facilities for people with other disabilities. The owners of regulated facilities for people with other physical or mental disabilities must abide by all kinds of rules and regulations, and their properties undergo regular, rigorous inspections for safety issues. Sober house operators squawk if they get a visit from a fire inspector.

There have been sober houses where electrical extension cords were extended from one house to another. There have been sober houses remodeled without permits. Are sober house residents sleeping in basements or attics with no egress? Are sober houses proliferating merely as a lucrative means of getting around the city’s boarding house regulations?

Is cramming that many people into a single sober house even conducive to a supportive atmosphere for recovery?

The operators of sober houses don’t seem to want to play the game by the same rules as other facilities for disabled people. And they seem to want to be both player and ump.



A fitness regimen that one can live with

BY BILL STIEGER

The sudden death of NBC newsman Tim Russert recently from a heart attack has tightened the flabby guts of baby-boomers everywhere. And I’m not referring to a newfound commitment to fitness.

Anxiety is what I’m talking about. Middle-aged males like me tend to carry an image of ourselves akin to that surfing moron on the hair-dye commercial. You know, the guy who slam-dunks a basketball as Cream cranks out “Sunshine of Your Love.” We don’t see ourselves as the egg-shaped Humpty Dumptys we really are.

This death stuff isn’t supposed to happen to us.

But it does.

I’ve got a bum shoulder that leaves me in a state of unrelenting pain. I’m not looking for pity, mind you, just stating a fact. But the condition does prevent me from being as physically active as I’d like to be. At least, that’s my excuse, and I’m sticking to it. Of course, it doesn’t help that I like hamburgers and ice cream. And that I believe too much exercise can kill you.

Don’t believe me? Hey, take a gander at your average retired athlete. Most of those guys require their own area codes. It was all that exercise in their younger years that eventually made them morph into human waterbeds. It’s true. Their bodies couldn’t adjust to the lack of exercise after retirement. Better to have never exercised at all than to end up having to butter your hips to get into a bathtub.

I know, I know. I’m supposed to walk. I see walkers all the time in my neighborhood. Walk, walk, walk. But there are no places of interest in my neighborhood. Just rows of houses. House, house, house. Besides, walking is dull and prompts me to mull over my problems. How long do I have to put up with watching the tips of my shoes as they paddle my carcass forward? Step, step, step. By the time I return home, I’m ready for a Prozac.

I could join an exercise club, but the walking machines dull my senses more than walking in my neighborhood does.

And the fitness clubs are constantly blaring CNN or Fox News on their overhead televisions, making it possible for club members to be worried, angry *and* bored, all at the same time.

But one must try, I suppose. So in the interest of improving my health and staving off the Grim Reaper, I’ve developed the following dietary and exercise regimen. It may not only extend my stretch on this whirling mud ball, but make my body hot for all the babes who’ll be watching me pound the drums on “Sunshine of Your Love” at the local nightclub. I won’t even need the hair dye.

• First of all, I’ve started opening my bills and actually reading the overdue dollars owed. This elevates my heart

rate—in the 120 beats-per-minute range. A great aerobic workout if there ever was one.

• When I hog a bowl of Jolly Time popcorn, guarding it from my girlfriend as I clutch the remote, I make sure to chew vigorously, which leaves my jaws looking steely tight.

• I worry when I think about my lack of exercise. The worrying causes me to break a sweat. Doctors recommend activities that lead to perspiration, so I’m getting a workout just by thinking about it!

• I wiggle my toes at least four times while viewing the “Tonight Show.”

• I actually jump up and down in

front of the television when I hear George W. Bush on a newscast say something like, “A lot of times in politics you have people look you in the eye and tell you what’s not on their mind.”

• I get in a short run each month by chasing Jehovah Witnesses off my property.

• I wash down my hamburgers with skim milk.

• Any conversation with my ex-wife invariably doubles my heart rate. I hang up the phone feeling like I’ve run a marathon, even though it was merely a gauntlet.

• Lastly, I get out my old Cream records and practice my drumming to “Sunshine of Your Love,” the only pop song I know of that has a backwards beat.

The fitness clubs are constantly blaring CNN or Fox News on their overhead televisions, making it possible for club members to be worried, angry and bored, all at the same time.

Inbox

A lesson for Life Time neighbors

To the editor:

Regarding the disagreements that have developed between Life Time Fitness in Highland Village and nearby residents of Pinehurst Avenue: I am a member of Life Time Fitness and I live just across the Ford bridge from Highland. Minnehaha Academy's South Campus is a very close neighbor—so close, in fact, that my neighbors and I raised serious concerns when the former Breck School wanted to sell the site on West River Parkway. We agitated over who or what was going to move in to this huge facility.

Several bids were made on the Breck site. The first bid was from Brown Technical Institute—not a good fit for a residential area. The final bid was from Minnehaha Academy, which we welcomed because they showed a lot of promise in becoming good neighbors and being willing to integrate into the community. Yes, we do have some parking problems, but the good far surpasses having a few cars in front of our homes.

Life Time Fitness has put forth incredible effort in trying to be responsible neighbors. Life Time paved the alley behind its building and put in speed bumps. It also changed the alley lighting so as not to bother the neighbors, put in no-parking signs, regularly cleans up graffiti and has paid to have the alley plowed in the winter.

Pinehurst neighbors, be careful what you wish for. If Life Time is forced from that building, the next tenants may not be the good neighbors that Life Time has been.

Elizabeth A. Bartz
Longfellow, Minneapolis

Clearing the air over Rock-Tenn

Dear editor,

A letter to the editor in your June 18 issue accused Neighbors Against the Burner (NAB) for being confused that garbage is still being considered as a source of fuel for powering Rock-Tenn's Midway paper recycling plant. NAB has attended meetings of the Rock-Tenn Citizens Advisory Committee (RCAP) every two weeks since last September. At the June 2 meeting, Peter Kline of the St. Paul Port Authority once again stated that the three fuel options for Rock-Tenn are burning RDF (ground-up garbage), wood and a cellulose material. This spring a whole presentation was arranged around how great RDF is. Several documents released by the Port Authority stated how cheap RDF is. The Port Authority has repeatedly been asked to take RDF off the table, but it has refused.

Burning wood and other biomass raises serious health issues, but NAB never said it was worse than burning garbage. Burning things contributes to global warming and, yes, driving our cars contributes to global warming. But it is not an either/or issue. It is not, "Should I ride my bike or build a garbage burner?" We all must do what we can to reduce our carbon footprint. So ride your bike and don't build an incinerator.

It is not madness to power a recycling company. It is madness to build a plant that causes serious health effects for generations to come. NAB does not advocate natural gas as the only long-term answer for Rock-Tenn. We advocate it in the short-term while Rock-Tenn searches for a healthier answer.

RCAP has brought forward information that perhaps with a

concerted effort the Rock-Tenn plant can be 40 percent more efficient, therefore needing a smaller plant and less fuel regardless of the source. NAB has worked with the Port Authority in support of a method of anaerobic digestion off site that produces biogas which, when cleaned up, makes methane that can be put in the gas line with natural gas. The cost is low, and we can save the jobs at Rock-Tenn. What does the Port Authority say? That they have a "philosophical problem" with this method and that they cannot figure out why Rock-Tenn deserves such a cheap fuel!

No amount of pollution is OK. Garbage and coal are both bad. Remember, it has been proven that state and federal pollution standards are to make industry happy, not to protect our health. Studies of the incinerator industry show that there is no equipment available for satisfactory pollution control.

The next time you think NAB is confused and uninformed, visit our website, which is rife with science backing our refusal to accept more pollution in our city. We spend hours on our research so that the public can be better informed.

Nancy Hone, Coordinator
Neighbors Against the Burner

Editor's note: The writer is a resident of Merriam Park.

Saints be dismayed

To the editor:

I take great exception to the portion of Dave Wright's column entitled, "AAA baseball tournament to move?" (*Villager*, June 18). The author's depiction of the St. Paul Saints' opinion toward the Minnesota state high school sectional and state final tournaments is completely untrue and unfounded. The author stated that the Saints do not enjoy hosting the high school baseball tournament and that the ballclub secretly wishes that the tournament finds another home in years to come. As general manager of the St. Paul Saints, a member of the Minnesota baseball community, I cannot tell you how disappointed I am to see this fabricated statement in print.

As an organization, the St. Paul Saints are dedicated to the success of amateur baseball in the state of Minnesota. We pride ourselves on making the ballpark look the best it can as we welcome high school athletes and fans for regular-season and postseason games. We hope that the tradition of high school baseball at Midway Stadium will continue for many years to come.

We cherish each opportunity to bring new fans to Midway Stadium, and have sought new ways to connect with the amateur baseball community.

In 2005, the Saints started the East vs. West Showdown, an all-star game featuring the top graduating high school seniors in the Twin Cities area. This month will mark the fourth annual game, which is televised live on our broadcast partner, Channel 45. We award scholarships to the most valuable player of each team. We also make a donation to the Minnesota High School Coaches Association in the names of the two coaches selected for the event.

We are also very proud of, and grateful for, our partnerships with Twin Cities youth baseball organizations. Saints Spotlight Games, through which we literally take our show on the road, have become a

VILLAGER

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Maurice F. Mischke, 1920-1991

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9◀ INBOX

staple at youth baseball games throughout the metro area. We provide an announcer, music, between-innings promotions, massages, usher-tainers and even our pig to make the experience memorable for players, coaches and their families.

The commitment to local baseball remains true when our field manager, George Tsamis, forms his roster. Currently, we have local prospects Charlie Ruud from St. Olaf and Hamline standout Andrew Bennett.

As for the author's comments regarding the Saints schedule affecting our desire to host the high school tournament, let me assure you that the advantages enjoyed by both the Saints and the city of St. Paul far outweigh any inconvenience relative to scheduling. When it comes to improving our facility, our hope is that improvements can be made in an effort to keep events, particularly the high school tournaments, not to lose them.

Saints president Mike Veeck has said: "A community does not need a ballclub, but a ballclub cannot survive without a community." We are extremely grateful for the support of our fans and this community over the past 16 years, and we understand and appreciate this unique relationship.

That is why this unfounded commentary is so disappointing to read. Had we been contacted prior to the author expressing our opinion for us, we would've been happy to share these facts with him.

Derek Sharrer
Executive Vice President & General Manager
St. Paul Saints

IRV is more democratic

Dear editor,

As a native of Australia, a U.S. citizen and an attorney, I have followed the debate over instant runoff voting (known in Australia as preferential voting) with some interest. I have considerable experience with both IRV and the plurality system, and it is inarguable that IRV is democratic whereas a plurality system is not.

Matt Marchetti (*Villager* Inbox, June 18) is correct: The framers of the Constitution intended that the U.S. be a republic, not a democracy. His argument is flawed, however, in that the framers clearly believed that, in a republic, it was for the states to decide how elections should be conducted, and Minnesota is free to determine that IRV may be used. Indeed, the claim that the framers wanted the U.S. system of government to be undemocratic is really the only argument that Mr. Marchetti and the so-called Minnesota Voters Alliance can rely on.

He cannot seriously believe that Australia is undemocratic because it uses preferential voting. I, for one, do not believe that electing candidates via a plurality is acceptable. The simple fact is that a candidate elected with a plurality of the vote is not the candidate preferred by a majority of voters. If you like such a system, fine, oppose IRV. At least be honest and do not claim that IRV somehow violates voters' rights. IRV is democratic; plurality elections are not.

Stephen Arnott
Lexington-Hamline

Drilling for votes

To the editor:

President Bush has joined Senator John McCain and others in urging that more lands and waters be opened for oil exploration, even though every offshore drilling rig in the world is booked for years and there are existing undeveloped leases.

In the waning days of 1929, a 70-year-old, down-on-his-luck prospector named Charlie Joiner met an amateur geologist named A.D. "Doc" Lloyd. Doc Lloyd had done an extensive study of the strata in the Rusk County area of East Texas. He showed Charlie his collection of drawings which depicted a suspected oil-laden Overton anticline at a depth of about 3,500 feet. On the drawings Doc had placed an "X" as the best place to drill. The X was on a large farm owned by a colorful widow named Daisy Bradford.

Daisy supported the drilling effort, but the first two wells failed, as neither man knew much about drilling techniques. They hired a professional driller for the third and last try. The driller then spudded the Daisy Bradford #3, one of the most famous and perhaps the most productive well in petroleum history. For a few thousand dollars, at 3,500 feet, it hit 6 billion barrels of light sweet Texas crude oil.

In the early 1930s, oil from this field hit a million barrels a day, and much of it sold for 10 cents a barrel. Today, the Saudis and others who have the oil aren't making the mistake of selling their oil for peanuts. They are husbanding a precious resource that isn't getting any cheaper, and that continues to cost more to find and develop.

The world's biggest oil strike of the past few decades is

Kashagan in the Caspian Sea. A consortium of major oil companies was supposed to start producing there in 2005. Toxic hydrogen sulfide gas, winter ice and other problems have delayed the start to 2013, and the cost of the Kashagan development is approaching \$30 billion. Other potentially big finds, such as Chevron's Jack 2 in the Gulf of Mexico and Tupi off the Brazilian coast, are very deep. Each well runs about \$100 million, and the fields will take years to reach production stage. Preliminary surveys off both of our coasts have not been very promising, and we don't really know how much oil is down there. The best prospects are in deep water, for which few drilling rigs are available.

Two firms, Wood Mackenzie and Fugro Robertson, have recently surveyed petroleum prospects for the entire Arctic. They have downgraded the crude oil potential by 75 percent and raised the natural gas prospects. But there are no pipelines for gas, and there won't be for at least a decade. The problem with Alaska's ANWR isn't the caribou, which do fine with oil drilling. There just may not be that much oil there. If there is, it will be 10 years before we see any of it.

With respect to any new oil, we may want to heed the words of King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia. When he learned of new discoveries in the Saudi desert, he said, "No, leave it in the ground, with grace from God, our children need it."

It also wouldn't hurt us to conserve and leave a little for our children.

Rolf E. Westgard
Macalester-Groveland

Editor's note: The writer is a professional member of the Geological Society of America and a member of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists.

Touché, Dave Thune

To the editor:

I recently received a letter from the city of St. Paul—specifically, from Marcia Moermond, legislative hearing officer—informing me that the restaurant at 1403 Montreal Ave. on the Highland National Golf Course is seeking to replace its 3.2 beer license with wine on-sale and malt liquor on-sale (strong beer) licenses. If I have any objections to the license application, I must respond in writing by July 11.

I am going to write Ms. Moermond and voice my objection to the license change. Paraphrasing St. Paul City Council member Dave Thune when he voiced his objection to 4:00 a.m. bar closing during the Republican National Convention, I object to the license change because I don't want a bunch of drunk golfers puking in the streets of my neighborhood!

Jerry Merth
Highland Park

Ethics of ethanol

Sir:

When multi-millions of people are starving, it must be morally wrong to convert food products to fuel. The photograph in *National Geographic* (October 2007) of a young boy in Africa carrying a dead rat and severed monkey arm to market was gut-wrenching. Perhaps the high gas prices will deter snot-nosed yuppies from driving 10-mile-per-gallon Hummers.

Tom Birbilis
Highland Park

Politics of peace

To the editor:

I find it interesting that the antiwar activists who were silent when the U.S. and NATO targeted innocent civilians in Kosovo and bombed the Chinese embassy in Belgrade are now wearing the latest fashion in peace wear. War is not the answer now, but it was the answer when they were in power.

You would think the antiwar movement would cheer "give peace a chance," given the good news that Iraq is finally being stabilized and moving forward. Unfortunately, it's all political and they're willing to do anything to make it fail so they can embarrass the president and get back in power.

Now the antiwar movement is busy covering for Iran. Iran, as the rest of the world knows, is a huge violator of human rights, murdering people for simply being gay, treating women like slaves and continually threatening Israel. Iran is supplying explosively formed projectiles (EFPs) that are killing our soldiers in Iraq and is in complete defiance of the United Nations by processing uranium. But the antiwar movement couldn't care less.

I guess when the nuclear 911 goes off, they'll shrug their shoulders and say, "Well, we deserved it."

