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CITY BEAT

Landmark series recalls Twin Cities as haven for the nation's top crooks ►6

HIGHLAND FEST



Stage is set for a weekend of fun ►22

FOOD

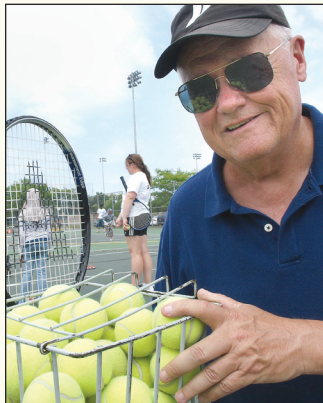
Mississippi Market is ready to open bigger, better food co-op on West 7th ►17

ARTS



Artist of a few words has his say ►28

SPORTS



King of the courts ►32

NEWS BRIEFS	4
VIEWPOINT	8
DISTRICT COUNCILS	14
CRIME REPORT	15
KIOSK	19
CLASSIFIEDS	35

Snelling median debate is headed back to City Hall

MnDOT rejects alternative plan to do without a median between Lincoln and Grand

By Jane McClure

A proposed landscaped median on six blocks of Snelling Avenue between Grand and St. Clair avenues is back in the lap of the city of St. Paul. The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) decided late last month that changes in the design of the median that were brought forward by the city and the owner of the Lincoln Commons mini-mall at Grand and Snelling do not meet state standards. MnDOT is willing to continue working with the city on median plans, according to department spokesperson Kent Barnard. However, the next step is up to the city, he said.

Last year MnDOT recommended up to \$197,000 in state funding for the median and indicated that another \$250,000 could be available if a Snelling Avenue repaving project scheduled for 2012 were moved up. Though a June 30 deadline for the state funding has

SNELLING MEDIAN ►3



Emily Grzadzieski, 5, found herself in doll heaven, while Harrison Keller, 4, seemed more interested in the sound a Viking horn makes, during Norway Day festivities on July 12 in Minnehaha Park.

PHOTOS BY ANNE BRANDRUD

Speak now or hold your peace on light-rail project

Public hearing on Central Corridor EIS expires July 27

By Jane McClure

For light summer reading, some people may want to peruse the final environmental impact statement (FEIS) for the Central Corridor light-rail transit project. But they had better hurry. The document is 12 inches thick—the result of 30 months of planning for the proposed light-rail line between the downtowns of St. Paul and Minneapolis—and the public comment

period on the FEIS will expire on July 27.

The Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) published the FEIS on June 26, setting in motion the 30-day comment period. Copies of the FEIS are available at most public libraries and via the Internet at www.metrocouncil.org/transportation/ccorridor/FEISJuly2009.htm.

A host of local district councils, business associations, community development corporations and individuals have indicated in recent weeks that they are in the process of reviewing the FEIS and will comment on it, but none of those comments was available as of last week.

The Central Corridor project staff will re-

spond to each comment made. The FTA will review the comments and issue what is called a Record of Decision on the Central Corridor on or around August 19, according to Central Corridor project director Mark Fuhrmann. The FTA may decide to allow the project to move on to final design or ask the project staff for additional work, Fuhrmann said.

The Metropolitan Council will also review the comments received on the FEIS and then determine in mid-August if the FEIS is adequate or requires more work.

CENTRAL CORRIDOR ►2

Impact of Trader Joe's opening still being weighed

By Frank Jossi

On the opening day of Trader Joe's, the most talked-about debut of any Twin Cities grocery store in recent memory, a patrol officer directed traffic in the afternoon sun in the middle of Lexington Parkway and Randolph Avenue. Cars were backed up for blocks.

Traffic appeared to travel smoothly after that initial burst of activity on June 26. The discount gourmet grocer has continued to employ traffic monitors to assist shoppers. However, the absence of the patrol officer in the intersection suggests the congestion that some people feared has not materialized.

"Typically, when a new store opens, traffic is higher than normal and eventually lessens," wrote Alison Mochizuki, director of national publicity for the California-based chain of more than 300



Trader Joe's on Randolph and Lexington. PHOTO BY ANNE BRANDRUD

stores, in a prepared statement. "Beginning the day we opened, we hired local police officers to help direct the flow of traffic. We appreciate the community's patience with the opening and we look forward to being a positive addition to the neighborhood for years to come."

City Council member Dave Thune, who cast the lone vote against rezoning the site to accommodate the development, agreed that traffic has not been a big issue. Still, he wondered if that could change.

"It's pretty early to figure out how it will affect things and I still have concerns," he said. "The jury's still out."

The impact on competing businesses has been felt by at least one grocer. Steve Korte, owner of

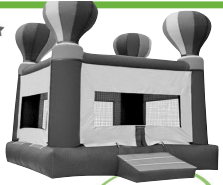
Korte's Supermarket, 1326 Randolph Ave., said business has dropped off 10 percent since Trader Joe's opened.

TRADER JOE'S ►5



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University businesses advised to prepare now for possible lawsuits for light-rail damages

By JANE MCCLURE

With the construction of the proposed Central Corridor light-rail line slated to begin as early as 2010, University Avenue business and property owners are being advised to document customer traffic and gross sales now so that if the light-rail line harms their companies, they can make a case for financial compensation.

That was the message delivered at a June meeting of the University Avenue Business Association (UABA). More than 40 people attended the event to learn about their legal rights in regard to light-rail construction and operations, and the financial assistance that is available to help survive the four years it will take to build the light-rail line between the downtowns of Minneapolis and St. Paul.

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has yet to agree to finance half the cost of constructing the \$914 million transit line, as Central Corridor planners are hoping. Planners released the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the 11-mile line in late June, and the public has until July 27 to comment on the document. If the FTA gives the go-ahead in mid-August, as expected, final design of the light-rail line will commence.

Some utility work related to the light-rail line is already under way in downtown St. Paul. At this point, it is not known exactly when or where construction would begin on University Avenue,

according to Dan Soler of the Central Corridor project office. Businesses should see a construction schedule by the end of 2009, he said.

In the meantime, University Avenue business and property owners are being urged to keep track of customer counts and revenue so that when the street is torn up, they have a base from which to measure any slowdown in sales and customer traffic. "Obviously, there'll be days when there's no access to your property," said Larry Peterson, a UABA board member and an attorney with Peterson, Logren and Kilbury.

The greatest worry for University Avenue business owners is the loss of customer parking. University between Rice Street in St. Paul and Washington Avenue in Minneapolis is expected to lose about 85 percent of its on-street parking to the light-rail line.

Bill Miller stands to lose all of the on-street parking in front of the commercial building he owns on the southwest corner of University and Raymond avenues. That could cost him tenants, he said, and it will remove the safety buffer that parked cars have provided between the sidewalk that runs along his building and the vehicular traffic on University. "To have traffic eight to 12 feet from the front door of businesses is just insane," he said.

There is no case law in Minnesota regarding parking loss, according to attorney Brett Kleffman of Peterson, Logren and Kilbury. However, courts in other states have found that on-street parking

is a privilege, not a right, and that businesses do not have to be compensated for the loss of on-street parking.

Although a few off-street parking spaces could also be lost to light-rail signals and power facilities, Central Corridor plans do not call for the condemnation of any commercial property on University Avenue as a result of light-rail construction. "The law is rather sketchy as to what damages can be awarded if your land is not taken," Peterson said.

However, Peterson added, courts are beginning to recognize a situation known as inverse condemnation when, by an act of government, property can no longer be used for economically viable purposes, but the government fails to pay just compensation. In cases such as these, sometimes referred to as regulatory takings, the business or property owner must sue the government in order to be compensated.

Businesses may also challenge their property tax assessments based on a loss of revenue and customer access.

Another issue that University Avenue property owners are being encouraged to watch for is any physical damage to their buildings caused by light-rail construction or the vibrations from light-rail operations. According to the Metropolitan Council, studies have indicated that there are few locations along University where vibrations could pose a problem. Nonetheless, property owners are being encouraged to document the condition of their properties before construction commences.



Utility work is under way at 4th and Robert streets in downtown St. Paul in preparation for construction of the proposed Central Corridor light-rail transit line. PHOTO BY ANNE BRANDRUD

1◀ CENTRAL CORRIDOR

The FEIS describes the light-rail project in detail, including the 11-mile route, the location of the stations, the location of large signal boxes and transmission facilities, the location of pedestrian crossings and motor-vehicle traffic lanes, and the projected impact on the local transit system, the local economy and local cultural and historical resources.

The FEIS explains why the particular route was chosen over other alternatives, such as the I-94 median, Pierce Butler Route and various railroad rights-of-way between the two downtowns. It also outlines the history of the project, which has been on the drawing board for more than two decades.

The FEIS summarizes previous studies of the Central Corridor and provides information on the changes that have been made since the draft EIS was completed in 2006. One of the changes for which local residents, businesses and the St. Paul City Council lobbied is the provision of three additional light-rail transit stations at Hamline, Victoria and Western avenues. Though only the infrastructure for those stations is provided in the \$914 million budget for the Central Corridor, at least one of the three stations could be built if any contingency funds are available.

Local officials are counting on the federal government to pay half of the light-rail line's construction costs. At this point, Central Corridor staff report

a tentative ranking from the FTA of "medium high" for the project. According to Fuhrmann, that ranking is largely driven by the commitment of local governments and the state to help pay for the project and by the city of St. Paul's extensive Central Corridor Development Strategy for related redevelopment well into the future. If all of the federal approvals fall into place this year, construction of the light-rail line would start in 2010 and be completed by 2014.

Written comments on the Central Corridor and the final Environmental Impact Statement may be e-mailed to Kathryn O'Brien of the Central Corridor Project Office at kathryn.obrien@metc.state.mn.us. For more information, call 651-602-1927.