Walter Huemmer
Highland Park

New directions: A lesson on the road from Charlie

BY CELESTE RILEY

My friend Chris and I were in the parking lot of River Bluffs Center, the former Diamond Jim's Mall on Highway 13 in Lilydale, when an elderly man appeared and asked us for help. He was lost. We had just had dinner and were heading back to our cars. He was carrying a notebook of phone numbers and street and city names scrawled in a variety of handwriting, suggesting that others had helped him along the way.

The man was trying to get to St. Cloud, having come that day from Illinois. Before that, he had spent a few weeks with a relative in Ohio. His trip had started in Tennessee, his home. He was 82...no, 83...no, 84...no 85 years old, he finally decided.

The man, whose name was Charlie, had a daughter in St. Cloud, or Duluth, or both. He thought maybe his daughter's husband in Duluth could come get him. When we offered to call him, he said she wasn't married.

"But you just said her husband could come get you."

Charlie paused. "My granddaughter's husband," he clarified.

"And she's in Duluth?"

"No, St. Cloud. She's the one I'll be staying with."

"You'll be staying with your granddaughter in St. Cloud?"

"No, Duluth."

"Your granddaughter in Duluth?"

"No, my daughter."

"Are you on your way to St. Cloud or Duluth?"

"Well, I think I should go to St. Cloud."

Charlie has made it to Lilydale from Tennessee, Chris and I were thinking. He

has some control of his faculties. Still, do we try to put him back on the highway now? It's growing dark, and he doesn't know where he is, how he got here, how old he is or whether he's headed to Duluth or St. Cloud. We thought about escorting him to westbound I-94. We'd turn right onto Highway 13, left onto the I-35E entrance ramp, exit at Ayd Mill Road, take a you-have-to-see-it-to-believe-it right turn onto Selby Avenue, and then a right on Snelling Avenue to I-94. It would be a cruel joke, like spinning him around for pin-the-tail-on-the-donkey and then ditching him, blindfolded, and taking the donkey with us.

Charlie's vehicle was an ancient pickup with plywood panels framing the bed. It was all but sinking into the pavement under the weight of the cargo he was delivering to his daughter or granddaughter. In the cab a tiny head bobbed. That was Lucy, a cute little dog as devoted to Charlie as he was to her.

"Do you drive much at night?" I asked him.

"Well, no. I try not to."

He wanted to call his daughter. My cell phone was on the charger at home, and the shops at the mall were closing. Fortunately, home for me was a short drive. I reached his daughter in St. Cloud on my way back to the River Bluffs Center parking lot. She seemed a bit lost herself. Would I talk to her daughter instead? she asked.

Maybe this was the granddaughter with the husband who could pick up Charlie. But no, she didn't have a husband or any way to get Charlie that night. Tomorrow, yes.

"Would you like to talk to Charlie?" I asked his granddaughter.

"All right."

But even after we righted the upside-down cell phone, Charlie couldn't make it work for

The only subject that Charlie wasn't animated about was how to get to his destination. It wasn't that he didn't care; it was because he didn't have the answer, so he'd rather talk about something else, such as World War II, in which he had fought. In fact, he talked to us like we were long-lost war buddies.

him. I got back on the phone.

"We'll try to find your grandfather a hotel or something."

"That would be great."

"OK, bye."

"Bye."

Charlie was fine with staying in a hotel. He was fine with every solution we'd managed to come up with.

"What hotel?" I asked Chris.

"I don't know."

"There are motels on West 7th Street," I said.

"Where?" Chris asked

"I don't know. But I know there are."

"Where?"

"University," I said. "I know there are motels on University."

"Where?"

"I don't know."

The thing was, we were more worried about Charlie than he was. The only subject he wasn't animated about was how to get to his destination. It wasn't that he didn't care; it was because he didn't have the answer, so he'd rather talk about something else, such as World War II, in which he had fought. In fact, he talked to us like we were long-lost war buddies. So he was lost. It would sort itself out.

"You two are the greatest girls in the world," he said.

"How about if we call the cops?" I asked.

"Fine, fine," he said.

The cop from Mendota Heights was there in five minutes. She sized up the situation in no time. Charlie was a nice old man. He shouldn't be back on the road that night. His ID confirmed he was a veteran, which meant the VA could help. We stuck around while she worked on contacting them. Then she thanked us, as did Charlie, and we went on our way.

Is there a moral to the story? Maybe it's that we can all take comfort in knowing there are nice old people and nice cops in the world. Or that it's about time we fix that roundabout connection between I-35 and I-94 in St. Paul. Or, how did we ever get by without cell phones?

I enjoyed meeting Charlie. He has an attitude about life that I've been trying to adopt forever. Here he planned on going to St. Cloud or Duluth and wound up in Lilydale. Still, he found much to delight in in Lilydale. He's alive. He has his dog. He has people to talk to and total strangers to help him.

Life is right now. Smile. Tomorrow you'll be back on the road.

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Helping hand for the hungry

Rising gas prices fuel an increased demand at local food shelves

BY KEVIN DRISCOLL

Higher food and gasoline prices and a slowing economy are causing an "astounding" increase in demand at the three local food shelves operated by Keystone Community Services, according to Christine Pulver, Keystone's director of basic needs. In fact, food shelf directors across the Villager area (see the list below) are reporting a steep increase in the number of people seeking free food to help make ends meet.

Pulver did not have exact numbers for 2008 yet, but Keystone's three food shelves at 1916 University Ave., 1457 Rice St. and 1910 W. County Road B distributed 1.07 million pounds of food to 15,388 households in 2007—or 25 percent more than in 2006. Among its beneficiaries in 2007 were 20,399 children, 2,048 seniors and 26,880 other adults.

"The biggest increase this year is from in first-time clients," Pulver said. "Many of our clients are retired and on fixed incomes. Some have lost their jobs. Others have lost their homes. But more than half of our clients are working at least part-time, most of them making \$6.00 to \$7.00 an hour."

"Food shelves aren't one of the places you see scammers and con artists," said Jonathan Palmer, execu-

tive director of the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center, which operates food shelves at St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church at 100 N. Oxford St. and at Skyline Towers at 1247 St. Anthony Ave.

Hallie Q. Brown served 124,596 pounds of food to 2,857 households in 2007, including 6,536 children, 382 seniors and 3,674 other adults. "This year we're seeing about a 15 percent increase in use over last year," Palmer said. "We're seeing such an increase that we've had to step up our coordination with other food shelves."

Use of the food shelf at the Salvation Army's Citadel post at 401 W. 7th St. "has been rising as the economy gets worse, and it's been that way for the past two years," said team leader Yvonne Dobler. "We used to be just an emergency food shelf, and now we're a regular, full-time food shelf where people come in once a month for a week's worth of food."

In 2007, the Salvation Army's food shelf supplied 71,364 pounds of food to 1,723 households, including 1,159 children, 108 seniors and 2,312 other adults.

"We're definitely seeing a lot of people we haven't seen before," said Dee Hunsley, director of the Francis Basket food shelf run by the Franciscan Sisters of St. Paul for the needy residents of the Sibley Manor



Volunteer Roy Muscatello (right) gives Keystone driver Dale Platt a hand at the Midway food shelf unloading some of the donations collected door-to-door this spring by mail carriers. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Apartments on Maynard Drive in Highland Park.

Francis Basket served 28 households on the morning of June 6 alone. "That's high for us," Hunsley said. In all of 2007, Francis Basket served 43,728 pounds of food to 1,583 households, including 1,331 children, 634 seniors and 2,454 other adults. "It's mostly people who've been laid off from their jobs and can't afford child care, much less the price of gas," she said.

Carla Johnson, vice president of partner relations for Second Harvest Heartland, said all of the food shelves served by her organization in central and southern Minnesota and northwestern Wisconsin are reporting a sharp increase in demand this year. "It's worse in rural areas," she said, "because there are fewer jobs to begin with, the housing crisis is hitting there, too, and unlike

food shelves in the Twin Cities area, they don't have other food shelves nearby to help."

Second Harvest Heartland is part of America's Second Harvest, the nation's largest hunger-relief charity. Second Harvest distributes low-cost food to 1,000 food shelves operated by 500 organizations in 59 Minnesota and Wisconsin counties. It delivered more than 35 million pounds of food in 2007.

All of the local food shelves get the bulk of their stock from Second Harvest Heartland, purchasing it at a fraction of its actual cost. According to its website, Second Harvest Heartland is able to distribute \$9.00 worth of food for every \$1.00 it receives.

Second Harvest Heartland gets its food from a variety of sources, including donations from corporate and local food drives (59 per-

cent), free commodities from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (22 percent), products purchased wholesale with donated funds (13 percent) and donated supermarket food that is past its "freshness date" (6 percent).

The agency, in fact, is now running a special, Johnson said, offering its partner food shelves a million pounds of food from the USDA commodities program for the cost of delivery.

"We always need donations," Pulver said, "but our biggest need right now is volunteers." Keystone uses volunteers to unload trucks, pick up groceries, stock shelves, greet clients, and deliver food to seniors and other clients without transportation. "Even as the need has risen, fewer people are volunteering," she said, "perhaps because they have their own problems to deal with."

Food shelves fill need across area

Concordia University food shelf, 275 N. Syndicate St. Open from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on the first and third Friday of each month. Serving Concordia University and the surrounding area. Call 651-603-6273.

Francis Basket, 1293 E. Maynard Dr., #410. Open from 8:30 a.m. to noon and 1:00 to

4:00 p.m. Fridays. Serving the Sibley Manor Apartments. Call 651-699-0986.

Hallie Q. Brown food shelves, 100 N. Oxford St. and 1247 St. Anthony Ave. Open from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. weekdays. Serving the area bounded by Summit Avenue, Hamline Avenue, Victoria Street and Energy Park Drive. Call 651-224-4601.

Keystone Community Services food shelf, 1916 University Ave. Open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. weekdays. Along with Keystone's

other two sites, it serves part of St. Paul's Macalester-Groveland as well as the Merriam Park, St. Anthony, Hamline-Midway, Como and North End neighborhoods. Call 651-917-3939.

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West 7th Street will be buzzing September 1-4, when the Xcel Energy Center plays host to the 2008 Republican National Convention.

PHOTO BY
BRAD STAUFFER

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High fee may limit 4:00 a.m. closing to a select few bars during convention

BY JANE MCCLURE

Nearly three dozen bars and restaurants in St. Paul could remain open until 4:00 a.m. from August 31 through September 5 under two ordinances approved last week by the City Council.

Six of the seven City Council members supported the measures as one way to put out the welcome mat for the tens of thousands of people from across the U.S. who will arrive for the Republican National Convention on September 1-4 at the Xcel Energy Center.

The Minnesota Legislature passed a law this spring that allows cities in the seven-county metropolitan area to extend their hours of on-sale wine, beer and liquor service during the convention. St. Paul has limited the 4:00 a.m. closing to those establishments that already have a license to remain open until 2:00 a.m., have at least 291 seats verified by city staff, are located in one of the 12 commercial development districts that have been designated by the city as hospitality zones, and pay an additional \$2,500 fee. The Minneapolis City Council passed a similar ordinance on June 20, but it limits the 4:00 a.m. closing to bars and restaurants that are located downtown or in hotels.

Of St. Paul's 257 licensed bars and restaurants that serve beer, wine or liquor, it is estimated that 32 could meet the criteria for the 4:00 a.m. closing. Any bar and restaurant that is found to be operating without a license or otherwise violating the 4:00 a.m. closing ordinance would face a \$2,000 fine.

Ward 5 City Council member Lee Helgen cast the lone vote against the ordinances. At a June 18 public hearing, he had sought to reduce the \$2,500 fee to \$1,000 if an establishment submitted an acceptable security management plan.

The City Council is imposing the license fee to recover the additional enforcement costs the city is expected to incur as a result

of the 4:00 a.m. closing. Although he too is concerned about the impact that the 4:00 a.m. closing will have on security and surrounding neighborhoods, Helgen said the high fee may effectively limit the extended license to those bars and restaurants that book private parties during the convention.

Helgen's amendment reducing the fee to \$1,000 initially passed on a 4-2 vote, with Helgen, Pat Harris, Dan Bostrom and Melvin Carter III for, Russ Stark and Kathy Lantry against, and Dave Thune absent. Following the vote, Carter asked to reconsider the motion and Helgen withdrew it, sensing the resulting 3-3 tie.

Stark and Lantry were concerned that the \$1,000 fee was not enough to cover the additional enforcement costs. Another problem with changing the proposed ordinances was the additional time it would take to formalize them.

"Our timeline is so short right now, (the amendment) would create an administrative nightmare," said Assistant City Attorney Rachel Tierney. With the City Council's final approval on June 25, the ordinances will become official by late July. According to Tierney, the ordinances need to be in place by August 1 so that applicants can get through the city approval process.

Only two people testified on the 4:00 a.m. closing at the June 18 hearing. Bill Collins, owner of Camp Bar downtown, said the \$2,500 license fee is too expensive for small bars that are not be rented out for special events during the convention. Collins called the \$2,500 fee "kind of insulting. Short of the big boys, I haven't seen a lot of bookings going on," he said.

Chad Kulas of the St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce said that though the chamber supports the 4:00 a.m. closing, it continues to hear concerns about the restrictions that St. Paul has placed on the licenses, particularly the \$2,500 fee.

New penalties for problem bars vetoed

BY JANE MCCLURE

A proposal to place more restrictions on St. Paul bars and restaurants that stay open until 2:00 a.m. has been vetoed by Mayor Chris Coleman. The City Council received the veto letter on June 25 and has 30 days to consider an override.

The restrictions were adopted by the council earlier in June on a 4-2 vote. City Council members Lee Helgen, Kathy Lantry, Russ Stark and Dan Bostrom voted for the restrictions, Pat Harris and Melvin Carter III voted against, and Dave Thune was absent. Helgen said he has not decided whether or not to try to seek an override.

The mayor contends that the restrictions as passed would unfairly penalize the establishments. He indicated that there are other ways to deal with problem bars and said his administration is willing to work with the City Council on other measures.

Helgen brought the ordinance forward because of complaints tied to bars that are open until 2:00 a.m. A state law change made it possible for bars to stay open an hour later. However, that has vexed city officials because the 2:00 a.m. closing is licensed by the state, not the city.

The city uses a matrix that spells out a range of penalties for specific license violations, but there are currently no penalties tied to the 2:00 a.m. closing. The later closing has been blamed for problems in some neighborhoods.

Penalties suggested included requirements that problem bars add security cameras and have more than one employee working up to closing time. Some business owners have complained that the penalties were onerous, although Helgen removed them as required penalties and put them in the matrix instead. That step gives the City Council discretion in deciding which penalties to impose.

Hearings set on land-use plans around Central Corridor stations

City to weigh the merits of transit-oriented zoning

By JANE MCCLURE

How to address the expected loss in customer parking and discourage commuter parking in surrounding neighborhoods will be among the topics discussed in July during public hearings on land-use guidelines around the proposed Central Corridor light-rail stations.

Land uses around the proposed Westgate, Raymond, Fairview and Snelling Avenue stations will be the subject of a public hearing before the St. Paul Planning Commission at 8:30 a.m. Friday, July 11. Two weeks later—at 8:30 a.m. Friday, July 25—the Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on land uses around the proposed Lexington, Dale and Rice Street stations. Both hearings will be held at the Central Corridor Resource Center, 1080 University Ave.

The city has drafted 12-page plans for future land uses around each station along its segment of the 11-mile, \$892 million light-rail transit line between the downtowns of St. Paul and Minneapolis. The plans would not affect existing buildings and businesses, but only new developments. They include restrictions on building heights and setbacks, building design and density, and the amount and location of off-street parking.

The intent is to promote more dense, transit-oriented development around the light-rail stations. Possible public parks and squares and bicycle, pedestrian and transit connections are also included. The plans would discourage some land uses, including car dealer-

ships, car rental firms, auto repair shops and service stations.