Debate over Snelling Ave. median returns to St. Paul's City Hall

1◀ SNELLING MEDIAN

come and gone, the state's share of the \$1.1 million median project remains in place, Barnard said. Earlier this year, the Snelling median project also was granted \$475,000 in federal funds through a request by Macalester College to 4th District U.S. Representative Betty McCollum.

Disagreement over the design of the median has divided local residents and business people. The Macalester-Groveland Community Council supports the project, and Macalester College has been one of its leading proponents. Supporters say the median would not only improve public safety by making it easier for pedestrians to cross Snelling on foot, but beautify the avenue and encourage motorists to slow down. However, some homeowners living east of Snelling believe the median would divert traffic onto their residential streets, and the owner and commercial tenants of Lincoln Commons fear it would hinder access to their parking lot and hurt

business.

The median project has been discussed for close to three years. In an effort to move the project along, Macalester College officials organized e-mail and telephone campaigns this spring directed at Ward 3 City Council member Pat Harris. Harris has held out for a median design that does not cut off access to Lincoln Commons and protects the residents to the east from any increases in traffic.

As of last week, city officials had not decided how to proceed. Harris was out of town and unavailable for comment.

The plans for Snelling initially called for a 10-foot-wide landscaped median with two lanes of traffic on either side, left-turn lanes at Grand and St. Clair, and breaks in the median at Goodrich and Osceola avenues for vehicles turning left to and from Snelling. When temporary barriers were set up along Snelling almost two years ago to test how the median would affect traffic, Goodrich residents reported an increase in cars cutting through the neighborhood to get to other destinations.

Lincoln Commons owner Ross Fefercorn opposed the project as planned because it would have removed the left-turn lane from southbound Snelling into Lincoln Commons' customer parking

lot. Fefercorn has proposed alternative designs, but they have been questioned by city traffic engineers. Fefercorn's idea to remove the median between Grand and Lincoln avenues and preserve the southbound left-turn lane into Lincoln Commons was rejected by MnDOT in June.

Alternative plans for the median have been proposed to mitigate the traffic impacts on Goodrich and to allow left turns and U-turns from southbound Snelling by adding a break in the median at Lincoln. The latter alternative would involve returning the half-block of Lincoln immediately east of Snelling to two-way traffic. That stretch of Lincoln has been one-way for many years.

Macalester College has offered to help pay for the project. However, Tom Welna, director of Macalester's High Winds Fund, has said that if MnDOT pulls out of the project, the college would rescind its offer and ask that McCollum also withdraw the federal allocation. "If it doesn't meet state safety standards, we question whether it should be built," Welna said.

McCollum released a statement saying she hopes the various factions can still resolve their differences and reach an agreement on the project.



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NEW LIST

Craftsman Beauty

1083 Osceola: Adorable 4-BR, 2-bath w/picket fenced yard, FP, great woodwork, front porch, patio, and new CA. 1st floor sunroom/FR, walk to Victoria Crossing.

Mary Hardy

651 225-3903 \$379,900



NEW LIST

Mac-Grove Cutie!

384 Hamline: This thoughtfully updated 2-story has beautiful interior wdwk., tall ceilings, 3 BRs up, 1 bath, fabulous front porch & deep gardens. CAC & new Andersen windows!

Sarah Wilkey

651 485-0104 \$249,900



NEW LIST

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2003 Wellesley Ave.: Wonderful 2-story on corner lot w/3 BRs & 2 baths, lovely wdwk., brick FP flanked by bookcases, 4-season porch, 2-car & fenced yard. Remodeled kit.

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Phyllis Salmen

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NEW LIST

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Sparkling Craftsman bungalow with all the updates. 2+ BRs, eat-in kitchen with granite, updated bath, new roof, double garage. This home is ready for you to enjoy.

Rachel Nelson

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Cari Ann Carter

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Cari Ann Carter

651 335-1103 \$299,900



NEW LIST

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News Briefs

Council approves \$1.8 million for city maintenance projects

Local park and recreation facilities will get some needed improvements following the St. Paul City Council's unanimous approval of \$1.8 million in capital maintenance projects on July 1. The money will pay for projects in 36 public facilities throughout the city.

The largest local project is \$175,000 to replace the roof at the Edgcombe Recreation Center. The Highland Park Aquatic Center will get \$170,000 to replace its pool bottom. The Palace Recreation Center, which is in line for city Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) funding for a major expansion, was granted \$69,000 to replace its gym floor. Fire Station 19 on Edgcombe Road will get \$69,090 for new windows.

The City Council also decided to spend \$9,500 for new gym lights at the Merriam Park Recreation Center, \$6,000 for new boiler controls at the Martin Luther King Recreation Center and \$9,000 to replace the outdoor stairs at the Hillcrest Recreation Center.

Ten of the 25 requests from the St. Paul Division of Parks and Recreation that will receive money are for the Como Zoo and Conservatory.

City departments submit annual capital maintenance requests, which are reviewed and ranked by the CIB Committee. Committee recommendations then go to the mayor and City Council for approval.

Residential permit parking extended around St. Thomas

Another block has been added to the residential permit parking district around the University of St. Thomas. The St. Paul City Council voted unanimously on July 1 to approve a request for permits on Dayton Avenue between Wilder and Moore streets. Permit parking will be put in place on the entire south side of the block and on the north side from Wilder to 100 feet east of that street.

Signs for the block will go up later this summer. Unless vehicles have a residential permit, parking will be banned there from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The request went to the City Council in June, but was laid over by Ward 4 council member Russ Stark after he heard from neighbors who oppose it. Six of the nine property owners on the block signed petitions seeking permit parking and supporters attended a council public hearing on the issue.

Supporters then took their case to the Union Park District Council's Land Use Committee, which recommended approval in June. The supporters indicated that spillover parking



Ava Badgley, 2, feeds fish in Nora Loonan Beckjord's water garden on Ford Parkway, one of 20 to be featured on the Minnesota Water Garden Society's annual tour on July 18-19 and 25-26. Details are at www.mwgs.org. PHOTO BY ANNE BRANDRUD

from St. Thomas, as well as from rental buildings in the area, makes it impossible for them to park anywhere near their homes.

Residential permit parking districts restrict parking to neighbors who buy permits for themselves and their guests each year. Each household is limited to four vehicle permits and two guest permits.

Though he supported the extension of permit parking on Dayton, Stark said the city needs to look at parking issues as a whole, rather than just continue to add more permit districts.

St. Paul seeks federal funds to demolish/rehab vacant homes

St. Paul is seeking \$45.86 million in federal economic recovery act funds to raze or repair vacant houses across the city. The St. Paul City

Council unanimously approved the funding request on July 8. The money would be awarded through the federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program.

If the city receives the federal money it would be used for property acquisition, rehabilitation, land banking and program administration. The funds would be directed toward the city's designated Invest St. Paul neighborhoods, which include Summit-University and the West End. The city was awarded \$10.5 million in federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program funds in a previous funding round, though that money has not yet been received.

The federal government is expected to announce a decision on the second round of applications this fall. For the second application, city officials have estimated that they will be able to sell about 120 of the vacant houses the city purchases and put \$12 million back into

the Invest St. Paul program. That would bring the total available for projects to \$58 million.

About \$16 million of the funds would be used to buy 400 vacant homes. About \$30 million would be used to rehabilitate 300 of those houses. Another \$1.5 million would be spent to demolish the remaining 100 homes, \$4.5 million to provide incentives to homebuyers and \$5 million for administrative costs. About \$600,000 would be used to buy properties, demolish the buildings and hold the land for future development when the economy improves.

St. Paul currently has about 1,900 registered vacant buildings. Most are single-family homes swept up in the mortgage foreclosure crisis. City officials estimate that there are as many as 2,000 additional homes now in foreclosure.

Council grants rezoning for new Merriam Park bakery

The St. Paul City Council approved a rezoning request on July 1 that will allow Theodore and Elaine Kvasnik to rezone 2032-2042 Marshall Ave. from community business to traditional neighborhoods use.

The rezoning will allow Minneapolis-based Bonus Vivus to move its bakery to the vacant storefront at 2036 Marshall Ave. The company makes Thuro Bread, a low-sugar health bar, along with gluten-free snacks.

The company will operate a small retail store in front, but most of the space will be for baking. The rezoning was needed because the business has limited production and more than half of its sales will be off-site, which is not allowed in a community business zone.

The space at 2036 Marshall most recently housed Northern Exposure Imaging. The entire building is being rezoned, but the change will not affect the other existing businesses—Izzy's Ice Cream, A Fine Grind coffee house and Piisch Salon. Legacy Chocolates recently moved out of a fifth storefront.

The St. Paul Planning Commission unanimously recommended support of the rezoning in May. Renovation work at 2036 Marshall began last month. No opening date for the new bakery has been announced.

Local historic sites lose hours, but remain open for summer

Due to an 8.6 percent reduction in its operating budget and a decrease in revenue, the Minnesota Historical Society has decided to reduce hours at some of the state's historic sites and museums as of July 1. All of the sites

NEWS BRIEFS ► 5

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Michael Hamacher's children Lily, 5, and Sam, 7, seem to be thoroughly enjoying their shopping experience at the new Trader Joe's on Randolph Avenue. PHOTO BY ANNE BRANDRUD

1 ◀ TRADER JOE'S

"We've taken a hit, but I'll give it to September to see how things play out," he said. "I'm hoping that people were just curious and wanted to check it out."

Korte has no plans to change his store's operation to compete with Trader Joe's. Rather, he said he will stay with what has worked for Korte's. "We'll do the same things we've always done for customers—offer quality products at fair prices while giving excellent service," he said.

Trader Joe's has a separate area that sells beer and wine, most conspicuously the low-priced Charles Shaw label, referred to as "Three-Buck Chuck"—a sort of Boone's Farm for the high brow.