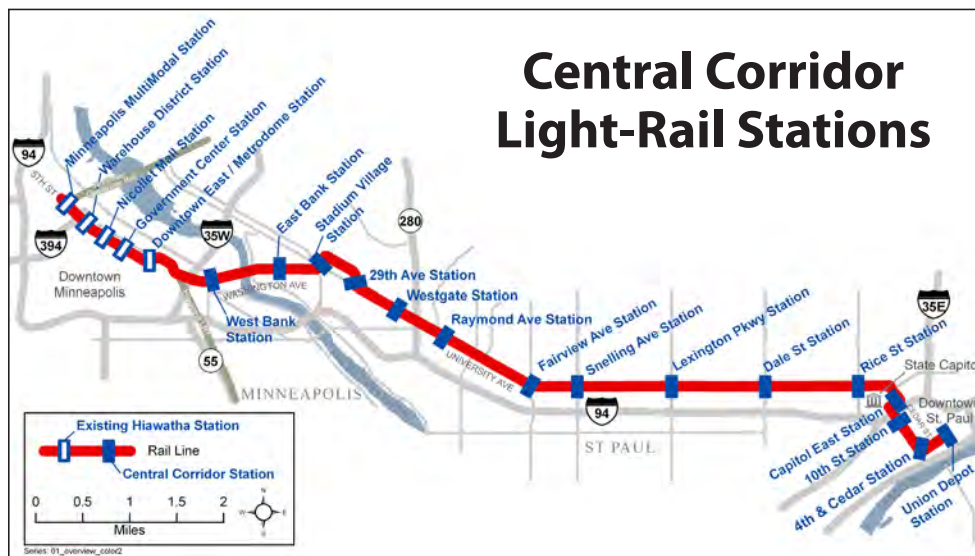
The plans do not address the areas around light-rail stations at Hamline, Victoria and Western avenues, although the Metropolitan Council agreed in February to install the infrastructure for those stations for possible future construction. However, the St. Paul City Council unanimously adopted a resolution on June 18 calling for the Planning Commission to draft an amendment to the Central Corridor zoning overlay district to reflect the proposed stations at Hamline, Victoria and Western.

Parking dominated discussion at the station area task force's final meeting in May. News this spring that University Avenue could lose up to 85 percent of its on-street parking to the light-rail line necessitated a revision of the station area plans, said city planner Donna Drummond.

Planning for long-range land uses when the Metropolitan Council is still working on the design of the light-rail line itself has been a challenge for the city task force. The Met Council is hoping to complete preliminary engineering on the Central Corridor this summer in time to apply for the federal funding that would allow construction to begin in 2010. Under that timeline, the trains could be running as early as 2014.

Debated among task force members in April and May was whether to place limits on the number of new surface parking lots around light-rail stations. The group concluded that while new surface parking should be discouraged, it shouldn't be banned.

"Parking is a necessary evil," said Judd Fenlon of Wellington Management. Wellington has developed and still owns several large par-



cels along the Central Corridor, most notably Lexington Park at Lexington Parkway and Emerald Gardens near Highway 280. According to Fenlon, Wellington and other developers understand the opposition to large surface parking lots. However, he said, parking ramps and underground parking can be prohibitively expensive to construct.

Neighborhood associations along University Avenue may oppose the expansion of surface parking, said Anne White of the District Councils Collaborative, "but that may be what is needed to keep businesses here." However, she added, alternatives such as sharing parking should be explored first.

St. Paul and Met Council staff continue to meet with University Avenue business people to weigh the parking impacts of the light-rail line and how they can be mitigated. Everything from shared parking to parking meters on University and adjacent streets is being considered.

The task force has also been studying ways to discourage commuters from parking their cars on streets around the light-rail stations. According to city planners, it can be cumbersome for local residents to set up permit park-

ing districts. City officials may need to look at ways to ease the petitioning process for residential permit parking, Drummond said.

Paula Maccabee, a former St. Paul City Council member who represents the owners of Midway Center, has objected to several aspects of the land-use plans that would affect her client. "In some cases, the plans are more aggressive than what property owners want to see," she said. Though it may be appropriate to call for taller, more dense developments in 15 years, she said, "some of the ideas seem premature at this time."

"We think some of the ideas for the various sites are too specific," said David Stokes, president of the Midway Chamber of Commerce and a real estate broker with Colliers Turley Martinson Tucker.

Public testimony received on the station area plans in July will be reviewed by the Planning Commission's Neighborhood and Current Planning Committee in August. The St. Paul City Council will receive the station area plans and the Planning Commission's recommendations on them in the fall, and then hold another public hearing or hearings before they are adopted.

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Bridging barriers

St. Paul center puts resources for victims of domestic violence all under one roof

BY FRANK JOSSI

A four-year effort by more than 20 government and nonprofit agencies working with victims of domestic abuse has come to fruition in the new Bridges to Safety center on the first floor of St. Paul's City Hall.

The brightly painted service center has quietly been seeing clients over the past few weeks and will celebrate its grand opening on July 14, according to coordinator Danielle Kluz. More than \$1.6 million was raised for the 5,000-square-foot office, which is located in space adjacent to the county's relocated family court.

"We've had tremendous support from foundations, the city, the county, contractors and architects, and our own partners," Kluz said.

Bridges to Safety is sponsored by the Partnership for Domestic Abuse Services, a collaboration of St. Paul and Ramsey County legal and social service agencies. The center offers domestic abuse victims a one-stop location where they may receive orders for protection, medical and legal services, and referrals for housing assistance, employment counseling and more. There is a supervised play area for the children of abused mothers who come in to speak to counselors.

The space for the center was donated by the city and was previously used by the Public Works Department. "Mayor (Chris) Coleman

was committed to do what we could for the project," said mayoral spokesman Bob Hume. "It's great that when you go into the space you see every possible resource for addressing domestic violence. Having it all under one roof is, we hope, going to make a dent in domestic violence."

In the past, abuse victims might have had to visit at least three offices to file an order for protection and receive information on other services, said Shelley Johnson Cline, executive director of the St. Paul Domestic Abuse Intervention Project, 1509 Marshall Ave., the fiscal agent for the partnership. "It's good that all the services are in one place because one of the issues abused women face is that of isolation," Cline said. "At the center, clients can meet an advocate who can help with many of their needs."

There will be no lack of clients. The St. Paul Police Department receives more than 8,000 calls a year concerning domestic violence and more than 1,300 orders for protection are annually filed in Ramsey County, Kluz said. In the past decade, 36 women and 23 children were killed in Ramsey County as a result of domestic violence.

"The customary issues we deal with are complicated matters, from protection to immigration issues," Kluz said. Translators are available to handle cases in languages commonly spoken in St. Paul, such as Spanish,

Hmong, English and Somali.

Abuse victims may need guidance on moving to transitional or long-term housing and in getting their children into different schools, Cline said. They may need help with food, clothing and medical assistance. "The center will serve as a conduit for a whole array of services for long- and short-term needs," she said.

Downtown is an excellent location for the center, Cline said. Police, attorneys and judges are all available nearby and City Hall requires all entrants to pass through a metal detector, which she said helps clients feel safe.

The architects and designers who worked on the center focused on making it a cheerful and welcoming environment, Kluz said. Knutson Construction and BWBR Architects offered pro bono construction and architectural services, and Henricksen Furniture offered pro bono interior decoration services and office furniture at cost. The Briggs and Morgan law firm offered pro bono legal services. Nelson, Tietz and Hoyer, an owner's representative firm, acted as an interface between the builders and partnership during building process, and many subcontractors offered discounted services.

"We wanted an office that was not intimidating and had a warm and friendly atmosphere," Kluz said. "We didn't want it to be like a government agency."

A handful of full-time staffers will be augmented by employees from partner agencies who will work part time at Bridges to Safety. Civil and legal services, for example, will be provided by the Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services and the Tubman Family Alliance/Chrysalis. The St. Paul Domestic Abuse Intervention Project will have a full-time staff member at the site.

The county's various domestic abuse services, such as the court's Abuse and Harassment Office, will also have staff at the office. "Our partners have been very generous in donating services and staff to the center," Kluz said.

Cline believes that the center will have the additional advantage of pushing governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations to work together on helping victims of domestic abuse. It is less likely, she believes, that victims will fall through the cracks since the major components of their care will be under one roof.

Initial funding for the center came from the Greater Twin Cities United Way and the St. Paul Foundation. A capital campaign brought in money from the 3M, F.R. Bigelow, Hardenbergh, Minneapolis, Mardag, Otto Bremer, St. Paul and Securian foundations.

The center is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekdays. Drop-ins are welcome. For information, call 651-266-9901. After-hour calls will be redirected to other numbers.



Bridges to Safety coordinator Danielle Kluz, left, with children's activities specialist Katie Muehe in the center's new home in Room 140 at St. Paul's City Hall, 15 W. Kellogg Blvd. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

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Crime Report

The following police calls were gathered from recent Community Watch reports provided by the Ramsey County Sheriff's Department. For more information, visit www.co.ramsey.mn.us/sheriff/communitywatch.htm.

Highland Park

Robbery—Three male suspects robbed a man at gunpoint at Finn Street and Ford Parkway at about 1:30 a.m. Wednesday, June 11.

Theft—A theft from auto occurred at Crosby Farm Regional Park at about 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, June 10.

—A witness saw a male break the window of a vehicle and steal a purse at Hidden Falls Park between at about 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 10. The suspect fled in a black Ford pickup truck.

—Two suspects stole liquor from Haskell's Liquor store, 2221 Ford Pkwy., at about 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 18. The suspects were males ages 20-25. They were seen getting into a green Mercury Mountaineer and headed west on Ford Parkway.

Assault—A 38-year-old Highland Park man was arrested on the 1300 block of Maynard Drive for false imprisonment and domestic assault at about 10:00 a.m. Saturday, June 14.

Sex crimes—A 46-year-old Macalester-Groveland man was arrested on the 2000 block of Ford Parkway for sex offender registration violations at about 1:30 p.m. Thursday, June 12. He was also booked for public drinking and possession of drug paraphernalia. Witnesses said he had been panhandling.

—A 29-year-old Minneapolis man and a 32-year-old Minneapolis woman were arrested at Ford Parkway and Cleveland Avenue for prostitution at about 2:30 p.m. Thursday, June 12. The man was also wanted on a Hennepin County warrant.

Weapons—Police responded to a weapons call on the 2400 block of Edgumbe Road at about 9:45 p.m. Tuesday, June 17. Four male suspects displayed a baseball bat and threatened another male. The four then fled in a white Toyota Corolla. The suspects all wore black T-shirts and blue jeans.

Macalester-Groveland

Burglary—A home on the 1500 block of Sargent Avenue was broken into between 1:00 and 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 10.

Theft—A stroller was stolen from a front porch on the 1500 block of Goodrich Avenue between 10:00 p.m. Monday and 8:00 a.m. Tuesday, June 16-17.

—A catalytic converter was stolen from a vehicle on the 2200 block of Sargent Avenue between April 27 and June 17.

Merriam Park

Burglary—An 18-year-old Minneapolis man was arrested on the 200 block of Otis Avenue for burglary, auto theft and fleeing police at about 7:00 a.m. Monday, June 9.

—Several iPods, a laptop computer, a TV and women's jewelry were taken from an apartment on the 2100 block of Dayton Avenue between 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 10. The rear door to the apartment had been forced open.

—Trotters Cafe, 232 N. Cleveland Ave., was broken into between 10:00 p.m. Monday and 4:00 a.m. Tuesday, June 16-17.

Miscellaneous—Police investigated suspicious activity on the 100 block of Otis Avenue at about 11:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 10. A 32-year-old Minneapolis man and a 24-year-old St. Paul man were arrested after methamphetamine was found in their vehicle.

Snelling-Hamline

Robbery—A strong-arm robbery occurred on the 1500 block of University Avenue at about 6:00 p.m. Friday, June 13.

Assault—Two men were assaulted in the

parking lot at Higher Ground Academy, 1381 Marshall Ave., at about 9:00 p.m. Sunday, June 8. The suspects fled the scene.

—Two St. Paul men ages 33 and 45 were arrested on the 1500 block of Carroll Avenue for terroristic threats at about 6:00 p.m. Thursday, June 11.

Summit Hill

Miscellaneous—Graffiti was sprayed on the back door of a business on the 700 block of Grand Avenue between 10:00 p.m. Monday and 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, June 16-17.

Summit-University

Robbery—A person was robbed at gunpoint at Dayton and Western avenues at about 1:30 p.m. Friday, June 13.

—A man was robbed on the 600 block of Selby Avenue at about 7:00 p.m. Friday, June 13. He came out of his house to discover that his bicycle was gone. He asked a group of males standing nearby what had happened to his bike. One of the men in the group punched him and stole his cell phone.

—Two women were robbed on the 600 block of Selby Avenue at about 3:00 a.m. Saturday, June 14.

Burglary—St. Thomas More's Pastoral Center, 1079 Summit Ave., was broken into between 1:30 and 2:30 p.m. Monday, June 16.

Theft—Police investigated a civil dispute involving account books and other information at the St. Paul Urban League, 401 Selby Ave., on Thursday, June 12. Police took the books as evidence pending court orders.

—Someone stole \$1,000 during a wedding ceremony at St. Thomas More, 1079 Summit Ave., between 2:00 and 3:00 p.m. Saturday, June 14. Another \$60 was stolen from a wallet at the same wedding.

Sex crimes—In a sting operation, undercover vice officers arrested several people for prostitution on Wednesday, June 18, at the Kelly Inn, 161 St. Anthony Ave. Those arrested included a 37-year-old Hugo man, a 33-year-old Coon Rapids man, a 40-year-old Ramsey Hill man, a 23-year-old Roseville woman and a 28-year-old Minneapolis woman.

Miscellaneous—The St. Paul FORCE Unit executed a search warrant on the 700 block of Hague Avenue at about 9:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 11. Two St. Paul men ages 28 and 31 were arrested for cocaine possession.

West End

Robbery—Several bottles of prescription drugs were stolen from behind the counter of the West 7th Pharmacy, 1106 W. 7th St., at about 1:30 p.m. Monday, June 9. The suspect was a 6-foot-2, 225-pound male. No weapon was seen.

—The State Patrol arrested a 22-year-old man at I-35E and St. Clair Avenue for aggravated robbery at about 9:00 p.m. Monday, June 9.

—Three male suspects robbed a woman of her purse at West 7th and Chestnut streets at about 2:00 a.m. Wednesday, June 11.

Burglary—Police responded to a burglary of the West 7th Market at about 12:30 a.m. Thursday, June 12. The suspect threw the cash register out the window, grabbed the cash and other items, and fled on a bike. A police dog apprehended the 39-year-old man, who was arrested for burglary, criminal damage to property and failure to register as a sex offender.

—Forepaugh's Restaurant, 276 S. Exchange St., was broken into between 5:00 p.m. Friday and 10:00 a.m. Saturday, June 13-14.

—Computer equipment was taken from the West 7th Family Center at Monroe School, 810 Palace Ave., between 2:00 p.m. Saturday and 8:00 a.m. Tuesday, June 14-17.

Theft—Copper wiring and tubing valued at \$20,000 were stolen from construction trailers at West 7th Street and Otto Avenue between May 15 and June 18.

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District Council News

Highland Park

www.highlanddistrictcouncil.org • 651-695-4005

Board meeting—Highland District Council's board of directors will meet at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, July 17, at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. This is a change from the first Thursday of the month because of the July 4th holiday. The agenda will include presentations by city of St. Paul marketing director Erin Dady on the Republican National Convention and developer Stuart Simek on Trader Joe's. For information, call the HDC office.

Deer management—The HDC's Community Services Committee unanimously passed a resolution on June 23 regarding a deer management plan for Highland Park. To reduce the area's deer population, which has reached record highs, resulting in an increase in deer foraging and car-deer collisions, the committee recommended that the HDC board request permission from the city to conduct an archery hunt in Crosby Farm Park this fall. The resolution also calls for the HDC to continue working with the city to develop an ongoing policy to manage the deer population. Residents are being reminded that it is against the law to feed deer in St. Paul. Feeding deer is considered a petty misdemeanor.

National Night Out—The 25th annual National Night Out will be held on Tuesday, August 5. Contact the HDC office for more information or to register an event.