Mike McCafferty, owner of McCafferty's Fine Wine & Spirits, 1325 Randolph Ave., said it was too soon to tell how Trader Joe's liquor sales would affect his business. "It's only been a week," he said. "I'll need at least a month to tell if it's had an impact and to see if the novelty has worn off."

Meridian Management owner Stuart Simek, who partnered with TOLD Development on the project, said the 14,400-square-foot grocery store's initial success has helped generate interest for the adjacent 5,500-square-foot retail building that continues to be vacant on the 1.27-acre site.

"We don't have anyone signed yet, but we've seen more contacts from potential clients since (Trader Joe's) opening," he said.

Simek said the lack of traffic problems is due to the engineering work done by the city and Trader Joe's to ensure cars could move smoothly through the area.

"A lot of the traffic questions got blown out

of proportion," he said.

Dennis Rosemark, legislative aide to Ward 3 City Council member Pat Harris, whose ward includes the Trader Joe's site, said his office has only received one complaint so far about traffic congestion at the intersection. Harris did not return phone calls for this story.

Simek said it was encouraging to see people lined up to enter the new store when it opened. "People said they were happy to have a new grocery store option in the neighborhood," he said. "I've talked to shoppers who like (Trader Joe's) prices and one who said she was happy because Trader Joe's has such a variety of gluten-free products."

Simek said he has received no complaints from area residents and has heard generally favorable comments. One critic of the store who lived on Juno Avenue changed her opinion after the store hired her, he added.

"I heard the store had a ton of job applications," he said. "The fact that it created jobs in the city is good news."

For fans of Trader Joe's, the opening of the St. Paul store has been a welcome relief from having to drive to Maplewood or St. Louis Park. (Trader Joe's fourth Minnesota store is in Maple Grove.) Susan Heegaard of Highland Park said she particularly likes the chain's many branded snacks and fruit juices. On the day the St. Paul store opened, she arrived just as the store was closing to grab a few items for the weekend.

Heegaard said she has been back a few times since, while continuing to shop at Lunds and Mississippi Market, where she is a member.

"I haven't run into any problems with traffic; it's been pretty easy," she said. "I like having the store. It's been a great addition to the neighborhood."

4 ◀ NEWS BRIEFS

will remain open to the public. The reduced hours are effective through Labor Day.

Local sites with reduced hours of operation include the following:

- Alexander Ramsey House—Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 3:00 p.m.
- Fort Snelling—Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 5:00 p.m.
- Sibley House Historic Site—first and third Saturdays of each month from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Local sites whose hours are unchanged include the James J. Hill House, Minnehaha Depot, Minnesota History Center and state Capitol. For details about the society's historic locations, visit www.mnhs.org/sites.

Minnesota disabled vets can ride public transportation free

Minnesota's disabled veterans can now use public transportation throughout the state at no charge. The transit benefit was passed by the state Legislature and was signed into law

by Governor Tim Pawlenty this year. It went into effect on July 1.

Disabled veterans simply need to show the proper identification to bus operators of any fixed-route service in the state, including Metro Transit and suburban transit providers in the Twin Cities area, as well as regular-route public transit services in Duluth, St. Cloud, Rochester, Moorhead, East Grand Forks and Mankato.

In the metro area, the benefit is also available on the Hiawatha light-rail line and on the Northstar commuter rail line, which will begin operations late this year between Big Lake and downtown Minneapolis.

There are approximately 50,000 disabled veterans in Minnesota. The free ride also extends to personal care attendants who may be assisting disabled veterans as they travel.

To qualify, disabled veterans must show a Veterans Identification Card. The cards are available at the VA medical centers in Minneapolis and St. Cloud. For information, call 612-467-1991 or visit www.va.gov/healtheligibility/application/IDCard.asp.

News Briefs compiled by Jane McClure and John Wadell.

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In bed with gangsters

Series recalls Twin Cities as a haven for the nation's top crooks

BY DAVE PAGE

Merriam Park resident Paul Maccabee knows first-hand of Hollywood director Michael Mann's obsession with the appearance of his films. Maccabee, author of the 1995 book *John Dillinger Slept Here*, got a phone call early in the production of Mann's latest movie, *Public Enemies*, which stars Johnny Depp as the infamous gangster who lived in St. Paul for a few weeks in 1934.

The costume designer for *Public Enemies* "wanted to know where Dillinger bought his clothes in St. Paul," Maccabee said. "Mann wanted to purchase Johnny Depp's wardrobe from the same store."

Maccabee wasn't able to help with that request, but he did play a role in the production of *Public Enemies*, and when author Bryan Burrough was researching the book on which the movie is based, he called Maccabee and asked for a personal tour of St. Paul's gangster past. "He wanted to walk in Dillinger's footsteps," Maccabee said.

Burrough repaid the favor by writing a promotional blurb for the latest printing of Maccabee's book. *John Dillinger Slept Here* "is not just one of the best books ever written about Minneapolis-St. Paul," Burrough writes, "it is one of the best books of local history I have ever read—about any city anywhere on earth. While writing *Public Enemies*, I kept it on my desk at all times."



An Associated Press photo from 1934 shows John Dillinger (center) in the custody of Indiana authorities. Here he is leaning on the shoulder of state prosecutor Robert Estill.

If you missed Burrough's July 10 talk in downtown St. Paul, you can still catch Maccabee's lecture from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 28, at Landmark Center. His talk is part of

"Public Enemies: A Retrospective," a series of free programs taking place this month in the former Federal Courts Building in downtown St. Paul. Also part of the retrospective are re-

enactments of the 1934 trial of Dillinger moll Evelyn "Billie" Frechette at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, July 15 and 16, in Weyerhaeuser Auditorium at Landmark Center—the same building in which the trial was held.

Maccabee, 54, first became interested in St. Paul's underworld history in the summer of 1981. "I was working for the *Twin Cities Reader* when another reporter came in and said the godfather of Minneapolis, Kid Cann (aka Isadore Blumenfeld), had just died," he recalled. "I'm from Boston where we had organized crime. I thought St. Paul history was James J. Hill, F. Scott Fitzgerald and maybe Garrison Keillor. But when I found out that John Dillinger used to be here, Bonnie (Parker) of Bonnie and Clyde, Machine Gun Kelly...that totally blew my mind."

When Maccabee was interviewed for this story, he had not yet seen Mann's film. However, he was disappointed to learn that St. Paul is not among the locations depicted in the movie. Some of the more interesting events in the crime spree of Dillinger and his gang occurred in St. Paul, Maccabee said. Perhaps the most interesting was Dillinger's escape on March 31, 1934, from the Lincoln Court Apartments, 93 S. Lexington Pkwy.

According to Maccabee's book, Dillinger had arrived in Minneapolis in early March 1934 after breaking out of an Indiana prison

PUBLIC ENEMIES ►7

Pieces of our gangland past are still evident across the area

BY DAVE PAGE

The Twin Cities were a haven for gangsters in the 1920s and the first half of the 1930s, and remnants of that history are still evident across the area served by the *Villager*. Here is an abbreviated list of addresses associated with St. Paul's gangster past, compliments of the Ramsey County Historical Society, which distributes maps for gangster walking tours at the information desk in Landmark Center:

92 N. Mississippi River Blvd. Edward Bremer lived here when he was kidnapped by the Barker-Karpis gang on January 17, 1934, from his car at the corner of Goodrich Avenue and Lexington Parkway.

2214 Marshall Ave. Dillinger gang member Eddie Green rented apartment 106 in March of 1934.

2062 Marshall Ave. Katherine "Ma" Barker lived here for a time in the 1930s.

2252 Fairmount Ave. A wounded John Dillinger sought medical help from Dr. Nels Mortensen here on March 13, 1934, following a bank robbery in Mason City, Iowa.

1590 S. Mississippi River Blvd. The circular drive is one of the last vestiges of the Hollywoods Club and casino, a favorite hangout of Barker-Karpis and Dillinger gang members.

1607 W. 7th St. A bomb exploded in the garage behind this house on December 4, 1928, killing the homeowner, "Dapper" Dan Hogan, the St. Paul mob boss responsible for running the O'Connor system (see story above).

882 W. 7th St. The Jacob Schmidt Brewery made the Bremers one of Minnesota's wealthiest families and a target for kidnappers.

855 W. 7th St. Jacob Schmidt Brewery executive Adolf Bremer Sr. pled for the safe return of his son from his home here.

1290 Grand Ave. The Barker-Karpis gang made the apartment building here its headquarters in March 1933.

1295 Lincoln Ave. Walter Magee, the intermediary between the Barker-Karpis gang and the Bremers, lived here.

93 S. Lexington Pkwy. The Lincoln Court Apartments from which Dillinger escaped on March 31, 1934.

1123 Goodrich Ave. Dillinger stored his Hudson in the garage behind this property and used the car during his escape from the Lincoln Court Apartments.

1095 Osceola Ave. Many gangsters, including members of the Barker-Karpis gang, called the Edgcombe Court Apartments home in the 1930s.

928 Grand Ave. Barker-Karpis gang member Larry DeVol was captured at the Annbee Arms Apartments on December 18, 1932, and money from a robbery of the Third Northwestern National Bank of Minneapolis two days earlier was recovered here.

706 Lincoln Ave. The Bremer kidnappers threw a ransom note through the front door

of this home, where Bremer family doctor Henry T. Nippert lived.

628 Grand Ave. The Barker-Karpis gang planned the Bremer kidnapping at the Dale Apartments in December 1933.

565 Portland Ave. The Kennington Apartments was another hideout of the Barker-Karpis gang before the Bremer kidnapping.

562 Holly Ave. Roy McCord was wounded here on January 13, 1934, by Alvin Karpis, who mistook McCord's Northwest Airlines employee uniform for that of a police officer.

79 N. Western Ave. "Ma" Barker, her son Fred and Al Capone called the Commodore Hotel home for a while.

339 N. Wabasha St. The Lowry Hotel's guests included Alvin Karpis.

215 S. Wabasha St. Although there is no hard evidence, legend has it that "Ma" Barker and Dillinger frequented the Castle Royal nightclub, now the site of the Wabasha Street Caves.

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6 PUBLIC ENEMIES

and planned several bank robberies, including one in Mason City, Iowa, where he was wounded. He showed up on the Fairmount Avenue doorstep of Dr. Nels Mortensen on March 14 seeking treatment for the wound. Then he and Frechette, whom he had met in Chicago the previous November, moved into the Lincoln Court Apartments.

According to Maccabee's book, FBI agent Rufus Coulter and St. Paul Police detective Henry Cummings knocked on the door of Lincoln Court apartment 303 at 10:15 a.m. on March 31 and asked for Carl Hellman. (A second FBI agent was stationed outside the front door of the building.) Forgetting Dillinger's alias, Frechette paused before replying that Hellman wasn't there. The law enforcement officers insisted on entering. Frechette said she had to put on some clothes.

Just then, Dillinger gang member Homer Van Meter entered the apartment building. Coulter went outside to call for reinforcements, leaving Cummings alone. As gunfire erupted between Van Meter and Coulter, Dillinger burst out of the apartment, spraying the hallway with his Thompson submachine gun and forcing Cummings back into an alcove.

Dillinger and Frechette headed toward their car in the alley behind the building. The entire gang got away, although Cummings managed to put a bullet in Dillinger's leg. Dillinger was secretly treated for the gunshot wound at the South Minneapolis office of a Dr. May before leaving the Twin Cities for Indiana.

"The Society of American Magicians later gave Dillinger their Harry Houdini award for escaping from St. Paul," Maccabee said. FBI director J. Edgar Hoover was "furious," he said, not only because the escape made his agency look inept, but because his agents had allowed a St. Paul police officer to accompany them on the raid.

Hoover's concern about the St. Paul police was justified, according to Maccabee. After all, the police were the reason gangsters from throughout the Midwest regularly visited the Twin Cities in the 1920s and '30s. The local cops abided by the O'Connor system, named after former St. Paul Police Chief John O'Connor, which promised crooks that as long as they didn't commit crimes in Minneapolis and St. Paul, the local police wouldn't interfere with their activities.

Just 3½ months after the shootout at Lincoln Court, Dillinger was dead, shot in an alley outside Chicago's Biograph Theater on July 22. A month later, Van Meter was also dead, gunned down in an alley off University Avenue and Marion Street in a hail of St. Paul police bullets.

"It was a spectacular shootout," Maccabee said of Van Meter's last moments. Exactly how the St. Paul police learned of Van Meter's whereabouts remains a mystery. The longtime Dillinger associate wasn't shy about appearing in public in St. Paul, a fact that might have



Dillinger girlfriend Evelyn "Billie" Frechette.

rankled other underworld figures who were trying to keep a low profile after Dillinger's death.

When Van Meter left a University Avenue car dealership on August 23, 1934, he was confronted by police officers armed with sawed-off shotguns and machine guns. Van Meter tried to run, but a "blast of buckshot from (Detective Tom) Brown's shotgun blew (him) two feet off the pavement," Maccabee writes in *John Dillinger Slept Here*. The gangster tried to raise his Colt automatic, but a spray of lead from a machine gun nearly severed his arm.

Ellen Poulsen, author of the 2002 book *Don't Call Us Molls*, will share the stage with Maccabee on July 28 to talk about Frechette and the other girlfriends in Dillinger's gang. Poulsen, too, was disappointed by St. Paul's absence from *Public Enemies*. "Of course (the film) should have included St. Paul," Poulsen said. "Dillinger and Evelyn Frechette cemented their relationship in the Lexington Avenue apartment."

For most of their eight-month relationship, either Dillinger or Frechette was in prison. Dillinger was captured in Arizona in January 1934 and locked up until his escape from an Indiana prison in early March. He and Frechette found refuge in the Twin Cities that month. "It was a time in their romantic life together when they felt immense relief at being reunited after having been separated by arrests," Poulsen writes.

Then on April 9, 1934, Frechette was arrested in Chicago and extradited to St. Paul, where she was tried, convicted and sentenced to two years in prison for obstructing justice and harboring Dillinger, then the FBI's Public Enemy No. 1.

Admission to the July 15 and 16 reenactments of Frechette's trial, as well as to Maccabee's and Poulsen's talks, is free, but reservations are recommended by calling 651-292-3063. Following the reenactments, a collection of gangster memorabilia will be on display, including two pistols carried by Detective Cummings at the Lincoln Court Apartments and Thompson submachine gun that was stolen during a 1933 robbery of the South St. Paul stockyards payroll.

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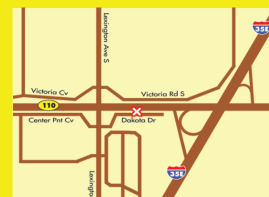
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Viewpoint

Be careful who and what you vote for

BY PHIL KRINKIE

As many Minnesotans were packing up the family car for the Independence Day weekend, few of them realized that their own economic independence had just been dealt yet another blow. As they and other Minnesotans celebrated the 233rd anniversary of that date in 1776 when the American colonies declared their freedom from the British crown, few of them realized that they had just lost a little more of their own economic freedom.

On July 1, the state of Minnesota imposed upon its citizens two more tax increases.

The first is an increase in the gasoline tax of 1.6 cents per gallon—the fourth tax increase to be imposed since the state Legislature passed a \$6.6 billion tax package in February 2008. That legislation included an 8.5-cent gas tax increase, an additional ¼ percent sales tax increase in five Twin Cities area counties, as well as increased license and auto excise taxes—just what the Minnesota economy *didn't* need as we headed into a recession.

The second tax increase that went into effect on July 1 is a 3/8 percent sales tax hike, which will raise about \$250 million per year to finance a host of special-interest projects in the name of the arts, our cultural heritage and the outdoors. This is the sales tax referendum you may remember voting on last November. You may or may not have realized at the time that this constitutional amendment was a tax increase because the wording was so convoluted. It was a tax increase that special-interest groups told you would preserve and promote Minnesota's endangered drinking water.

As you fill up the tank and pay the increased sales tax on most of the other items you purchase this week, you may want to consider how this money is really going to be spent.

Most of the \$250 million in new sales tax revenue each year will not be spent on programs or projects to promote water quality, and only \$5.5 million will be spent on drinking water protection. That isn't exactly what Minnesota voters were told they'd be "investing in" with the revenue from the increased sales tax. Most of the money is to be spent on programs and projects already financed through existing state agency programs, like the \$127 million per year that goes to Minnesota's Department of Natural Resources.

Another large chunk of the \$250 million in new sales taxes will go to finance programs and projects earmarked for the arts and our cultural heritage. Tax increase supporters forgot to mention to you last year in those television ads advocating a "yes" vote that \$93 million will be annually spent on arts and crafts, \$43 million of which will go to the Minnesota Arts Board, which was already receiving almost \$20 million in state funding. So funding for the arts more than doubles while the state budget shortfall stands at \$6 billion.

Besides the art lovers, let's not forget the parks and trails crowd. They too got a piece of the pie in dedicated funding. The parks and trails money amounts to \$65 million a year. And of the \$65 million, almost half, or \$27 million, goes to the Metropolitan Council. Yes, we're now giving the unelected people who run Metro Transit the authority to dole out \$27 million in taxpayer money for parks and trails. Well, if we're handing out \$27 million for local parks and trails, shouldn't we expect local property taxes to be reduced accordingly?

As the axiom states, "When all is said and done, more is said than ever done." That's certainly true for our new sales tax, which will finance loads of pork-barrel projects for special-interest groups—and regrettably for the next 25 years.

Constitutionally dedicating tax revenue is a bad idea from the get-go. The various needs of our state should compete against other needs each biennium because priorities shift and revenue collections change. If those who voted for the sales tax increase last November knew how the Legislature was going to lard up special-interest spending for pet projects, my hunch is they would push for a "do over" election, which would likely produce a different outcome.

I guess the moral of the story is: Be careful who and what you vote for. Your vote has consequences.

Phil Krinkie is president of the Taxpayers League of Minnesota and a former eight-term state representative.



The king is dead, long live the opportunists

BY BILL STIEGER

What a strange brew of news has dominated the headlines of late. If I were the evangelical type, I'd say it's a sign of the end times. But your ever faithful skeptic remains only flummoxed, dyspeptic and downright angry at the lunacy our culture deems worthy of its studied gaze. Allow me to offer my take on matters that have dominated the American—oh, fun! I finally get to use the word!—zeitgeist in recent weeks:

★ The death of the so-called King of Pop heads the list. There are few more telling indicators of America's cultural rot than the hubbub surrounding this pathetic fellow, a man who had a race transplant, whose best friend was a chimpanzee, who used women to incubate his kids, who followed around a spoon-bender, who paid \$20 million to bribe his way out of a child molestation rap. Want some more? He dangled his baby over a balcony and nearly dropped him. He had his face cut, shaved and carved into a living mask that would horrify the Phantom of the Opera. Yes, Michael Jackson was a victim of childhood abuse, but he may have been a perp as well.

A side show to Michael Jackson's circus was the behavior of his mourners, if you care to call them that. We had good old daddy Joe Jackson, the African-American Colonel Parker who beat young Michael for bad performances and used his son's death to promote a sure-to-flop recording company he's forming. Then, of course, we got the requisite appearances of Al Sharpton and Jesse Jackson, two guys who can't help but wedge their faces in front of the cameras in the event of any front-page news involving an African American. And then there were the People Who Have No Life who had nothing better to do than spend the day weeping for the cameras on Hollywood's Walk of Fame. Get a job, folks.