Waste not, want not—Backyard composting workshops will be offered by Eureka Recycling at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 8, and Thursday, July 24, at the Edgumbe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St. The cost is \$5.00. Backyard compost bins will be available for an additional \$45. To register, call Eureka Recycling at 651-222-7678 or visit www.eurekarecycling.org.

Blooming St. Paul—Nominations are currently being accepted for the city of St. Paul's 2008 Golden Bloom Awards. Categories include business/institutional, residential, environmental, community vegetable garden, city property, art in the garden, volunteer and gardening advocate. The nomination deadline is July 8. To nominate someone, e-mail blooming@ci.stpaul.mn.us or call the HDC office at 651-695-4005.

Crime report/electronic news—Highland Park residents

may sign up to receive weekly crime reports and updates of district council news by e-mailing community organizer Kathy Carruth at hdc@visi.com.

Mark your calendar—Executive Committee meeting, 7:00 p.m. Monday, July 7, Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy.; Community Services Committee meeting, 7:00 p.m. Monday, July 14, Hillcrest; Rock-Tenn informational meeting, 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 16, Hillcrest; HDC board meeting, 7:00 p.m. Thursday, July 17, Hillcrest; Highland Fest, July 18-20; and Community Development Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m. Monday, July 21, Hillcrest.

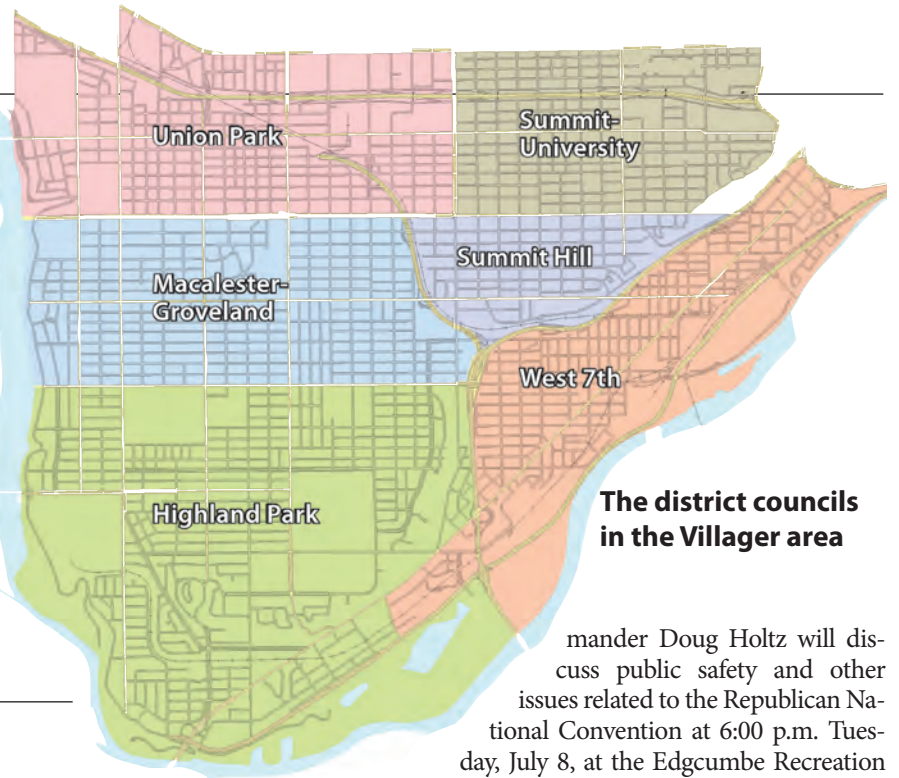
Macalester-Groveland

www.macgrove.org • 651-695-4000

New hire—The Macalester-Groveland Community Council has hired Karmann Peters as its new recycling and environmental coordinator. Peters brings community organizing experience and a passion for recycling to the position. Call or stop by the office or e-mail her at karmann@macgrove.org.

Plant a native garden, win an award—The Macalester-Groveland Community Council's Environment Committee is challenging area residents to add a native garden to their boulevard, yard or alleyside property this summer. Native gardens absorb more runoff than traditional gardens, provide a better habitat for butterflies and birds and require less watering, fertilizers and herbicides than non-native gardens. The committee is also accepting nominations until August 1 for the best native gardens in the neighborhood. Macalester-Groveland residents can nominate their own or a neighbor's by filling out a form that is available online at www.macgrove.org. Along with the recognition, the two winners will receive \$10 gift certificates from Leitner's Garden Center.

Republican National Convention—St. Paul Police Com-



The district councils in the Villager area

mander Doug Holtz will discuss public safety and other issues related to the Republican National Convention at 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 8, at the Edgumbe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St. A question-and-answer session will follow. Tom Walsh from the St. Paul Police Department and Erin Dady from the city of St. Paul will also make a presentation on the RNC at the Macalester-Groveland Community Council's Housing and Land Use Committee meeting at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 23, at Edgumbe. For information, call Marie Nelson at the district council's office or e-mail marie@macgrove.org.

Job Connection—Dependable youth and adult contractors are being sought to perform a host of household chores or repairs for residents of the Macalester-Groveland, Highland Park and Summit Hill neighborhoods who are at least 60 years of age or have a disability. Workers must be age 16 or older and have no criminal history. For information on working or having chores done, call the Macalester-Groveland Community Council's office.

National Night Out—America's 25th annual National Night Out will be held on Tuesday, August 5. For information on get-

DISTRICT COUNCILS ► 19

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18◀ DISTRICT COUNCILS

ting a permit to close a street, party ideas or instructions on how to conduct a food drive during National Night Out, call Marie Nelson or e-mail marie@macgrove.org.

Summit Hill

www.summithillassociation.org • 651-222-1222

SHA meeting—Summit Hill residents, business people and property owners are always invited to attend the monthly Summit Hill Association board meetings at 7:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month at the Linwood Recreation Center, 860 St. Clair Ave. The next meeting will be held on July 10. At the June 12 meeting, the board accepted the draft auditor's report for SHA's 2007 fiscal year. The board also recommended approval of a minor height variance for an addition to a home at 768 Goodrich Ave.

Board candidates sought—Residents who are interested in taking a more active role in guiding the future of the Summit Hill neighborhood are invited to consider running for a seat on the board of directors. The board consists of 21 members, and seven seats will be up for election on October 7. Renters are especially being encouraged to run for a seat. Terms of office are up to three years. For information or an application, call the SHA office or e-mail summithill@visi.com.

House Tour tickets—The biennial Summit Hill House Tour will be held on Sunday, September 14. The tour will feature 12 private residences and three public spaces. Tickets for the tour cost \$20, or \$25 on the day of the event. Tickets may be purchased by visiting the SHA website or stopping by the office in the Linwood Recreation Center. Tickets also are available at Amore Coffee, the Bibelot Shop, Cooks of Crocus Hill, Frattallone's Ace Hardware, Muska Lighting, Traditions, Kowalski's Market, Common Good Books and Patina. Volunteer tour guides who work a three-hour shift will be invited to take the tour for free and attend a post-tour party. For information, visit the SHA website or call the SHA office.

Mark your calendar—Neighborhood meeting, 7:00 p.m. Thursday, July 10, Linwood Recreation Center, 860 St. Clair Ave.; Pedestrian Safety and Traffic Calming Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m. Monday, July 14, Linwood; Development Committee meeting, 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 15, Amore Coffee, 917 Grand Ave.

Summit-University

www.Summit-U.com • 651-228-1855

Neighborhood planning pilot—St. Paul is one of four U.S. cities that have been chosen to participate in the Human Development Overlay District (HDOD) initiative. The Summit-University and District 7 planning councils, the Greater Frogtown Community Development Corporation, University United/U-Plan, the Aurora/St. Anthony Neighborhood Development Corporation and the city of St. Paul will share a Ford Foundation grant award of \$375,000 (\$125,000 per year for three years) to support that work.

The HDOD is a three-year pilot program sponsored by the New York-based Environmental Simulation Center. The ESC uses technology and computer-design tools to aid in urban planning and make the process much more visual and accessible to residents. Other participating cities include Boston, Los Angeles, and Astoria, Oregon. In St. Paul, the HDOD will aid in University Avenue development planning in preparation for the opening of the Central Corridor light-rail line.

Using ESC's technology, the HDOD addresses practical concerns in the planning process. Three-dimensional modeling is used to map out future development and evaluate the resulting changes.

Residents and business owners in the HDOD area will be invited to visit the Com-

munity Change Center (CCC), where they can learn about the project's status, obtain free planning and design services, and avail themselves of such resources as job training, business development and language instruction. The CCC is currently under construction at 533 N. Dale St. and is expected to open on August 1.

The HDOD work is already under way. For information, visit www.frogtownrondo.org.

Stay in the loop—Sign up for electronic news updates about events, meetings and other neighborhood issues by visiting the planning council's website.

Union Park

www.unionparkdc.org • 651-645-6887

Sober house ordinance—The St. Paul City Council will hold a public hearing on a proposed ordinance governing sober houses at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 2, at City Hall. Last summer, a property owner proposed opening several sober houses in a concentrated area in Merriam Park. After listening to the concerns of neighbors, sober house operators and residents, and city staff, the Union Park District Council this past May approved a position regarding the ordinance. For the key points, visit the UPDC's website. The draft ordinance can be found at www.ci.stpaul.mn.us/DocumentView.asp?DID=4828.

Rock-Tenn update—The Rock-Tenn Community Advisory Panel will hold its next meeting at 7:00 p.m. Monday, July 7, at Wilder Center, 451 N. Lexington Pkwy. The topic of discussion will be public health and economic considerations for alternative fuel options. Visit www.rtadvisory.org or contact Nina@sapcc.org or 612-788-4151 for details.

Central Corridor stations—Development plans for the seven proposed light-rail station areas on University Avenue have been released by the St. Paul Planning Commission. The commission will hold a public hearing on Friday, July 11, on the Snelling, Fairview, Raymond and Westgate plans, and on Friday, July 25, on the Rice, Dale and Lexington plans. Both hearings will begin at 8:30 a.m. at the Central Corridor Resource Center, 1080 University Ave. An open house with display boards of each plan will begin an hour before each hearing. For copies of the station area plans, visit www.stpaul.gov/centralcorridor and click on "reports," or contact Donna Drummond at 651-266-6556.

National Night Out—The 25th annual National Night Out will be held on Tuesday, August 5. For information about block party permits, roadblocks and guest police or firefighter requests, e-mail Julie Oney at julie@unionparkdc.org.

Lex-Ham Theatre—The Lexington-Hamline Community Theater's reading series will continue with *Look Homeward, Angel*, Ketti Frings' 1958 Pulitzer Prize-winning play based on the novel by Thomas Wolfe, at 7:00 p.m. Friday, July 11, at 1184 Portland Ave. A potluck supper will be served at 6:30 p.m. Call 651-644-3366.

Executive director search—The Union Park District Council is seeking a new executive director. Theresa Heiland is leaving in September after serving the council for seven years. Applications are being accepted through July 17. To apply, e-mail a cover letter and resume to theresa@unionparkdc.org. For details, visit the district council's website.

Here's the scoop—The annual Merriam Park Ice Cream Social will be held from noon to 4:00 p.m. Saturday, July 12, at the corner of Wilder and Carroll avenues in Merriam Park. The afternoon will include free Izzy's ice cream, live music, face painting, children's activities and games.

Upcoming meetings—board of directors, 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 2, Merriam Park Community Center, 2000 St. Anthony Ave.; Neighborhood Issues Committee, 7:00 p.m. Monday, July 7, Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave.; and Parks and Recreation Committee, 7:00 p.m. Monday, July 7, Merriam Park Community Center.

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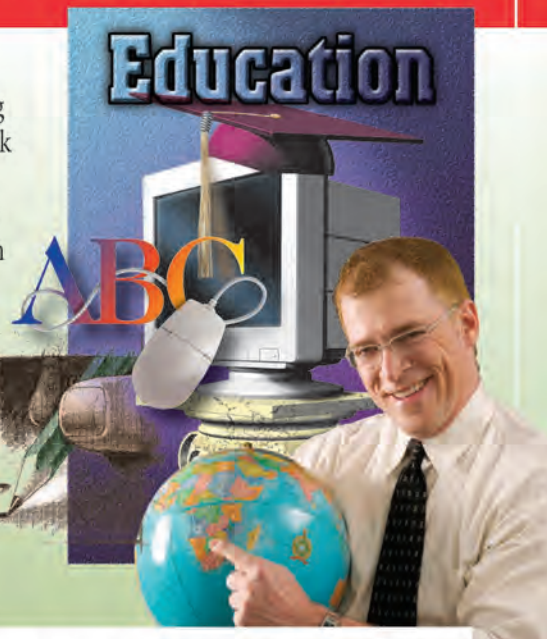
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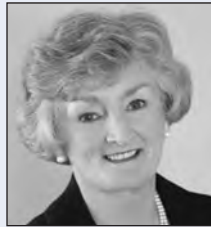
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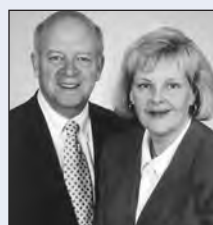
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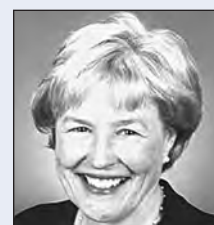
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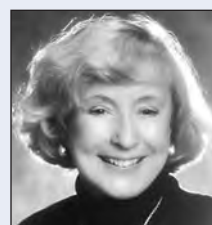
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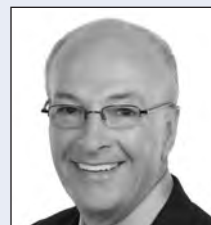
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AUTHENTIC CONSTRUCTION

Rebound in Ranger sales may bring a temporary reprieve for Ford Plant

BY JANE MCCLURE

Ford Motor Company employees and local residents and business people are anxiously awaiting confirmation from Ford officials following reports last week that the automaker could keep its Highland Park assembly plant open for two years beyond its scheduled closing in 2009.

Ford officials would not confirm or deny it, but the *Detroit News* and the Associated Press both reported on June 25 that growing demand for the Ford Ranger compact pickup truck could lead to at least a temporary reprieve for the Highland Park assembly plant. The 82-year-old facility was initially slated to close this fall.

Local officials greeted the reports with tempered optimism. St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman, who has been a strong advocate for an environmentally sustainable mixed-use redevelopment of the 146-acre site, said he has always maintained that the ideal situation would be for the Ford Plant to remain open. "We've been in constant communication with Ford," he said, "and we're thrilled with the news that a plant extension may be on the table."

Former St. Paul mayor and U.S. Senator Norm Coleman recently made a pitch to Ford to keep the plant open, citing the potential for increased Ranger sales in light of the increased cost of gasoline. "With \$4.00 gasoline, we're in a different world than we were when the Ford Plant was announced for closure two years ago," Senator Coleman said. "In light of current fuel prices and increasing Ranger sales, there's a compelling reason for keeping the plant up and running."

Governor Tim Pawlenty, who has also lobbied to keep the plant open, also issued a statement in which he said he is "encouraged" by Ford's assessment of its Highland Park facility.

The United Auto Workers have also been involved in efforts to keep the plant open. Union officials recently traveled to Ford's headquarters in Dearborn, Michigan, to talk to company officials about the plant's future. However, as of late last week, they were still waiting for Ford to issue a statement on the plant's future beyond the fall of 2009.

Ford announced in April 2006 that it would close the Highland Park plant in 2008 as part of a series of plant closings nationwide. The Twin Cities Assembly Plant, which at one time employed more than 2,000 workers, now employs about 1,000, a quarter of whom are permanent. The rest are temporary employees making around \$20 per hour. The plant's night shift was eliminated last year. Many longtime workers entered a buyout program and left the company a year ago.

Despite the news reports, the St. Paul City Council and the city's Planning and Economic Development Department are proceeding with plans for redeveloping the Ford site. Ford sold the adjacent hydroelectric plant several months ago.

The City Council voted on June 25 to sign an indemnification agreement with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. The agreement is first step in accepting a \$45,000 state grant to study the environmentally sustainable redevelopment of the Ford site. The grant agreement goes to the City Council for final approval on July 2.

Business Briefs

Creative Kidstuff, 1074 Grand Ave., is offering kids a chance to decorate their bikes for Independence Day. Stop in between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Thursday, July 3, to participate in this free event. Supplies will be provided. Call 651-222-2472.

Wonderment has opened at 949 Grand Ave. The natural toys and crafts store sells games, dolls, doll houses, wooden animals, science kits, a variety of craft supplies, dress-up items, musical instruments and an array of toys. The store has a second-floor play space and classroom that is accessed by a 12-foot-tall treehouse. It is the second location for co-owners Lisa MacMartin, Suzanne Fenner and Joyce Olson-Kapell, who opened their first Won-

derment in the Linden Hills neighborhood of Minneapolis in 2005.

A free workshop on animal communication will be offered by Christine Sang at 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 15, at Benevolent Acorn, 1087 Grand Ave. Sang will conduct a workshop on the same topic from 6:00 to 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 16. The cost of the workshop is \$65. Call 651-291-3848.

DaVita - University Dialysis will hold an open house on Wednesday, July 16, at its new location in the Westgate Business Center at 1045 Westgate Drive, Suite 90. Tours will be available from 4:30 to 8:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Call 612-347-4974.

School Notes

Robin Percival has been named the new principal of Henry Sibley High School in Mendota Heights. She succeeds Helen Fisk, who left for a new position. Percival holds a doctorate in educational leadership from the University of St. Thomas. For the past five years, she served as assistant principal at Kennedy High School in Bloomington. She is a former Spanish and French teacher who has taught in Rosemount and in Fargo.



The St. Paul Public Schools has appointed Michael Piersak as principal at Bridge View School, Judith Kaufmann as principal at Adams Elementary School, Kate Flynn as principal of Benjamin E. Mays Elementary School, and Ann Johnson as the principal at

St. Anthony Park Elementary School. Piersak previously was the manager of special services for School District 916 in White Bear Lake. Kaufmann was the assistant principal at Mississippi Elementary School. Flynn was the assistant principal at Como Park Elementary School. Johnson was the assistant principal at Expo Elementary School.

Highland Park Senior High School students Rebecca Gibson, Jesse Mitchell, Ablavi Epou, Ananda Guneratne and Abby Setterholm participated in the UNA-USA Model United Nations Conference this spring in New York City. The students represented Armenia and spent about six months researching their country with the help of Dahmon Romness, a Global Classrooms volunteer from Hamline University. Highland Park social studies teacher Kari Rise is the high school's Model UN adviser. The students raised money for the trip with the help of such local businesses as Hubbard Broadcasting, Korte's Supermarket, Speedy Market and J&S Bean Factory.

Food



Home Fires By Jo Marshall

Journey to gelato

Research, research, research. Call me a glutton for punishment, but last month's foray into homemade ice cream drove me back into the kitchen for further investigation. My earlier efforts required testing batch after batch of softly frozen strawberries and cream at that volatile moment where solid turns liquid and melts without mercy on the tongue. In my quest for knowledge, I'd sometimes reach for a second bowl, undaunted by the fact that those in-season berries packed a taste so explosive, psychic flavor fragments may be permanently lodged on my palate.

Tough duty, I know, but it had my mind churning faster than the ice cream freezer. Any lapse of know-how on the topic of frozen confections produces in me a singular sense of guilt because, God knows, my parents did everything they could to give me a good start on the subject.

You might say I was weaned on homemade ice cream. Every May, my parents would haul out the gargantuan White Mountain ice cream freezer. Dad would cram the wooden bucket to overflowing with ice and rock salt while Mom lovingly filled the cylinder with what seemed like gallons and gallons of the custardy concoction of cream, eggs and vanilla, which she had cooked and then refrigerated the night before. My five siblings and I took turns cranking the heavy monster. Toward the end, when the going got especially tough, Dad would pull final duty, while Mom was busy at the stove stirring up a batch of her legendary hot fudge sauce.

Sometimes my sister, despite her diminutive size, would put down a mixer bowl filled with the stuff. And I can't recall a single summer gathering of family or friends during which that freezer didn't see service.

So I've had ample experience with ice cream. And that was precisely the problem: I'd had years to churn and eons to freeze, and ice cream was as far as I'd gotten. Shamefully, I'd never produced a granita, a sorbet, a sherbet or a semifreddo. Ice cream and ices are enjoyed from Istanbul to Ixtapa, and when it came to exploration, I'd barely cracked open the door.

Where to begin the trek into the frozen universe? That was easy. On my one and only trip to Italy, I fell head over heels for gelato. Never mind how well fed I'd been at dinner, I couldn't



Sicilian-style gelato (above) made from shelled pistachios (right), milk, sugar and cornstarch. PHOTOS BY JANET HOSTETTER

go to bed without a nightcap of gelato. So I plotted a culinary trip to Italy. Sicily, to be exact, where they prepare gelato differently than in other parts of the country.

First, a little history. Sicily's eastern coast is dominated by Mt. Etna, which at 10,900 feet is Europe's loftiest active volcano. In the summer, its snowcapped peak rises above a sweltering landscape of palm trees. For two-and-a-half millennia before refrigeration came into being, Sicilians mined Mt. Etna for snow to cool their drinks and later to freeze their desserts. Invading Greeks and Romans were no strangers to Mt. Etna's cooling riches. The Arabs who arrived in the 10th century with citrus trees cooled their lemonade in Etna's snow.

For the ancients, Mt. Etna provided both snow and a natural means of preserving it. The volcanic ash spewed by the mountain formed an insulating blanket, sealing snow in the peak's deep crevices. Sicilians later learned to compact snow in huge blocks wrapped in straw and burlap. Transporting it to other countries made for lucrative trade. The Bishop of Catania, near



GELATO ► 24

ICY PLEASURES

Glace. French ice cream, traditionally made with a cooked egg custard base that's rich with cream.

Custard-style ice cream. An American ice cream that's similar to glace, made with an egg custard base that gives it a rich, silky texture.

Gelato. Derived from the Italian word for frozen, gelato is typically custard-based but contains less cream than French ice cream. Italians also whip less air into their ice cream than the French or Americans, resulting in a

dense and intensely flavorful product. Sicilian gelato is lighter than classic Italian gelato; it contains neither cream nor eggs and relies on a thickening agent like cornstarch for body.

Philadelphia-style ice cream. Also known as New York-style or American-style ice cream, this is the ice cream that is most common in the U.S. Lighter than its continental counterparts, it doesn't have to be cooked or refrigerated before freezing. Commercial U.S. ice creams often use more milk than cream, can contain up to 50 percent air and rely on stabilizers and emulsifiers for body and resistance

to melting. To be called "ice cream," products in the U.S. must contain 8 to 10 percent milk fat. Products with less fat are typically labeled "ice milk."

Frappé. Juice or pureed fruit, frozen, then crushed into a slush and served as a drink or dessert.

Sorbet. Called sorbetto in Italy, this is a smooth frozen ice generally made with pureed fruit and juice, although more exotic flavors are now in vogue. Sorbet contains no dairy products, though egg whites are occasionally incorporated for body.

Sherbet. Similar to sorbet, but with the addition of milk.

Granita. An Italian water-based ice, granita is more granular than sorbet and can be made without an ice cream freezer. Essentially, you pour coffee or a sweetened juice mixture into a pan and put it in the freezer, breaking up the chunks every so often until it's frozen slush.

Semifreddo. "Half cold" in Italian, semifreddo refers to a class of semifrozen desserts, including custards and gelato-based ice cream cakes.

— Jo Marshall

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*Family incomes of overall readership 40% greater than the Twin Cities median. Data copyright 2006 by Experian/Applied Geographic Solutions.



Beat the heat with a summer treat—homemade pistachio gelato.

PHOTO BY JANET HOSTETTER

23◀ GELATO

Mt. Etna's base, once sent an entire boatload of snow to Rome as a present for the pope.

Many historians believe ice cream originated in Italy, and Sicilians will say it was on their island. But as cookbook author and radio host Lynn Rossetto Kasper told me, "Beware of any good story, especially when in Italy."

"There's no definitive evidence that gelato was invented in Sicily," Kasper said, "although a Sicilian named Procopio Coltelli did invent a machine in the 17th century that homogenized his frozen custard mixture. And in 1770, a Sicilian opened the first American gelateria in what would become the United States."

OK, so the Sicilians may not have invented gelato, but they were quick to embrace it. By the late 1600s, Sicilian gelato makers were revered throughout Italy. And while frozen treats long remained the preserve of the wealthy in many parts of Italy, Sicilians considered them a universal birthright. William Irvine, an Englishman visiting Italy in the early 1800s, marveled at how "wretches whose rags have scarce (sic) adhesion to hang upon their bodies...find a baioc (coin) to spend in the ice cream shop."

Since Italians whip less air into their cream than, say, the French or Americans, their ice cream is generally denser. Sicilian gelato contains no cream or eggs, so it's lighter than the more classic custard-based confection, but it still retains its density. Sicilians are fiercely

loyal to their version. A favorite breakfast in Sicily is gelato con brioscia, a brioche stuffed with a generous scoop of gelato.

What follows is the recipe I tested. It was yummy, but in the interest of perfection, I may need to go back for more research.

Don't pity me. Some of us simply hunger for knowledge.

Pistachio Gelato (Sicilian style)

4 cups milk
1 cup sugar
3 tablespoons cornstarch
2 cups shelled unsalted pistachios, finely ground in a spice mill or food processor

Bring 3 cups of milk to a boil over medium heat then remove from the heat. Whisk the remaining cup of milk, sugar and cornstarch in a bowl, then stir into hot milk. Return the pan to the heat and cook, stirring, about 10 minutes or until the mixture thickens slightly. Put the ground pistachios into a large bowl, pour the hot milk mixture over the ground pistachios and stir. Allow it to cool, then cover and refrigerate overnight. The next day, strain the mixture through a fine sieve into a bowl, pressing the pistachios with the back of a wooden spoon to release the liquid. Discard the pistachios. Process the mixture in an ice cream freezer according to manufacturer's directions. (Note: This recipe was tested using raw pistachios.)

Tidbits

History Pub Crawls will continue with the low-down on downtown St. Paul on Wednesday, July 9, from the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. Participants will learn about downtown's journey from a sleepy riverside trading center to a bustling turn-of-the-century power hub while enjoying drinks at some of its finest pubs along the way. A trolley will take participants to the various watering holes. The cost is \$25 (ages 21 and older only). Drinks are not included in the tour price. Call 651-259-3000 to register.

Big Daddy's BBQ, 609 University Ave., is offering customers twice as many chances to pick up its critically acclaimed chicken and ribs. The high demand for its Saturday-only barbecue caused partners Bob Edmond, Gene "Big Daddy" Sampson and Ron Whyte to add

Fridays as well this summer. The barbecue is available on both days from 11:30 a.m. until it sells out. Big Daddy's started selling barbecue more than 10 years ago near Tiger Jack's shack on I-94 and Dale Street. The business moved around various parking lots throughout the Midway before opening a restaurant in the Union Depot. That eatery closed, but Big Daddy's began lighting up the charcoal again last year on the northeast corner of University and Dale. Call 651-276-3101.

Cooks of Crocus Hill, 877 Grand Ave., now carries coffee by CityKid Java. Proceeds from the sale of the coffee, including a special Cooks of Crocus Hill blend, go toward programs for disadvantaged children in the Twin Cities and Central America. Visit www.cooksofcrocushill.com.

The Kiosk

Thursday/July 3

A **RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE** will be held from 3:00 to 8:00 p.m. today and from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. tomorrow through Saturday on Harriet Island during A Taste of Minnesota. Call 1-800-448-3543.

Friday/July 4

INDEPENDENCE DAY will be celebrated from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. today at historic Fort Snelling with cannon salutes, patriotic speeches, theatrical presentations, a military dress parade, patriotic and military fife and drum music, and period games and dancing. Admission is \$5.00-\$10. Call 612-726-1171.

Saturday/July 5

SUMMIT AVENUE WALKING TOURS will be offered at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. today, and at 2:00 p.m. tomorrow, from the James J. Hill House, 240 Summit Ave. Participants will learn about the Gilded-Age mansions that line the avenue, as well as the architecture, social history and current preservation issues of the historic neighborhood. The tours continue every weekend through September. The cost is \$6.00-\$10. Call 651-297-2555

MINNEAPOLIS RIVERFRONT walking tours will be offered at 11:00 this morning and at 1:00 p.m. tomorrow from the Mill City Museum, 704 2nd St. S., Minneapolis. Walkers will visit the historic district at St. Anthony Falls and venture onto the Stone Arch Bridge. The cost is \$8.00-\$12. Call 612-341-7555.

Monday/July 7

A **FINISHING SCHOOL** for young ladies will be presented from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. today through Friday at the Alexander Ramsey House, 265 S. Exchange St. Girls ages 9-13 will focus on a different theme each day: fashion, etiquette, handcrafts and personal expression, culminating in a debutante tea party on the front porch. Each young lady will make a parlor fan and a take-home journal. The cost is \$225. A debutantes day camp for girls who have finished the school will take place the following week. Call 651-296-8760.

Tuesday/July 8

THE ST. PAUL HIKING CLUB will meet at 7:30 this evening at the corner of Huber Drive and Delaware Avenue in Mendota Heights. Call 651-646-6421.

THE COMO-MIDWAY LA LECHE League will meet at 7:00 this evening to discuss "The Art of Breastfeeding and Avoiding Difficulties." Current and expectant mothers are invited to attend with their babies and toddlers. For location, call Heidi at 651-659-9527.



Street rod fans got a chance to check under the hood and snap shots of the classic cars that pulled into Porky's on University Avenue during the Minnesota Street Rod Association's 35th annual Back to the '50s weekend on June 20-22.

PHOTOS BY ANNE BRANDRUD

THE MAD HATTER'S TEA HOUSE, 943 W. 7th St., will hold a conversational salon from 6:30 to 8:30 this evening. Poetry from the book *Poems from Guantánamo* will be read. The salon is free, but donations are encouraged for the program and treats. Call 651-227-3228.

Wednesday/July 9

THE LONGFELLOW GARDEN CLUB will meet at 7:00 this evening at Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37th Ave. S., Minneapolis, to carpool to a garden designed by Cole Burrell. The garden features shrubs, perennials, vegetables, herbs and annuals, all mixed in sun and shade gardens, a prairie, livestock tanks as raised beds, and two bog gardens to catch runoff. Club meetings are free.

Friday/July 11

MENDOTA DAYS will be celebrated from 5:00 to 11:00 p.m. today and from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. tomorrow in the city of Mendota. This evening there will be free games and activities for children, with music beginning at 7:00 p.m. Tomorrow there will be tours of the Sibley House from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; games, a petting zoo, pony rides and other children's activities from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; a parade at noon; and music from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. Call 651-587-0901 or 651-698-3088.

Saturday/July 12

THE DODGE NATURE CENTER in West St. Paul will offer a farm tour at 10:00 this morning. Participants will learn about the farm and farm animals as they tour the pasture, barn and hayloft. The cost is \$1.50-\$3.00. Call 651-455-4531 to register.

HISTORIC MAIN STREET WALKING tours will be offered at 11:00 this morning by the Mill City Museum, 704 2nd St. S., Minneapolis. The tour will focus on life in the village of St. Anthony, which was established in 1848, a few years before its neighbor Minneapolis. The tour will begin and end at St. Anthony Main, 125 Main St. S.E. The cost is \$8.00-\$12, which includes admission to the museum before or after the tour. Call 612-341-7555.

AN "ENGINEERING THE FALLS" walking tour will be presented at 1:00 this afternoon from the Mill City Museum, 704 2nd St. S., Minneapolis. The tour of St. Anthony Falls will be led by a costumed history player representing William de la Barre, the Austrian engineer who spent half a century developing Minneapolis' flour milling and waterpower. The cost is \$10-\$12, which includes museum admission. Call 612-341-7555.