★ Then came Brett. The Quarterback Who Won't Go Away is coming to Vikingland. If ever there was an athlete more intent on sully his legacy, I haven't heard of him. The year of Favre's so-called retirement from the Green Bay Packers was a maudlin fest of media worship. There were the commemorative issues of *Sports Illustrated* and documentaries on the man broadcast during NFL halftimes. Favre himself broke down and wept at his postseason press conference. Everyone spoke of the man's superior character, his overcoming drug addiction, his facing up to his wife's cancer, his determination to play following his father's sudden death.

But the hero turned zero the next summer when he suddenly changed his mind, flew to the Packers' training

camp and demanded to play. When the Packer organization demurred, Favre packed up his pads and rented out his reputation to the Jets for a year. Now he's joining the Packers' nemesis, I'm guessing for the sole purpose of exacting revenge on Green Bay.

Have fun, Vikings fans. The world's oldest baby will spend 2009-10 getting hurled to the Metrodome turf while football's Mr. Dithers, Brad Childress, scratches his bald head at postgame press conferences and speaks of the latest self-help book he has recommended to the team.

★ Speaking of athletes who won't go away, the other day I went to the Yahoo website and saw Lance Armstrong staring at me. And it wasn't a still picture either: The guy was blinking, talking, moving around. Weird. Then came the words, "It's About You." The message was that Armstrong is back in bike racing to give hope to people with cancer.

Well, if it helps to raise dough for cancer research, fine. But let's face it, Lance is back in the game because he misses the limelight. His reentry in the Tour de France is not some personal sacrifice for the good of humanity. He's in it to assuage his ego, pure and simple. There's nothing wrong with that, but wouldn't it have been refreshing if Armstrong had just come out and admitted, "I'm a glutton for glory and, hey, there's a lot more money to be made"? I would've understood that. Implying that this isn't about Lance is to proclaim that Howdy Doody doesn't have a wooden butt.

★ Here's my take on Mark Sanford, South Carolina's Republican governor whose draconian budget vetoes have been overridden by his own GOP-controlled legislature 105 out of 106 times: I rather appreciate him. The man will forever remain in our cultural memory for the expression "hiking the Appalachian Trail," the new euphemism for committing a sexual peccadillo. That's quite an accomplishment. Sanford, who grew up on a southern plantation and was once quoted as saying, "It's my personal view that the largest proclamation of one's faith ought to be in how one lives his life," has, in my mind, been humanized by his fall into the abyss of love.

Oh, those syrupy proclamations of love that even a writer at Hallmark would blow his lunch on! I also loved his bit about listening to country music in the cab of his air-conditioned tractor and "the tranquility that comes with being in a virtual wilderness of trees and marsh, the day breaking and vibrant pink coming alive in the morning clouds, and getting to build something with each scoop of dirt."

Yes, love can turn one into a sap and inspire some truly horrible prose. But it's humanizing nonetheless.

Inbox

Come together over light rail

It's sad that a group with "Rondo" in its name is angry at the Central Corridor light-rail transit project (*Villager*, June 17). Since 1973, this country has been trying to heal the transportation wounds inflicted upon it by General Motors and the highway lobby. Public transit, Amtrak and freight railroads have rebounded. Light rail is an important part of the job of reducing pollution and congestion.

Sadly, one of the wounds was the paving over of the African-American community along Rondo Avenue to bring I-94 through St. Paul. No responsible nation would have allowed an interstate inside the 494/694 beltway. But the damage was done. Much as I dislike what Chevron and the highway lobby have done to my nation, they did not create the conditions that have held some people in bondage for centuries.

Unlike what happened to Rondo, years of meetings have taken place to mitigate the hardships that will come to some when construction of the Central Corridor begins next year. We must try to pull together as a city and do our share to fight global warming.

Richard Hanson
Midway

Solving Snelling

The Snelling Avenue median has been quite a polarizing subject of late. All this time spent arguing for or against an island of safety for pedestrians to get halfway across Snelling and catch their breath before traversing the other half. There seems to be no consideration given to taking the pedestrian to the safest place—out of the traffic picture altogether.

I propose building two covered suspension bridges over Snelling equidistant from St. Clair and Grand avenues, with spiral ramps at each end to allow pedestrians to gently rise above the danger of traffic. This is a bit late in the show, but it seems a little stupid to disrupt businesses and parking in the neighborhood by creating a bottleneck on the most used north-south route in the city and increasing pollution with the stagnant traffic flow. In the end, you only reduce the efficiency of a city that needs all the steamlining it can get.

Most likely the Minnesota Department of Transportation wouldn't finance a pedestrian bridge or two because they're not in the street. But the bridges would solve all the current problems with the median because there wouldn't be a median to argue over.

Greg Jaeger
Macalester-Groveland

New tactics for fighting crime

I've been concerned with the rampant crime against persons and property these past months in the *Villager* area, particularly the thefts from vehicles repeatedly occurring along Mississippi River Boulevard, the home burglaries and the robberies and the occasional car-jackings on the streets of Merriam Park, Macalester-Groveland and Highland Park.

Many people are simply too casual and leave valuables or the evidence of valuables in full view in their locked cars. However, many home burglaries are now occurring in broad daylight with the victims

actually home. The perpetrators of these burglaries are brazen and dangerous and often simply kick in doors, break windows, cut screens or pick locks.

I would press for more undercover police work, especially during daylight hours when many people use the river gorge for exercise, dog walking, etc., and also when pubs, clubs and eateries close. Perhaps a citizens group could be formed to take turns watching over the parking areas to help out the police. More comprehensive police undercover work, coupled with more citizen involvement, would be more effective in fighting crime than simply stepping up conventional police patrols with fully marked police vehicles.

Mathew Curran
Merriam Park

Clean air or hot air?

The U.S. Senate is debating the Waxman-Markey Clean Energy Act, which proposes to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Sixty percent of those greenhouse gas emissions are from petroleum-based transportation fuels and coal-fueled electric power plants. Nowhere in the Clean Energy Act's 1,400 pages is there an effective substitute for those fuels. Coal-fueled power plants can be replaced by nonpolluting nuclear reactors, but nuclear is not mentioned in the Clean Energy Act.

Most developed countries limit consumption of transportation fuels with substantial taxes, especially on gasoline. That leads to fuel-efficient cars, and the fuel tax funds energy-efficient public transportation. This approach is not proposed in the Clean Energy Act. Instead it offers an array of legislative mandates for renewable energy and efficiency without any explanation of how those mandates are to be achieved.

The Clean Energy Act's main feature is an elaborate cap and trade system. Fossil-fuel users are to purchase emission allowances. They can also earn offsets, or rights to emit, by supporting renewable projects of uncertain merit in the U.S. and abroad. These allowances and offsets will be marketable, thus offering Wall Street brokers a new source of profit. A complex rebate system is intended to protect manufacturers whose costs for allowances hurt their international competitiveness. Importers can also be required to purchase International Reserve Allowances, raising import costs, also to preserve our competitive position. How all that will be administered is anyone's guess.

Electric utilities must meet 20 percent of demand with renewable energy and improved efficiency by 2020. Carbon emissions are to be steadily reduced, with carbon capture and sequestration of carbon dioxide the prime enabling technology. However, carbon capture and sequestration costs for utilities could exceed \$1 trillion per year.

The Clean Energy Act also includes \$4 billion to support a cash for clunkers program that will lead to the sale of imported cars, as few American cars meet the mpg standards in the program. The Clean Energy Act supports increased fuel-efficiency standards for cars and trucks while promoting E85 ethanol fuel that reduces a vehicle's mileage performance by about 30 percent. Minnesota Congressman Collin Peterson has added an amendment that exempts biofuels like ethanol from the limits placed on other fuels, although there is little scientific evidence of an environmental or energy-saving benefit from

INBOX ► 10

VILLAGER

Volume 57, Number 10

Maurice F. Mischke, 1920-1991

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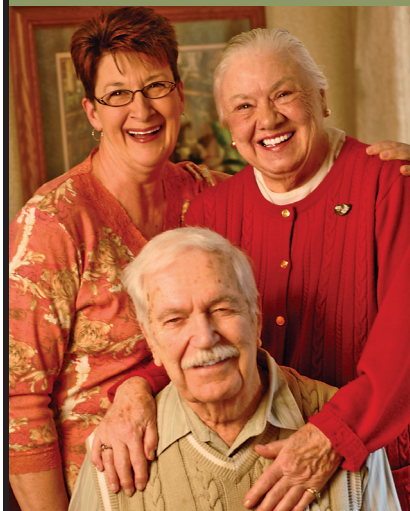
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The Clean Energy Act sets up new federal bureaucracies, including a Clean Energy Deployment Administration and a National Climate Service. There is a program of worker training, education and transition for jobs in renewable energy, building upgrades and climate change mitigation. The Clean Energy Act even spends money to encourage developing countries to take emission-reducing actions. This is expected to open up markets for U.S. environmental technology, although other countries lead in many of those markets.

The Clean Energy Act is relying on renewable energy from sources like wind and solar to meet its objectives. However, due to the cost and intermittent nature of wind and solar energy, the U.S. Energy Information Administration forecasts that wind and solar will supply less than 3 percent of our electric energy in 2020.

The threat from global warming is real. It is time to grow our nuclear fleet and to tax fossil fuels to provide revenue for a world-class electric-powered public transportation system. The marketplace will then foster the remaining goals of the Clean Energy Act without its massive new bureaucracy and unrealistic objectives.