THE GARDEN SHUFFLE will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. today in the Lexington-Hamline neighborhood. The

free, self-guided tour will feature boulevard gardens and backyard retreats under the canopy of 80-year-old trees. Resident gardeners will be available at each location on the tour to answer questions. Pick up a map of the gardens on the day of the tour at 1305 Dayton Ave. Call 651-646-6674.

Sunday/July 13

NORWAY DAY will be celebrated from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. today at Minnehaha Park in Minneapolis. The entertainment begins at 12:45 p.m. with a children's parade, followed by music, singing and dancing. There also will be ethnic Norwegian and traditional American picnic foods, arts and crafts, a morning worship service and more. Call Shirley Evenstad at 612-861-4793.

FREE ANTIQUE APPRAISALS will be given from 11:00 to 3:00 p.m. today at Wellington Assisted Living, 2235 Rockwood Ave. The event is sponsored by Midtown Antiques. Appraisals are limited to one item per person. There will be complimentary valet parking and refreshments will be served. Call 651-699-2664

Monday/July 14

NOOKS AND CRANNIES TOURS will be offered at 6:00, 6:30 and 7:00 p.m. today and tomorrow at the James J. Hill House, 240 Summit Ave. Guides will lead visitors in areas not seen on regular house tours, including the attic theater, eaves, storage areas and un-restored basement rooms. The cost is \$6.00-\$10. Call 651-297-2555.

Tuesday/July 15

A **PUBLIC HEARING** on potential transit fare increases that would go into effect in October will be held by the Metropolitan Council Transportation Committee at noon today at the Met Council Chambers, 390 N. Robert St. The fare increases are needed to help offset rising fuel costs and lower-than-expected revenues from the motor vehicle sales tax. The comment period closes July 25. Comments also may be e-mailed to data.center@metrocouncil.org, faxed to 651-602-1464 or mailed to the Data Center, 390 N. Robert St., St. Paul, MN 55101. Call 651-602-1500.

THE MAD HATTER'S TEA HOUSE, 943 W. 7th St., will hold an open discussion during its regular conversational salon from 6:30 to 8:30 this evening. The salon is free, but donations are encouraged for the program and treats. Call 651-227-3228.

Wednesday/July 16

A **TOUR OF RICE PARK** will be offered at 10:00 this morning from Landmark Center. The tour will reveal hidden secrets of the unique buildings that surround one of the cities most beloved parks. Admission is free. Call 651-292-3276 to register.

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On the Town

Art of the Asmat

St. Thomas takes up mission to keep tribal art from New Guinea in the public's eye

BY BOB GILBERT

Professor Julie Risser is up to her elbows in Asmat art. Since she was hired as the director of the American Museum of Asmat Art at the University of St. Thomas, she has been busy tagging and inventorying a 1,700-piece collection that includes carvings, masks, shields, canoes, drums and other tribal art from New Guinea. With the help of graduate students, she has also been brushing the artifacts clean of spider webs, frass, fish scales and other foreign matter to make them ready to share with the public.

Last year, St. Thomas acquired one of the largest Asmat art collections in the world. The collection had been located at the provincial headquarters of the Crosier Fathers and Brothers in Shoreview since 1995. The Catholic religious order began missionary work in 1958 with the Asmat, a tribal people of approximately 70,000 who inhabit the rainforest along the southwest coast of Papua, Indonesia, and were once infamous for their headhunting and cannibalism.

When the Crosiers moved their headquarters to Phoenix last July,

St. Thomas agreed to become the new home for the entire collection. Risser said the museum is a good fit for university because it enhances its graduate program in art history.

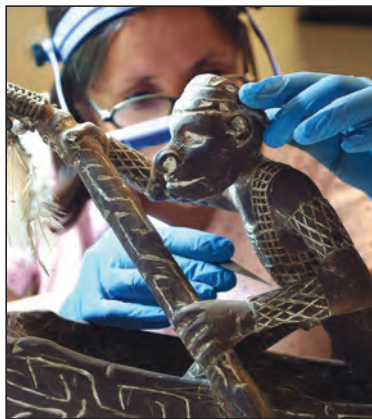
"It's the responsibility of every educational institution to provide people with a well-rounded educational experience that includes an understanding of world cultures," Risser said. "You can't really understand your own culture until you step outside of it and learn about another. When you can show people actual objects of a culture like the Asmat, it becomes more memorable and profound."

Much of the Asmat art was created to maintain a personal connection with family members who had died. The collection includes bisj poles, which feature images carved into the roots of mangrove trees to satisfy the spirits of deceased family members, and woramons, or soul ships, which are ceremonial vehicles carved from wood and used to send loved ones to the spirit world.

The masks in the collection are part of full-length costumes that were created to represent a person who had recently died. A shaman would emerge from

the jungle wearing the mask at a funeral so the spirit might revisit its loved ones and offer the living an opportunity to say a final farewell.

The Asmat drums have an hourglass shape and are covered with lizard skins. The collection also features flutes and pipes.



When completed in 2011, the university's new Anderson Student Union on the St. Paul campus will include a gallery for the American Museum of Asmat Art. Until then, selections from the collection are on exhibit as part of an Asmat art walking tour. The objects may be seen in the first-floor hallway of the John R. Roach Center for the Liberal Arts and in the lobby galleries of the O'Shaughnessy and

Brady educational centers.

Completing the tour requires walking about half a mile. Art history graduate students are working on designing the exhibitions and changing the displays.

Seventy pieces from the collection will also be featured in an art show titled "Time and Tide: Asmat Art from New Guinea," opening next February at the Minneapolis Institute of Art. Molly Huber, assistant curator of African, Oceanic and Native American Art at the institute, chose the pieces for the exhibit.

"The Asmat utilize a symbolic visual language that sees the world through the prism of spirit and their ancestors," Huber said. "In the past, they lived their lives completely in connection with that. Their art is undergoing some dramatic changes right now. Though there has been an influx of outside exposure and ideas into their culture, it's interesting to see the way they incorporate those ideas into the natural way they look at the world."

Before Christianity was introduced to the region, the Asmats believed death was deliberately caused by evil forces,

which warranted vengeance.

Headhunting expeditions were a rite of passage. After decapitating an enemy, the victim's body was given to the community for cannibalistic consumption.

"The logic of cannibalism was about balance," Risser said. "If somebody died, it couldn't have been a natural death. It had to be through an attack, and so they needed to have retribution so the person's soul would be satisfied in the afterlife."

To curb Asmat headhunting, the Indonesian government tried to suppress Asmat religious practices that encouraged violence.

Risser said many of the Crosier missionaries grew up near Indian reservations in Northern Minnesota. They witnessed what happened to native people when their spiritual practices were taken away and did not want that to happen to the Asmat. So the Crosiers encouraged the Asmat to continue their art. The order still maintains the Museum of Culture and Progress in Agats, Indonesia, and sends its pieces around the world.

For more information on viewing the St. Thomas collection, call Risser at 651-962-5512.



Director Julie Risser poses with spirit masks from the American Museum of Asmat Art at the University of St. Thomas. Below, she carefully cleans an Asmat ironwood carving. Pieces from the collection may be seen during a walking tour of the St. Paul campus.

PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

Taste returns on July 3-6

Whether it's the power ballads of REO Speedwagon, the doo-wop of the Chiffons or the pop tunes of singer-songwriter Jordan Pruitt, the 26th annual A Taste of Minnesota will serve up a musical menu to satisfy just about anyone's taste. The state's largest free festival will feature three stages offering almost continuous musical entertainment from Thursday through Sunday, July 3-6, on Harriet Island across the Mississippi River from downtown St. Paul.

Among the top acts will be Eddie Money, the South African heavy metal band Seether, the Trashmen of "Surfin' Bird" fame and

Badfinger featuring Joey Molland.

Local performers will include the Abdomen, Ipso Facto, GB Leighton, the Truth, the T. Albert Lloyd Band, saxophonist and former St. Paul City Council member Vic Tedesco, and the Backseat Boogie Band with guitarist and current City Council member Dave Thune.

They will be joined by such throwbacks as the Bay City Rollers, the Cowsills, the Zombies featuring Rod Argent and Colin Blunstone, Bo Donaldson & the Heywoods (remember "Billy, Don't Be A Hero"?), Barry Williams (aka Greg Brady of TV's "The Brady Bunch") and Cosmo with Fran Cosmo of Boston fame.

Children's entertainment will be offered from 3:00 to 9:00 p.m. daily. A petting zoo, midway rides, magic shows and a deejay-driven Kidsdance will be among the attrac-

tions.

The musical lineup for the event's Taste Stage and Main Stage is as follows:

Thursday, July 3

3:00 p.m. T. Albert Lloyd Band
5:00 p.m. Cosmo
7:00 p.m. REO Speedwagon
8:30 p.m. GB Leighton

Friday, July 4

12:00 p.m. Vic Tedesco
2:00 p.m. Ladies of Doo Wop, featuring the Chiffons, Maxine Brown, Barbara Lewis
3:30 p.m. Ipso Facto
5:00 p.m. The Truth
7:00 p.m. The Original Idols, featuring the Bay City Rollers, the Cowsills, Bo Donaldson & the Heywoods, Barry Williams.
8:30 p.m. Badfinger

Saturday, July 5

1:00 p.m. The Backseat Boogie Band
2:30 p.m. TBA
4:00 p.m. Sick Puppies
5:00 p.m. Finger Eleven
7:00 p.m. Seether
8:30 p.m. The Trashmen

Sunday, July 6

1:00 p.m. The Abdomen
3:30 p.m. Shannon Curfman
5:00 p.m. TBA
7:00 p.m. The Zombies
8:30 p.m. Eddie Money

A Taste of Minnesota will also devote a third stage to nearly continuous Christian music, featuring close to two dozen bands. For more information about Taste of Minnesota events, visit www.tasteofmn.org.

On the Town *Briefly*

Exhibits

Artist Judy Weinberger is showing her batiks, ceramics and acrylic, oil and watercolor paintings through August 18 at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. A reception for the artist will be held from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Sunday, June 22. Admission is free. Call 651-698-0751.

"Urban Improvisations," an exhibition of recent work by John Smaby, will be celebrated with receptions from 5:00 to 10:00 p.m. Fridays, July 4 and 11, at the AZ Gallery, 308 Prince St. Call 651-225-6624.

"Face The Nation: How National Identity Shaped Modern Typeface Design" will be displayed July 12 through September 21 at the Minnesota Center for Book Arts, 1011 Washington Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Presented in collaboration with the University of St. Thomas, the exhibit investigates how the desire to reinforce, redefine or transcend national identity shaped typeface design between 1900 and 1960. Engaging case studies, historical curiosities, original printed works and objects from the printing trade are included along with the work of contemporary designers Romäno Hanni of Switzerland and Erik Brandt of the U.S., who explore the new challenges in designing type for a global market. An opening reception will be held from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Saturday, July 12. For information on related presentations, workshops and discussions, visit www.mnbookarts.org or call 612-215-2520.

"Six McKnight Artists," an exhibition by McKnight fellows and ceramicists Joseph Kress, Mike Norman, Hide Sadohara, Lisa Marie Barber, John Utgaard and John Lambert, will open with a reception from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Friday, July 11, at the Northern



Annacita Gomez plays Petite Rouge, Daniel Sandberg is Claude the Gator and Kyle Lane is TeJean the cat in *Petite Rouge*. The play is a Cajun adaptation of the Brothers Grimm's "Little Red Riding Hood." It will open July 11 at SteppingStone Theatre, 55 N. Victoria St. Accompanying the drama is a musical gumbo of zydeco, jazz, ballads and blues. The curtain rises at 2:00 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, 10:00 a.m. and noon Tuesdays through Thursdays and 10:00 a.m., noon and 7:00 p.m. Fridays through August 3. Tickets are \$11 for adults and \$9.00 for seniors and children ages 2-17. Call 651-225-9265. PHOTO BY PAULA KELLER

Clay Center, 2424 E. Franklin Ave. in Minneapolis. The exhibit will remain on view through August 24. Call 612-339-8007.

"Art at St. Kate's," a juried show and sale by more than 85 artists and craftspeople, will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, July 12, on the grounds of the College of St. Catherine at Cleveland and Randolph avenues. Works in fiber, leather, jewelry, basketry, glass, metal, paper, wood and clay will be featured along with painting, photography, sculpture and printmaking.

Among the artists are Bob Briscoe, Linda Nelson Bryan, Bob Carls, Kim Crocker, Jim and Renee Engebretson, Laura Leonard and Pat Parnow.

"Scene and Be Seen," a show by the new West End Arts group, will open with a reception from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. Saturday, July 12, at the Pilney Building, 1032 W. 7th St. Among the participating artists are Halle O'Falvey, paper and textiles; painter and scene designer Nance Derby, sculptor Marty Hicks and printmaker Mary Esch. The show will be on view from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Thursdays through Sundays through August 2.

Music

"Nine Nights of Music," a nine-week series of free concerts with open dancing, will kick off on Tuesday, July 1, with the Bavarian duo Almkaffe, the quintet Die Alte Streich and the S.G. Edelweiss Dancers. Programs in the summer series run from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on the terrace outside the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. Pack a picnic supper or purchase food from the terrace grill. The schedule includes the Rockin' Hollywoods and a 1950s fashion show with prizes on July 8; the Brazilian band Brasamba on July 15. Call 651-259-3000.

Summer at Northrop, a series of free noon-hour concerts on the plaza in front of Northrop Auditorium, continues with the Christine Rosholt Quintet, July 2; Blue Wolf, July 7; Romantica, July 8; Laura Caviani Trio, July 9; Tim Sparks & Sandor Szabo, July 10; Mister Rolls, July 14; Phil Hey Quartet, July 15; and Art Kistler in a tribute to Elvis, July 16. Call 651-624-2345.

The city of St. Paul's summer Music in the Parks series continues at the Como Lakeside Pavilion. The shows are free and begin

at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise indicated. The schedule includes the Whistlepigs String Band, July 2; Detroit Don King Band, July 3; Pops Ensemble at 3:00 p.m. and Christine Rosholt Quintet at 7:00 p.m. on July 6; Minnesota Sinfonia, July 7; Bavarian Musikmeisters, July 8; Mark Lamoine and Friends, July 9; Pops Ensemble at 3:00 p.m. and Stan Bann Big Band at 7:00 p.m. on July 13; Brooklyn Park Community Band, July 14; St. Paul North Star Chorus, July 15; and Minneapolis Southside Singers, July 16.

Ghana-born rapper M.anifest (aka Kwame Tsikata), whose debut CD "Manifestations" was one of the top local releases of 2007, will perform on Thursday, July 3, at the Mill City Museum, 704 S. 2nd St. in Minneapolis. It is the first of eight concerts that will be offered free of charge from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays of each month in the museum's Ruin Courtyard. "Mill City Live" continues with the acoustic folk duo Roma di Luna on July 17. Refreshments are available from D'Amico Catering. For information, call 612-341-7555.

Susan Cowsill, the little sister in the popular 1960s pop group the Cowsills and now a veteran of the New Orleans music scene, will perform with her band on Sunday, July 6, in a benefit for Women Against Military Madness. The concert will run from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Minnesota Music Café, 499 Payne Ave. Also appearing will be Rick Robot of Tuesdays Robot and the local group Gospel Gossip. Admission is by donation, and \$20 is suggested.

Pop vocalist George Michael will bring his "25 Live Tour" to Xcel Energy Center at 8:00 p.m. Monday, July 7. Tickets are \$52 to \$177. Call 651-989-5151.

Landmark Center's Anita's Cafe will play host to free concerts at noon on Wednesdays this summer. The schedule includes roots

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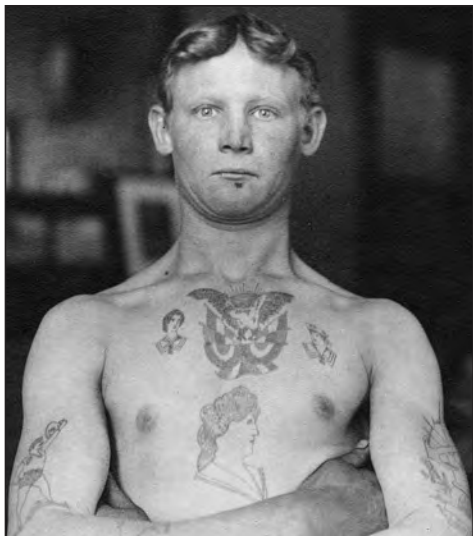
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Among Augustus Sherman's Ellis Island portraits are (clockwise from top left) images of a Guadeloupe woman, Cossack men, German stowaway and Ruthenian woman.

Coming to America, 1905-20

Augustus F. Sherman: Ellis Island Portraits," a new exhibit that chronicles the more than 12 million immigrants who entered the United States through the federal station in New York City, will open on July 4 at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd.

Sherman, an untrained yet gifted photographer, worked at Ellis Island from 1905-1920, documenting hundreds of new arrivals to America and creating a riveting series of portraits. The exhibit features 75 framed black-and-white photos of families, groups

and individuals who were being detained for medical reasons or further interrogation. In many cases, the subjects were fleeing poverty, natural disaster or political and religious persecution. Some were deported.

A program on the immigrant experience featuring a genealogical workshop, Irish storyteller David Zander and a Celtic jewelry workshop will be held at 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 22. The exhibit runs through September 21. Admission is \$10, \$8.00 for seniors and students, and \$5.00 for children ages 6-17. Call 651-259-3000.

guitarist Dakota Dave Hull on July 9 and singer-songwriter Joey Ryan on July 16.

The Rose Ensemble, home between tours of Italy and France, will present a Bon Voyage Concert at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, July 13, in the St. Paul Seminary chapel and courtyard at 2260 Summit Ave. The hour-long concert will feature selections from the ensemble's seven CDs as well as unrecorded gems drawn from over a decade of original programming. Wine and hors d'oeuvres will be served in the seminary courtyard afterward along with a short preview performance of the group's forthcoming CD. Tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door. Call 651-225-4340.

Theater

Shakespeare's tragedy *Richard II*, his comedy *As You Like It* and Carlo Goldoni's commedia del arte *Servant of Two Masters* will be performed in repertory from June 28 through August 3 at Shakespeare & Company's outdoor theater behind Century College, 3300 N. Century Ave. in White Bear Lake. Show times are 7:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 6:00 p.m. Sunday. Bring a picnic supper, blanket or lawn chairs. Tickets are \$12, \$10 for seniors and free for children under age 12. For scheduling information, call 651-779-5818.

Alexander Dumas' swashbuckling story of love, betrayal and retribution, *The Count of Monte Cristo* is being performed through

August 23 by the University of Minnesota Showboat Players. Matinee and evening shows are scheduled aboard the Minnesota Centennial Showboat at Harriet Island. Tickets are \$20-\$25. Dinner, lunch and river cruise options are available for an additional charge. Call 651-227-1100.

The Rocky Horror Picture Show, the cult film of the 1970s, is being shown along with a live side show by the troupe Transvestite Soup at 11:00 p.m. every other Saturday through September 20, at the Mounds Theatre, 1029 Hudson Road. Tickets are \$7.00. Call 651-772-2253.

Two comedies will light up the stage in July at Dreamland Arts, a 40-seat theater at 677 N. Hamline Ave. *Women Who Drink*, a happy hour and 10 minutes of intoxicating humor spiked with razor-sharp wit and sobering observations, stars Leslye Orr as 16 loopy ladies, each named after their drink of choice. It will be presented at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays, July 10-31. Playing at 7:30 p.m. Fridays, July 11-August 1, will be Delivery Guy, David Harris' one-man show about a hapless courier who needs a perfect day to save his career from complete ruin. Tickets are \$15 at the door, \$12 in advance, or \$20 for both shows. Call 651-645-5506 or visit www.dreamlandarts.com.

Teddy & Alice, a musical about the battle of wills between U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt and his free-spirited daughter Alice, will be performed July 10-19 by the Rosetown Playhouse. Show times are 7:00

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Look Homeward, Angel, the Pulitzer Prize-winning play of 1958 by Ketti Frings based on the novel by Thomas Wolfe, will be read by all comers on Friday, July 11. Sponsored by the Lex-Ham Community Theater, the free program will open at 6:30 p.m. with a potluck supper at 1184 Portland Ave. The reading begins at 7:00 with parts being reassigned at the start of each scene, so that everyone gets plenty of chances to read. No registration is necessary. Just bring food to share and a copy of the play if possible. For more information, call 651-644-3366.

An adaptation of Agatha Christie's novel *A Murder is Announced* will open on July 11 at Theatre in the Round, 245 Cedar Ave. S. in Minneapolis. A delightful play based on one of Christie's most ingenious plots, the show will be performed at 8:00 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and at 2:00 p.m. Sundays through August 10. Tickets are \$20. For reservations, call 612-333-3010.

Family

Red Balloon Bookshop, 891 Grand Ave., plays host to storytimes for babies at 10:15 a.m. Tuesdays, toddlers at 11:00 a.m. Tuesdays and preschoolers at 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays. Featured in other free programs will be stories about bears told at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, July 5; author Linda Gerdner and her bilingual Hmong-English book *Grandfather's Story Cloth* at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, July 5; author Anne Fredrickson and the true story of *The Baseball Brothers* at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, July 12. Call 651-224-8320.

Make a souvenir sesquicentennial hat with state symbols, flags, stars, song lyrics, postcards and colorful ribbons and stickers during "State on a Stick," a free History Hijinx activity offered from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. daily through August 22 at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. Call 651-259-3000.

Learn about Minnesota's black bears, see a bear skull, feel its pelt and visit a bear's den during the Nature Tots program from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. Thursday, July 3, at the Bell Museum of Natural History, 17th and University avenues in Southeast Minneapolis. Preschoolers and their parents will also sing bear songs and work on a bear crafts. The program is free with museum admission of \$5.00, \$3.00 for seniors and children ages 3-16. To register, call 612-624-9050.

The Minnesota Sinfonia will present free children's concerts at 12:30 and 1:45 p.m. Wednesday, July 9, at the Como Pavilion.

Lord of the Flies, a play based on William Golding's novel about a society of youngsters stranded on a desert island, will be performed July 11-20 by the Young Artists Initiative. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Friday and 2:00 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at Old Arizona Theater, 2821 Nicollet Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5.00 for children. Call 651-222-5437.

Slither on over to the Bell Museum of Natural History on Saturday, July 12, and meet the resident snakes and learn how they catch their prey and how they survive attacks from predators. The drop-in Nature Play program will run from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the museum of natural history at 17th and University avenues in Southeast Minneapolis. Admission is \$5.00, \$3.00 for seniors and children ages 3-16. Call 612-624-7083.

The St. Paul Chamber Orchestra's family, Start the Music and Xplorchestra concerts will be free of charge in the coming year thanks to the support of Target Corporation. Tickets will be distributed via random drawing. To register for October-January concerts,

visit www.thespc.org/target or call 651-291-1144 between July 14 and 25. Registration for February-May concerts will be accepted January 5-16.

Over the Hedge, the 2006 animated film about a scheming raccoon who coerces a family of forest creatures into helping him repay a debt by invading a new suburban subdivision, will be shown free of charge at dusk on Tuesday, July 15, in Desnoyer Park.

Books

Common Good Books, 165 N. Western Ave., will play host to free readings by the following authors: David Schwartz from *Superpowers* at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 3; John Henriksson from *The Gunflint Cabin: A Northwoods Memoir* at 2:00 p.m. Sunday July 6; Frederick Lane from *The Court and the Cross: The Religious Right's Crusade to Reshape the Supreme Court*, 2:00 p.m. Sunday, July 13; Susan Quinn from *Furious Improvisation: How the WPA and a Cast of Thousands Made High Art Out of Desperate Times*, 7:30 p.m. Monday, July 14; Ellen Baker from her novel *Keeping the House*, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 15. Call 651-225-8989.

The eight poets who battled it out at the Grand Slam this spring will match wits on Monday, July 7, for a berth in the Individual World Poetry Slam in Charlotte. The 4-3-2-1 Slam will feature four rounds with poems that are four, three, two and one minute long. The spoken-word competition begins at 8:00 p.m. at the Artists' Quarter, 408 St. Peter St. Admission is \$5.00. Call 612-207-7991.

Duke Addicks, American Indian elder, historian and storyteller, will tell of Necohundah, the eagle catcher, in a free program at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, July 20, at the John H. Stevens House Museum in Minnehaha Falls Park. Born in 1765 in an Indian village next to the Falls of St. Anthony, Necohundah was first scorned by his peers, but went on to become a very powerful Indian chief. For information, call 612-722-2220.

"Modern Marvels: Jewish Adventures in the Graphic Novel," a series of free discussions on Jewish literature, is being offered at 7:00 p.m. Tuesdays at the Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy. Author and University of Minnesota instructor Judith Katz will lead sessions on Art Spiegelman's *The Complete Maus: A Survivor's Tale* on July 8; and Ben Katchor's *Julius Knipl, Real Estate Photographer: Stories*, July 22; Harvey Pekar's *The Quitter*, August 5; and Joann Sfar's *The Rabbi's Cat*, August 19. For information or to register, call Susan Gangl at 612-626-2281.

Et cetera

Emmy Award-winning television writer and stand-up comic Judy Gold will perform at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 10, at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. Tickets are \$35 in advance, \$45 at the door. Call 651-698-0751.

Ribbons, trophies and over \$950,000 in cash prizes will be awarded to the winners of the various competitions held in conjunction with the Minnesota State Fair on August 21 through September 1. The deadlines for entering the competitions are as follows: fine arts, July 14; pigeons, poultry and rabbits, July 30; creative activities and education, August 5; crop art and scarecrows, August 8; flowers, fruits, potatoes, vegetables, bee culture, wine, stock dog trials, August 11. The State Fair's Amateur Talent Contest will award a total of \$7,445 in prize money to the top three performers in Open, Teen and Preteen divisions. Auditions for the talent contest will be held July 28 through August 3 on the fairgrounds. Those selected will proceed to semifinal and final rounds of competition during the fair. For information, call 651-288-4395.

Sports



The Wright Call

By Dave Wright

Instant replay: A bad idea whose time may have come

In a past life, I spent several years umpiring youth, high school and college baseball games. During my tenure behind the plate, I worked several games at Cretin-Derham Hall's wonderful field at Randolph and Hamline avenues. It's different now, but for several years CDH's ballfield had a thin wire fence in left field with large gaps between the wires. When the sun was at a certain angle, it was almost impossible for an umpire to tell if a ball hit to deep left field went over or through the fence.

On my first afternoon umpiring there, a veteran ump instructed me on a foolproof method for determining which hits were home runs.

"Just look for where the ball bounces," he said. "If you see it hit the sidewalk, say it went through the fence and it's a ground-rule double. If it hits the boulevard or street, say it went over the fence. Nobody will challenge you."

He was right; I never had a single argument on balls hit to left field.

As an umpire, I worked either by myself or with one other umpire and I called them as I saw them. There were occasional arguments, but for the most part the coaches understood that we were doing the best job we could and they accepted our verdicts.

Major League Baseball has operated very nicely with four umpires working its regular-season games and six in the postseason. Yes, there are arguments with the umpires, but most are over balls and strikes.

Two decades ago, instant replay wormed its way into pro football. Professional basketball and hockey eventually followed suit, although in a more limited fashion. Baseball, the one professional sport that has managed to survive with so few innovations, now appears ready to cave in and join the crowd by implementing instant replay when rulings on the field are called into question.

This ex-umpire has one word to describe that idea: Yuck.

Don't get me wrong. Technology is a good thing. Touch-tone phones are better than rotary phones. Computers are better than typewriters. This isn't a rant about bringing back the good old days; it's an argument for maintaining the integrity of athletic events that are officiated by people who try to be perfect but know they are not and cannot ever be.

The NFL, the first professional league to sell its soul to television, has had to alter its instant-replay rules many times. The reason is, every time the league thinks it has covered every contingency, a new, previously unimaginable play happens.

Currently in the NFL, instant replay is used to settle challenges in the following instances:

- Scoring plays.
- Pass completions, incompletions or interceptions.
- Runner or receiver out of bounds.
- Recovery of a loose ball in or out of bounds.

WRIGHT CALL ► 32



Matt Schnobrich has earned a spot on the U.S. men's team that will be rowing for gold next month in China.

Beijing bound

Mac-Grove native rows way to Summer Olympics

BY BRIAN JOHNSON

Matt Schnobrich wasn't thinking about Olympic glory when he took up the sport of rowing 11 years ago. Still, the 29-year-old Macalester-Groveland native got much more than he could have dreamed of on June 12 when he garnered a spot on the U.S. Olympic rowing team. Competing with partner Josh Inman, he earned a trip to Beijing, China, by winning the men's pairs competition in Windsor, New Jersey.

"Even after doing it for a while, it didn't ever cross my mind that this would be happening," Schnobrich said during a break from his routine in Princeton, New Jersey, where nearly 50 world-class male and female rowers are training. "It's a sport I love and I like competition. It's fun to bang heads with these guys every day."

Schnobrich's love affair with the sport began in 1997 when he was a student at St. John's University. Schnobrich played soccer and competed on the cross country ski team at St. Thomas Academy, but academic

demands and scheduling conflicts precluded him from participating in those sports at St. John's, where he majored in biology and Spanish. That is when he turned to rowing.

"One of the guys in my dorm room had been on the rowing team," said Schnobrich, a first-time Olympian and four-time national team member. "Since rowing was in the morning, it was something I could do and it sounded fun. They asked me if I wanted to be on the team."

The St. John's team didn't do very well, but Schnobrich was hooked. After graduating, he attended the University of Minnesota to earn a master's in environmental engineering and joined the Minneapolis Rowing Club, where he met some skilled mentors.

Those veteran rowers encouraged him to compete in the sport at a higher level, a prospect that would require him to move east. In 2004, he landed a good job with Arcadis, an environmental engineering firm in Philadelphia, and began rowing for the Pennsylvania Athletic Club, where he caught the eye of national rowing coaches.

Since 2005, Schnobrich has fared well at national and international rowing championships. He has competed in such far-flung places as Japan, Germany and England, proving to the world that he has a special talent for the sport.

At 6-foot-5 and 205 pounds, the tall and lanky Schnobrich has the ideal build for rowing, which requires arm and leg strength and a strict adherence to technique.

"The boat seat moves, so 50 percent of the stroke is like doing a leg press," said Schnobrich, who participated in speed skating, hockey and track as a youth. "That's a huge part of it. People tend to think of rowing as this big arm motion, upper body thing, but the arms are probably the smallest part of what generates speed."

"It's very much technique-based. It's like going out and taking a golf swing about 250 times as fast as you can. Your whole body is involved. It's doing the same thing and doing it correctly, because that generates more speed."

As Schnobrich generates speed on

OLYMPIC ROWER ► 32

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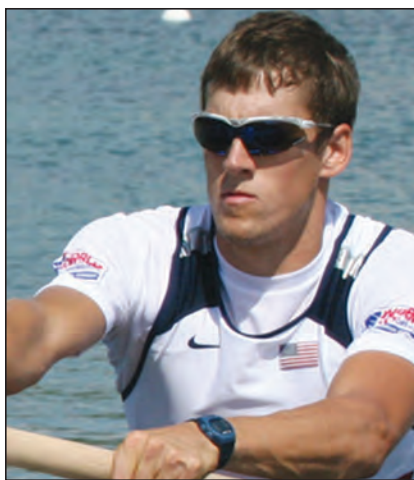
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31◀ OLYMPIC ROWER

the New Jersey waters of Lake Carnegie and Lake Mercer, he is also generating enthusiasm from friends and in his hometown. John Marshall, a long-time friend and former classmate, said friends and supporters have been inundating Schnobrich with good wishes. "There's been an e-mail buzz going around like I've never seen," Marshall said. "I think the excitement is magnified because he's such a good person. Pretty much everyone who has crossed his path couldn't be prouder because he's certainly deserving of this honor."