Rolf E. Westgard
Macalester-Groveland

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

Going beyond free speech

I noticed a barrage of anti-abortion rhetoric in the letters section of the July 1 *Villager*. There were five letters from anti-abortion readers and none from any neutral or pro-choice readers. May I remind the editors that the *Villager* is a community newspaper and that a majority of the community supports legal and responsible family planning? The opinions of a small number of vocal anti-abortion extremists do not deserve the amount of content the *Villager* chose to publish last week. Ongoing protests against abortion and displaying unpleasant images such as these stalkers impose upon the community go beyond free speech and constitute harassment and even incite terrorism and murder, as this country has witnessed many times before. In the future, please give deference to those in your community who support lawfulness, nonviolence, discussion and responsible reproductive behavior.

Bruce Honnigford
Merriam Park

A pro-life alternative

To the Highland Park anti-abortion demonstrators, I make the following recommendation: Rent the documentary film *Children Underground* (2001). Take a look at Romania, a country whose communist dictator, Nicolae Ceausescu, completely outlawed abortion. Soon thereafter, over 20,000 unwanted children were living on the brutal streets of the capital city of Bucharest. It's not a pretty picture. Those who

protest abortion might consider promoting the development of more youth shelters.

Edmond Ordez
Summit Hill

More than an abortion clinic

A recent trip to the Highland Park Library with my 20-month-old daughter was marred by the disturbing images of anti-abortion propaganda blown up to a size of great proportion. I was offended by what I saw and found it abhorrent that my daughter was subjected to such a gruesome site. A couple weeks later, I read a letter to the editor of the *Villager* that echoed my own feelings about the issue.

I briefly considered writing a letter to second what that reader said. However, I was finally moved to take pen to paper after reading five letters to the editor in the July 1 *Villager*. All of the letters suggest that Planned Parenthood is an abortion clinic, and because of that, the protesters have the right to visually assault us as we visit the local library, grab an ice cream cone, or traverse Ford Parkway.

I believe in freedom of speech, but I also believe in respecting our neighbors and community. It's likely that the grisly images are not even depicting the type of abortions performed at our local Planned Parenthood clinic, but rather images of late-term abortions. The recent slew of letters to the editor demonstrate an unfortunate ignorance regarding Planned Parenthood. Abortion is just one of many services Planned Parenthood provides to our community. We should be so lucky to have a Planned Parenthood clinic in our neighborhood. I am proud to have them as neighbors, and respect the work that they do.

Valerie Gross
Highland Park

Helping Haiti and its economy

Regarding "How to help Haiti" (*Villager* Inbox, June 3), I applaud Mr. Erickson for caring about Haiti enough to visit it annually and I appreciate his passion for Haiti. While I concur with most of his assertions, he is wrong in assigning them to No Time For Poverty. While no child will be turned away from our Klinik Timoun Nou Yo (Our Children's Clinic) for an inability to pay, it will be a fee-for-service clinic so as not to deprive any family of its pride or dignity.

The core of No Time For Poverty's model is based on the belief that the region we serve has a truly active role in the development and delivery of services offered by the clinic. Toward this end, No Time For Poverty has for years been cultivating relationships with individuals, villages and groups to collaboratively design a comprehensive health care system. Though it is true that medical equipment and supplies need to be imported, the clinic and its programs will only benefit the economy.

The clinic is being built by Haitian workers, the same labor that built our storage facility with Haitian materials. The clinic will be staffed by Haitian physicians, nurses, nursing assistants, laboratory and X-ray technicians, housekeepers, launderers, business clerks, etc. Similarly, the community outreach program will employ countless health agents and assistants from the villages. Already No Time for Poverty

employs local Haitian support staff, drivers, interpreters, etc., and the wages we pay are good.

While it is true there are many well-intentioned organizations looking to "save Haiti," a number of them do excellent work, and without their efforts and the millions of dollars they are contributing, Haiti would be far worse off than it is today. No Time for Poverty has already made great inroads in Haiti, and it is honored that it will soon join the list of those that day after day save countless lives and relieve the suffering of countless more.

Lori Lindgren, Chief Operations Officer
No Time For Poverty

Memories of St. Luke's

Melanie Soucheray was correct regarding the Church of St. Luke being on the current property of William Mitchell College of Law (*Villager* Inbox, June 3). There was a small church there. I attended it with my parents. The new St. Luke's Church on Lexington Parkway and Summit Avenue was built in 1922—just the lower level. My father's funeral Mass was held there in January 1923. My first-born, a son, attended St. Luke's School. His son graduated from William Mitchell College of Law a few years ago.

Margaret Miner Rohland
Highland Park

Fun and forgiveness

What's up with the overwhelming increase in backyard fireworks this year? I wanted to take a walk on the evening of July 4, after the beautiful rain we had in the afternoon. When I got outside, I experienced explosions in all directions and a smoggy, sulfuric haze.

On Sunday morning, the sun was out. There was a lovely, fresh breeze. The birds were vocalizing. How could I complain if people wanted to have fun?

Mary Kovar
Highland Park

Lap dogs, not watchdogs

Whatever happened to a press corps that would ask challenging questions to those in power? President Obama as a candidate promised 5 million new green jobs. Now we see unemployment of 9.4 percent when the White House predicted it would remain at 8 percent or lower if only the \$787 billion stimulus package was passed. Vice President Biden's excuse for the higher unemployment rate? Everyone guessed wrong. Doesn't that inspire confidence?

We hear bogus claims about saving jobs while the White House is controlling Chrysler, closing dealerships and cutting jobs. This is insane. Former President Bush would have never gotten away with this.

I would like to remind the press that they work for the American people, not the president, and it is their job to ask the difficult and inconvenient questions of those who have so much power over our lives.

Walter Huemmer
Highland Park



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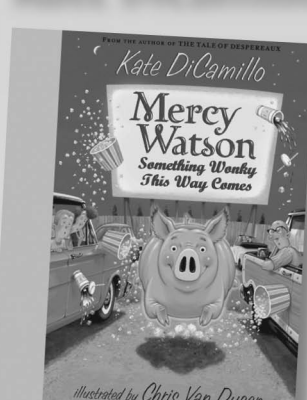
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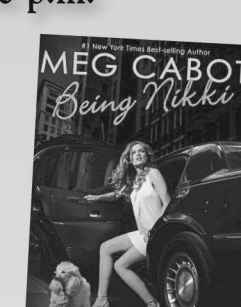
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A \$1 million plan to turn Jefferson Avenue into a bike boulevard with new signage and, in some areas, a bike lane is being debated in St. Paul's West End and Macalester-Groveland neighborhoods. At left, bicyclists head down Highland Parkway, which has a bike lane east of Snelling Avenue.

PHOTO BY ANNE BRANDRUD

West End neighbors debate merits of Jefferson Avenue bike boulevard

By JANE MCCLURE

Controversy continues to dog the proposal to turn the entire four-mile length of Jefferson Avenue into a bicycle boulevard. More than 30 people viewed the bikeway plans at a July 7 meeting at the West 7th Community Center. "We're hearing support, but we're also hearing concerns, which I think can be addressed," said West 7th/Fort Road Federation president Dave Bredemus.

The project would cost \$1 million, with \$750,000 coming from a federal grant administered by the St. Paul-based Transit for Livable Communities and \$250,000 from the city of St. Paul's Capital Improvement Budget.

The purpose of the bicycle boulevard is to make bicycling safer along Jefferson by raising the profile of bicyclists with new signage and new bike lanes where the street is wide enough. The new route would connect off-road bike trails along Mississippi River Boulevard and Shepard Road. Between West 7th and Shepard Road, the bicycle boulevard would follow one of two routes using side streets.

The design of the bicycle boulevard varies from end to end due to varying traffic volumes and street widths. The street width would not be changed, according to Dave Kuebler of the St. Paul Department of Public Works, unless local residents decide they want traffic circles or corner bumpouts at intersections to improve pedestrian safety.

Bicyclists would share the traffic lanes with motor vehicles between Mississippi River Boulevard and Lexington Parkway. New bike lanes would be striped on Jefferson between Lexington and West 7th Street. Sidewalks would be added in places where there are none at no cost to abutting property owners. On-street parking would remain unchanged or in some places expanded to both sides of the street. The number of traffic lanes would be reduced to two in those areas where there are more than two. The speed limit would be lowered from 40 to 30 miles per hour near the I-35E underpass and the ramps to Ayd Mill Road. New lantern-style streetlighting would

be added where there is none, though property owners would be assessed for part of that cost. Lighting would also be added below the I-35E overpass.

Comments on the proposed bicycle boulevard have been pretty evenly divided. Some said it would encourage them to ride their bicycles more. Others criticized the project for its high cost and questioned how it would affect traffic in the neighborhood. "I don't want an increase in traffic of any kind in the neighborhood," one person wrote on a comment board.

Jefferson Avenue resident Tim Matthees opposes the project. He complained about bicyclists who "blow through stop signs. They're a hazard."

Bicycle boulevard supporter Cecilia Kouchar Farr, an Osceola Avenue resident, advocates more education for everyone who uses the road. "I'm a bicycle commuter," she said, "and I'm always hearing people say, 'Get on the sidewalk,' which is the most dangerous place for me to be."

Changes to street lighting were questioned by some. Daly Street resident Jim Vannelli said his street got new lantern-style lights and they are not as bright as the lights currently on Jefferson. However, Kuebler and city traffic engineer Paul St. Martin said the lighting that would be installed on Jefferson would be brighter because Jefferson is considered a collector street.

Other local residents are concerned about commuter parking in the neighborhood if the bicycle boulevard is added. According to Denise Wickiser, her Duke Street block club generally supports the project, but residents are worried about losing parking to bicyclists. Some residents have suggested adding small park-and-ride lots for bicyclists who arrive by car.

West 7th Federation and Macalester-Groveland Community Council board members continue to work with staff in Public Works and at Transit for Livable Communities on the bicycle boulevard plan. The district councils' boards are expected to make a recommendation on the the project by the end of the year.