Marshall described Schnobrich as a natural athlete. "I remember taking him downhill skiing for the first time ever. Within minutes he was doing stuff like a pro. He took up cross country skiing one year and next year became the captain of his high school team."

"I can't say enough positive things about him," Marshall continued. "He's an ideal person to represent the United States and, more important, to represent



Matt Schnobrich

St. Paul in the Olympics."

Schnobrich has lived out East for a few years now, but he said part of him is still very much a St. Paulite.

"My family still lives there and I have a lot of friends from high school and college in the city and that makes it a place that's close to my heart," said Schnobrich, who plans to be married this fall. "You

wind up being focused on the day-to-day activities and don't realize the scope of these types of things until you've gotten there. That support from home is pretty special."

On June 27, Schnobrich was not sure which rowing event he would compete in at next month's Summer Olympics. Although he qualified in pairs competition, there were still openings in the four- and eight-man boats and Schnobrich was in the mix for those races. About 20 athletes were vying for a spot on the prestigious eight-man boat.

"We're going in one event or another," Schnobrich said about himself and partner Inman. "The next step is sorting out the rest of the team, digging a little deeper and trying to stay focused on making the (medal) podium."

Editor's note: Schnobrich was named to the eight-man boat on June 27. Micah Boyd, who grew up in St. Anthony Park and attended Central High School and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, also was named to the men's eight.

31◀ WRIGHT CALL

- The touching of a forward pass by an ineligible receiver or a defensive player.
- Quarterback pass or fumble.
- Illegal forward pass.
- Forward or backward pass.
- Runner ruled not down by contact.
- Forward progress to determine a first down.
- The touching of a kick.
- Other plays involving the placement of the football.
- Whether a legal number of players is on the field at the time of the snap.

That would seem to cover everything that can be contested on a football field, but as anybody who has watched NFL games knows, it doesn't.

Professional basketball and hockey attempted to simplify matters by limiting the scope of instant replay. In basketball, it's only used to determine if a shot was made before the buzzer or to review a fight to determine which players should get ejected from a game. In hockey, it's used mainly for goals scored, but occasionally league officials watching from the NHL office in Toronto see something so bad they notify the officials on the ice to take action.

Major League Baseball is considering using instant replay only to determine if a ball is fair or foul or if it clears the fence for a home run. The most recent pleas for implementing it came on the heels of two home run calls. The calls appeared to be wrong, but they were close. In one case, even the TV replays couldn't resolve the matter with certainty.

Had the calls been made in games between, say, the Kansas City Royals and the Twins, there wouldn't have been such a hullabaloo. It might have been a footnote on "SportsCenter" and life would have gone on. But they were made during nationally televised games from New York.

One of the charms of baseball is that it's the only sport that isn't played on a standardized court or field. A home run in Fenway Park can be just a long out in many other ballparks. Line drives off the Metrodome's rightfield baggie that end up as singles thanks to Michael Cuddyer's fine arm can be home runs in many other ballparks.

If baseball implements instant replay, the camera operators will have to know the quirks of every ballpark, and some parks present serious challenges. In a recent game against the Twins in Milwaukee, the Brewers' Prince Fielder hit a ball that on television appeared to go over the leftfield fence for a game-winning home run. The umpires ruled that the ball was still in play after hitting the top edge of a yellow line at the top of the fence and bouncing back on the field. The Brewers

didn't score and eventually lost the game. Had the call been challenged with instant replay, it might have gone the other way, but looks can be deceiving and it's almost impossible to record every necessary angle.

What will they do when a player hits the ball so high down the line that it goes over the foul pole? If you're the umpire, you call it as you see it and live with it. Do they get them wrong? Absolutely.

"I've missed calls I wish I hadn't," Major League umpire and former Cretin High School infielder Tim Tschida once said. "But I called what I saw at the time. What else can you do?"

Baseball isn't like basketball where the clock can show milliseconds if need be, and it isn't like hockey where the camera can be stationed directly above the goal line. The game wasn't intended to be that precise, and every ballpark will forever present problems that the camera will not be able to resolve.

TV likes to feel important, as *Star Tribune* sportswriter Patrick Reusse once noted. That feeling of importance was enough to change the Major League All-Star Game format a few years ago, and the pressure is immense to do it again with instant replay. But baseball has successfully fought off challenges from television before. It should hang tough in this instance and say no to instant replay.

Though it may surprise those who work in the industry, television can't think of everything. A few years ago, the St. Paul Saints were playing a game in Duluth on a foggy evening. The Saints had a big lead when the hometown Dukes came to bat in the bottom of the ninth. In the dugout, Saints manager Marty Scott ordered center fielder Doug O'Neill to put a baseball in his pocket before he went back out to his position. "You might need it," Scott said.

O'Neill didn't do as he was told.

The Dukes fought back and had the winning run on base when a hitter drove the ball into the left-center field gap. O'Neill dove for the ball and missed it, and the Dukes won the game.

Scott was steaming. When O'Neill trotted back to the dugout, the manager tore into him. "Why didn't you grab the ball and show it to the umpire?" he yelled.

"I never saw it leave the bat," O'Neill replied.

"I told you to carry a ball out with you and put it in your pocket," Scott said. "Do you think that umpire would've known the difference? He couldn't see the ball either. All you had to do was come up with a ball and he would've called the batter out."

And so, presumably, would have the television audience.

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

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Sports Shorts

Rondo Days will mark its 25th year with a bowling tournament from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. Saturday, July 12, at Midway Pro Bowl, 1556 University Ave. The cost is \$40 per person or \$160 per team. Rondo Days will also feature a golf tournament from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Thursday, July 17, at the Como Park Golf Course. Call 651-646-6597 or visit www.rondo-aveinc.org.

A **free fishing clinic** will be conducted from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 8, at Lake Como. One adult is required for every one or two children ages 6-11. Fishing gear will be provided. To register, call Elizabeth Storey at 651-644-8888.

Brady Starkey of Concordia University-St. Paul is now the top-ranked active coach in NCAA Division II volleyball. In five seasons with the Golden Bears, he has compiled a 166-19 record for an .897 winning percentage. Last year, he led Concordia to the school's first Division II national championship.

The **St. Paul Classic Bike Tour** is now accepting early bird registration for its 14th annual ride on Sunday, September 7. Both the 15- and 30-mile routes will include rest stops, bicycle support, refreshments and live music. The fee is \$25 for adult riders through July 15. Visit www.BikeClassic.org.

The **fifth annual Leukemia Cup** Regatta will be held on September 12-14 at White Bear Boat Works & Marina on White Bear Lake. The cost is \$75 per boat before August 22 and \$85 thereafter. The fee includes five races, a reception, breakfasts and lunches, and a



Nativity School's 8th-grade boys' baseball team won the Catholic Athletic Association's championship this spring. Nativity's 16-9 victory over St. Joseph's of West St. Paul in the title game followed playoff victories over St. Thomas Academy (6-4), St. Jerome (15-4) and St. Joe's of Rosemount (12-5). Pictured, from left, with coaches Greg Johnson and Jay Johnson are: (front row) Matt Bauchle, Alex Thonet, Liam Caulfield, Joe Zobel and bat boy Jack Johnson; and (back row) Aaron Kast, Luke Dietsch, Tommy Johnson, Pat King, Joseph Newton and Nick Johnson.

regatta T-shirt for the skipper. A dinner on Saturday will include a silent auction and live entertainment. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Visit www.leukemicup.org/mn or call Nicki Hyser at 763- 545-3309, ext. 102.

The **2008 Great River Energy** Mississippi River Challenge on July 26-27 will include a cycling route on Saturday. Cyclists will check in at Fort Snelling between 9:00 and 10:30 a.m., bike the gorge to join paddlers at Bassett Creek

for lunch, then bike back to Fort Snelling on the Minneapolis side. The route is about 22 miles long. Participants will receive food and beverages, route support, a free T-shirt and more. Bikers may return to Fort Snelling that evening for food, live music, and a historic re-enactment. Those who raise a minimum of \$500 in pledges will be entered in a raffle to win a Bianchi Milano bicycle. Visit www.mississippiriverchallenge.org/reg_and_pledge.php to register on-line or call 651-222-2193, ext. 19.

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Low Vision Doctors Help Legally Blind to See

Members of the *International Academy of Low Vision Specialists* help those with macular degeneration to keep reading and driving.

By **Elena Lombardi**
Freelance Writer

Jackson, New Jersey Donald Paquette, 72, a former assessor from Anaheim, California thought that his driving days were over. "I could not read the street signs soon enough and I couldn't pass the vision test at the DMV office."

Gonzalo Garcia, 74, Albuquerque, New Mexico, wanted to be able to read and write more easily. He wanted to see the nails and screws when he tried to use them in home repairs. He wanted see his grandchildren singing in the church choir. But he thought those days were over when he was diagnosed with Macular Degeneration.

Neither Donald nor Gonzalo knew that a low vision optometrist could help with some of those issues.

"In New Jersey, Bioptic Telescopic Glasses can be used to pass the vision test for driving", says Dr. Chris Palmer,

optometrist in Minneapolis, Mn. "This can allow some with conditions like macular degeneration to continue driving".

"Amazing!" says Donald. "I can read the street signs twice as far as I did before and even see the television better!" Mr. Paquette received bioptic telescopic glasses and also special prismatic reading glasses for easier newspaper reading.

People don't know that there are doctors who are very experienced in low vision care. "Not many doctors like to work with people who are often upset and anxious" says Dr. Palmer, who traveled to California for speical training recently. "I love to see their faces light up when they see again."

Macular Degeneration is the most common eye disease among the senior population. As many as 25% of those over 65 have some degree of degeneration. The macula is one small part of the entire retina, but it is the most sensitive

and gives us sharp images.

When it degenerates, ARMD leaves a blind spot right in the center of vision making it impossible to recognize faces, read a book, or pass the driver's vision test.

The experts do not know what causes macular degeneration. But major factors include UV light from the sun, smoking, aging, and improper nutrition.

Vitamins can help. The results of two studies, AREDS and LAST deonstrated a lowered risk of progression by about 25% when treated with a high-dose combination of vitamins.

A new, proprietary supplement based on the scientific studies is available from these doctors. A very powerful formulation, Macula Therapy Formula is available from Dr. Palmer's office.

Nine out of ten people who have macular degeneration have the dry type. There is no medical treatment ex-

cept for vitamins. The wet type is more aggressive and results in more dramatic vision loss. It involves leaky blood vessels that sometimes can be sealed with hot or cold laser. Newer treatments, such as Macugen, Lucentis and Avastin are injections to prevent leakage.

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"Telescopic glasses usually cost over \$2000", says Dr. Palmer, "especially if we build them with an automatic sunglass". Readin glasses start at \$500 and hand magnifiers under \$100. Every case is different because people have different levels of vision and different desires.

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Richard Dougherty, 89, of Palmdale, California came to Dr. Shuldiner in June, 2003. He has returned every two years to have the DMV vision report form filled out to keep driving. Dr. Shuldiner prescribed bioptic telescopic glasses to read signs and see traffic lights farther away in June, 2003.

At his visit on March 3, 2007, Mr. Dougherty said "The telescopic glasses keep getting better and better!". "They are actually better, by far, than the day I got them. The doctor is a genius! Definitely worth the \$2300 I paid for them". On his visit this past March, Mr. Dougherty reported that the special prismatic reading glasses were still working fine.

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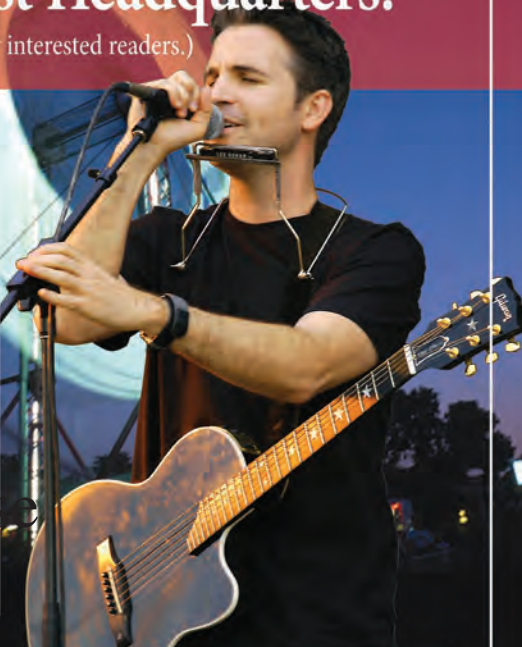
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Hamline Purple's Danny McQuillan foils Hamline Red base runner Mike Falvey's attempt to steal second on June 26 at Midway Stadium. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

Fans of Hamline Legion ball have two teams to cheer for this summer

BY BILL WAGNER

An encouraging number of teens wanting to play summer baseball has prompted the American Legion's 4th District to create two Hamline teams this year—the Hamline Purple and the Hamline Red.

The Purple are led by Jim O'Neill, who coaches the highly successful Cretin-Derham Hall baseball team each spring, and are composed entirely of Raider ballplayers. The Red are led by Pat Meyer, a 1991 Highland Park graduate who has 12 years as an assistant Hamline Legion coach, and includes players from Highland, St. Paul Academy, Central and Concordia Academy-Roseville.

Both coaches endorse the move as one that will provide more opportunities for ballplayers ages 17-19. "We have 36 spots on two rosters, instead of only 18 on one," Meyer said.

"It's a great deal for us," O'Neill said, "but it's also a great deal for the other team."

Meyer admits that he wasn't a fan of the decision at first, but changed his mind when 25 players tried out for the Hamline Red. He said participation in the past was a little intimidating for Highland players, who "believed that the Cretin kids would take most of the (summer team) spots."

Meyer was a member of Hamline's state championship team back in his playing days and recalled that the makeup of that club was quite diverse. "We had players from Minnehaha Academy and Humboldt," he said. "It was like an all-star team."

Meyer said it was too early to tell if there will be steady numbers for both the Purple and Red, but did not predict much of a chance for Hamline to merge back into one. "The outstate teams would never allow it," he said.

The Hamline Red were spending the early portion of the summer getting their feet wet. The team was 3-9 through June 26. Meyer said some of the top contributors so far include pitcher-center fielder Ted VanRanst and first baseman David Steele from Highland, twin pitchers-outfielders Peter and Terry Schwartz from SPA, outfielder Drew Gunderson from Central and infielder Adam Killa from Concordia Academy.

O'Neill, meanwhile, gets to take an even closer look at some of his Raider players this summer. The Purple were 6-3 as of last week and have six players who made the CDH varsity this spring, including pitcher-third baseman Max Gregory, center fielder David Bettenburg, second baseman Jon Kinsel, catcher Vince Lulic, and pitchers Nick Monson and



Hamline Purple's Matt Johnson nearly beats out the throw to Red first baseman Drew Gunderson.

Matt Johnson.

O'Neill said that, despite the success of his prep program, he is fielding a young team this summer. "We have all juniors on the team," he said. "We play hard, but we're not blowing anybody out of the water."

Early play indicates that the split will foster a good rivalry between the Red and Purple. The teams played back-to-back games last week, with the Purple winning 5-4 at SPA's field on June 25 and 4-1 at Midway Stadium on June 26. Gregory pitched a complete game in the second contest, allowing eight hits. Both games were very competitive.

"It should be (a good rivalry)," said Purple assistant coach Bob Sweeney. "They have a good team."

"It should be fun," added Purple infielder Kinsel about the new format. "There are a lot of guys who've played ball with each other and are friends. I like it because it gives guys more chances to play. And I like the fact that we're all (CDH) teammates here, which lets us play together even more and helps our high school team."

Longtime Hamline Legion coach Mike Brown, who also coaches SPA during the spring, is now serving as general manager for the post. He said the split has been an adjustment.

"My biggest challenge has been staying away," he said. "We're in two parts now, but I have no regrets. From the standpoint of being SPA's coach, I love to have my kids play with kids from other schools, for them to get to know how others play ball. It's just a nice thing to do."

O'Neill said baseball seems to have suffered a loss of interest in the inner-cities across America in recent years. However, he is happy to report that is not the case here. "It seems to be working out in our part of town," he said.

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