Animal Humane Society offers two-for-one on cat adoptions

In an effort to increase adoptions during the summer months, when it receives so many cats, the Animal Humane Society has begun offering a "double the love" opportunity to the public.

"During the summer, the Animal Humane Society sees an average of 70 cats a day brought to our five sites. That's nearly 500 cats a week and 2,000 a month," said Cindy Johnson, the society's director of customer service. "We need to get these felines into new homes as quickly as possible."

From now through September 30, customers may adopt one cat at the regular adoption

fee and receive a second cat for free. The program is available at all five of the society's locations, including St. Paul, Buffalo, Coon Rapids, Golden Valley and Woodbury. Customers may adopt the first cat or kitten of any age, while the free cat must be a year or older. Both cats must be adopted at the same time.

For people who are not ready to adopt, the Animal Humane Society is offering a foster program where people may take home an adult cat for six months during the busy summer months and return it during the winter, when the number of available cats decreases. The society will provide all food and supplies for the cat during the foster period.

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HealthEast gets green light to open Victoria Crossing clinic

By JANE MCCLURE

A HealthEast clinic will be coming to Grand Place this fall after all. Renovation of the former eq-life space at the southwest corner of Grand Avenue and Victoria Street will begin this summer, the Summit Hill Association was told during a neighborhood meeting on June 29.

The clinic will occupy between 10,500 and 11,000 square feet of space on the main floor of Grand Place, 870 Grand Ave. Eq-life had occupied 14,000 square feet on the main floor, which has been vacant ever since the retailer moved out in the fall of 2007. The remaining main-floor space could be used as a commons.

Because the lower level will now be used as storage, HealthEast's plans can move ahead without city action or changes to a memorandum of understanding on the use of the basement. That news was met with applause from neighbors and the SHA. Many board members had expressed support for the clinic to move into Grand Place, but did not want to go through the potentially controversial process of redrafting the memorandum.

City Council member Dave Thune said he was pleased that property owner Grand Place LLC, HealthEast and the SHA were able to move forward and make the clinic a reality.

"This is wonderful news for Grand Avenue," he said.

SHA president Tammy Haas said plans for the clinic are no longer an issue, since the basement will be used for storage and no need for a parking variance is anticipated. "I'm glad we're able to have a win-win situation," she said.

"I'm glad we're able to have a win-win situation," said Summit Hill Association president Tammy Haas.

Rob Stolpestad, president of Exeter Realty, the property manager for the building and its parking ramp, said it took several days of negotiations with HealthEast to make the changes in the lease. "We're very excited to have HealthEast coming in," he said. "We think it'll be a great tenant."

HealthEast will remodel the space over a 12-week period. Once it is finished, the clinic is scheduled to be open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Saturday.

Len Kaiser of HealthEast said the Grand Place location will replace its Snelling Avenue clinic and will allow HealthEast to grow. "We're

very excited and pleased to have reached an agreement with Exeter," he said. Kaiser said the clinic anticipates 100 to 120 visitors a day and that parking validation is being considered for clients and employees.

Stolpestad noted that because the clinic has daytime hours, the parking and traffic demand is not expected to conflict with restaurants at Victoria Crossing.

Originally, HealthEast wanted to lease about 9,000 square feet on the first floor and 1,000 to 1,200 square feet in the basement. The basement space would have been used for conference rooms or medical imaging. However, a 2005 legal agreement on the use of Grand Place's basement, and the parking needs of the clinic, threatened to scuttle the entire plan.

The original site plan for Grand Place only allowed storage use in the basement. That was meant to keep additional businesses from moving in without providing adequate off-street parking.

Despite that condition, Bound to be Read, one of the original Grand Place tenants, was able to obtain a city building permit in 2001 to remodel the basement for offices. The closing of the bookstore in 2005 and arrival of eq-life brought the basement controversy to the fore.

In the spring of 2005, city staff decided that eq-life could move into Grand Place without

providing additional off-street parking. The SHA disagreed and appealed the decision to the St. Paul Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA), arguing that the change in use triggered the need for more parking.

The SHA also argued that the Grand Place's basement was being used improperly. A BZA decision in the SHA's favor sent the issue to the City Council, which worked with eq-life, neighbors and the district council to hammer out an agreement on the basement's use.

The agreement, which was intended for eq-life only, allowed the retailer to use a portion of the basement for sales and services in exchange for validating ramp parking for employees and customers. Any future change in use at Grand Place was to be reviewed by the city zoning administrator for compliance with the original site plan.

In 2007, the SHA blocked an attempt to change the legal agreement to allow phresh spa salon to move into the basement space. Phresh subsequently located down the block on Grand.

Earlier last month, SHA board members narrowly voted down a motion that would have allowed HealthEast to move in and use the basement space. Board members disagreed on the continued use of the Grand Place basement, fearing it could lead to increased demand for parking.

St. Paul to spend \$14.4M on modernizing city operations

By JANE MCCLURE

At a time when St. Paul city officials are considering the possibility of closing recreation centers and a library, spending \$14.4 million on a new accounting and finance system could be questioned. However, City Council members unanimously approved the expenditure on July 1 for COMET (City Operations Modernization and Enterprise Transformation), saying the new system will do a better job of tracking what the city spends and could save more than \$4 million a year once it is fully implemented.

Mayor Chris Coleman described the change as getting the bottom line on the city's bottom line. "We have a 1985 platform for our computer system that runs a \$500 million budget with 2,700 employees," he said in a statement after the council vote. "Especially in these hard economic times, COMET

makes common sense—in dollars and cents. It's smart business and it's the right thing to do."

St. Paul officials believe the city is wasting millions of dollars per year with the current system, which has components that are up to 24 years old. City departments use 35 different computer programs to track personnel and spending, and most of the programs cannot interface, so compiling information and getting data quickly can be time-consuming, if not impossible.

The new system will allow city staff to better work with what are now 150 separate data bases and antiquated systems. It will streamline the work that many employees do by hand, provide key budget information more quickly, and modernize many city accounting and purchasing functions. It also will help keep track of paying sales taxes, which the city has gotten into trouble for not doing properly in the past.

Installing the COMET program will begin this fall at a cost of \$14.4 million over the next three years, for which the city will issue bonds. The changeover is expected to save about \$4 million in its first year of operations and more than \$5 million per year by 2012. It could also provide other long-term savings as the city needs fewer employees to do some tasks.

The need for improved financial technology was discussed by city officials about a decade ago, but nothing was done at that time. Over the past four years, Coleman's administration conducted detailed audits of some city operations, including police and fire, and found the need to modernize technology citywide.

"All of our departments and all the services we provide must be examined to figure out how we can do it more cost effectively and more efficiently," Coleman said.

City finance director Margaret Kelly has

been a vocal advocate of the new system as she and her staff have struggled to pull budget information together in a timely manner.

Most City Council members said they believe St. Paul has little choice but to modernize its technology. "St. Paul is beyond behind on this issue," said council member Pat Harris.

Various department directors have clamored for years for the upgrade. Technology director Andrea Casselton has used drawings of birthday cakes to illustrate the age of various components of the system. At more than two decades old, the payroll system has run out of codes to enter for employee classifications. "We've had to create many labor-intensive processes," she said.

City staff have feared the possibility of having the entire payroll system break down or not being able to write checks for purchases. A weeklong breakdown earlier this year cost the city more than \$40,000.

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Redevelopment proposals sought for vacant Selby-Victoria corner

Project could be critical to continued growth of commerce on Selby Ave.

By JANE MCCLURE

Yet another request for proposals to develop the vacant southeast corner of Selby Avenue and Victoria Street will be made by the city of St. Paul this summer at the urging of Ward 1 City Council member Melvin Carter III and the Summit-University Planning Council (SUPC).

The SUPC is currently compiling a list of ideas for the site that were suggested at neighborhood meetings earlier this year. Though the neighborhood cannot dictate what is built on the corner, the city will consider its wishes when selecting a developer, according to Stephanie Hawkinson, project manager in the St. Paul Department of Planning and Economic Development (PED).

The Selby-Victoria site, which is owned by the city, has been valued at \$400,000. It includes the lot at the corner, which has been vacant for 40 years, and the adjacent house to the east, which the city recently purchased and is slated for demolition following its use in training by the St. Paul Fire Department. The vacant lot is zoned commercial and the property to the east is zoned residential.

PED staff approached the SUPC in January about issuing the request for proposals. At the request of the SUPC, city action was postponed twice. Hawkinson said that if a developer is selected later this year, ground likely would not be broken before late next year.

Redevelopment of the Selby-Victoria site is critical to the future of Selby Avenue, according to Carl Nelson, former Selby Avenue business owner and SUPC board member. Nelson helped draft the 1996 Selby Avenue Plan and the recently adopted Summit-University Plan. Both plans recommend that the corner be redeveloped for mixed commercial and residential use.

More than three dozen people attended neighborhood meetings on developing the

site. "We heard a lot of good ideas," said Jeff Gardner of the SUPC's Neighborhood Development Committee. Among the suggestions were a commercial or a mixed commercial-residential development with small businesses the neighborhood currently doesn't have, including businesses that serve senior citizens.

Some neighbors said any new use should highlight Selby's cultural heritage. Others spoke against national chain stores. Some neighbors questioned whether the corner should be developed at all, and some suggested it should be used as a community garden.

The Selby-Victoria site has been the subject of several requests for proposals from the city over the past two decades. More than a dozen different developers have responded. Among their proposals was a home health care business, a day care center and a variety of mixed-use developments.

At least two of the proposals for Selby-Victoria have been developed elsewhere. RS Eden's proposed commercial-residential building met vehement neighborhood opposition in 1999, and it wound up being built on West 7th Street. Timbercraft Homes repeatedly proposed to build housing on the corner, and ended up building condominiums at Dale Street and Dayton Avenue

a half-mile away.

In the past 10 years, two proposed condominium developments have fallen through, including a plan by Global Construction that won City Council approval in 2007 but was shelved in 2008. Global Construction owner David Youhans said he was unable to secure financing for the project but he is still interested in developing the site.

Any development at Selby and Victoria should be done with an eye toward what is happening on University Avenue a half-mile to the north, according to Youhans. Selby needs to be ready for the expected arrival of light-rail transit on University by developing space for businesses that may have to relocate, he said.

"When LRT comes in, Selby Avenue is going to be busy," Youhans said. "There's a lot of traffic headed our way, and we have to be ready for it."

"When LRT comes in (on University), Selby Avenue is going to be busy," Youhans said. "There's a lot of traffic headed our way, and we have to be ready for it."

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District Council News

Highland Park

www.highlanddistrictcouncil.org • 651-695-4005

Highland Village Walgreens—A public hearing on the site plan for a new Walgreens drug store on Ford Parkway and Finn Street will be held on Thursday, July 16, before the Zoning Committee of the St. Paul Planning Commission. The hearing will begin at 3:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers in City Hall. Following the hearing, the Zoning Committee is expected to make a recommendation to the full Planning Commission on whether or not to approve the site plan.

Board of directors meeting—The HDC's board of directors will next meet at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 16, at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. The agenda includes a discussion of instant runoff voting with supporter Troy Trooien and opponent Chuck Repke.

Community development—The HDC's Community Development Committee will discuss the current zoning of Highland Village and what changes could be made to improve it at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 14, at Hillcrest. The committee will also discuss Massage Envy's plans to open in the former Act One Too space at 2073 Ford Pkwy. and J&S Bean Factory's request for a conditional use permit to continue operating at 1518 Randolph Ave. with only one public restroom.

Transportation—The HDC's Transportation Committee will meet at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 29, at Hillcrest. At its last meeting, the committee voted to postpone a request for restriping Finn Street at Ford Parkway until Walgreens' plans for the northeast corner of that intersection are resolved. The committee also voted to support a neighborhood petition to install four-way stop signs at Mount Curve Boulevard and Highland Parkway. Local residents at a block party recently raised concerns about speeding on Edgcombe Road as drivers exit or approach Highway 5. The St. Paul Police Department recently ticketed as 17 motorists for speeding on that stretch. The police are asking local residents who see trucks on streets where trucks are forbidden to note the type of truck, the company, the time of day and any other details that might help police cite violators.

Highland Fest—People living near Highland Village are being asked to take precaution and remove any valuables from their yards and keep their garage doors locked and their bikes locked or put away during Highland Fest on July 17-19. For those who will be cycling to the festival, bike racks will be available at the bottom of the Highland Park Library's steps.

Macalester-Groveland

www.macgrove.org • 651-695-4000

Groveland Night Out—The annual Groveland Night Out will take place at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 12, at Groveland Park, 2045 St. Clair Ave. The evening will include live music, root beer floats, a moon bounce and an outdoor showing of *Madagascar 2*. For information, call the council office.

National Night Out—Macalester-Groveland neighbors are encouraged to begin planning now for the 26th annual National Night Out on Tuesday, August 4. For help with obtaining block party permits and other useful information, visit www.stpaul.gov/index.aspx?NID=3062. The permit deadline

is July 27.

Native Garden Awards—Nominations are now being accepted for the community council's second annual Native Garden Awards. Award winners will be determined by the end of August. For information, contact the council office.

KidsPark—KidsPark, the community council's drop-in child-care program which moved to Desnoyer Park a few months ago, is in need of two walkie-talkies. Contact Karman Peters at the council office if you are willing to donate a pair.

Crime notification updates—Those who are interested in receiving updates on crime in Macalester-Groveland should contact Afton Martens at afton@macgrove.org to get added to the e-mail list. Weekly crime reports also are available by visiting mnstpaul.civicplus.com/index.asp?nid=2399.

Upcoming meetings—Beautification Committee, 7:00 p.m. Monday, July 20, Edgcombe Recreation Center, 320 S. Griggs St.; Community Outreach Committee, 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 21, Edgcombe.

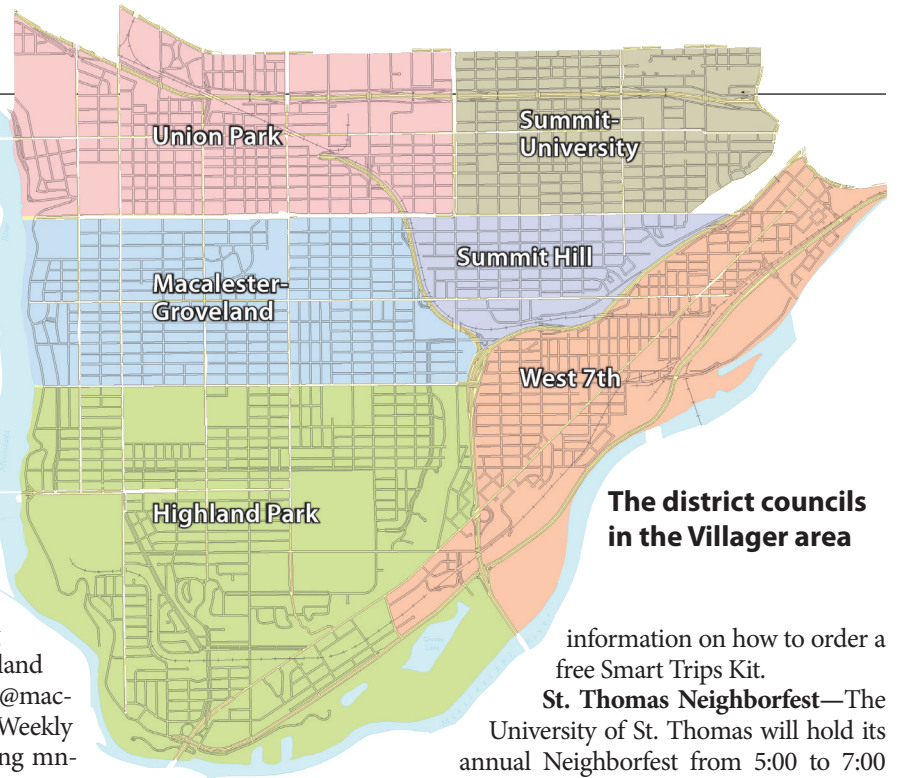
Union Park

www.unionparkdc.org • 651-645-6887

National Night Out—The neighborhoods served by the Union Park District Council are gearing up for the annual National Night Out on Tuesday, August 4. To block off your street for a block party, apply for a Class B permit from the St. Paul Police Department no later than Monday, July 27. All registration and barricade fees are waived for the August 4 celebrations. For more information or to invite a local patrol officer to attend your National Night Out block party, contact crime prevention coordinator Pam McCreary at 651-266-5455.

The Union Park council is again conducting a drawing for local National Night Out parties. Party organizers are being asked to e-mail Julie Oney at julie@unionparkdc.org with the name and location of their party prior to July 30. Prizes will either be delivered or available for pickup on August 1.

Smart Trips—Smart Trips Tours of the Merriam Park, Snelling-Hamline and Lexington-Hamline neighborhoods will begin this month. From late July through November, more than a dozen bike rides, walks and workshops will be offered. A family-friendly Midtown Greenway bike ride will leave at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 29, from the Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave. (Free treats will be given to the first 20 people to sign up). A free bike workshop will be offered at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, August 1, at Boehm's bicycle shop, 1592 Selby Ave. (A drawing will be held for a bike bag, and free bike lights will be given to the first 20 people who sign up.) A Union Park Gardens Walk will be led by local gardening expert Susan Price at 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, August 4, from Trotter's Cafe, 232 N. Cleveland Ave. (Free cookies will be given to the first 20 people who sign up). Also, keep an eye out for the first Smart Trips flier for



The district councils in the Villager area

information on how to order a free Smart Trips Kit.

St. Thomas Neighborfest—The University of St. Thomas will hold its annual Neighborfest from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Thursday, July 30, in the upper quad of

the campus. The event will feature live music by Ticket to Brasil, burgers and hot dogs for sale, free snacks, face painting, a petting zoo, pony rides and other children's activities. In case of rain, the festival will be moved inside Murray-Herrick.

Neighborhood Cleanup. Volunteers are needed to help with the Union Park District Council's neighborhood cleanup from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Saturday, September 26, at the state fairgrounds parking lot off Larpentur Avenue. Breakfast, snacks, beverages and lunch will be provided free to all volunteers, along with a voucher for free disposal. To volunteer for the cleanup, e-mail Julie Oney at julie@unionparkdc.org or call 651-645-6887. Neighborhood cleanup price lists and vehicle registration slips will be delivered to all Union Park homes by late July. Residents who do not receive one by August 1 are asked to e-mail Oney.

Summit Hill

www.summithillassociation.org • 651-222-1222

Summit Hill cookbook—Summit Hill neighbors are being invited to submit recipes for possible inclusion in an upcoming Summit Hill cookbook. Recipes may be sent to SHA president Tammy Haas at tamarastable@aol.com or at 1037 Lincoln Ave., St Paul, MN 55105.

Get on the move—Area residents are being encouraged to get fit and improve the atmosphere by leaving their cars at home this summer as part of the MacGrove/Summit Hill Moves program. Log sheets are available in the Macalester-Groveland and Summit Hill district council offices, the Grand Avenue Business Association office and many Grand Avenue businesses. For information, call the SHA office.

National Night Out—It's not too early to start planning for a National Night Out party on Tuesday, August 4. The SHA office has information about planning a block party, getting permits to block off city streets, requesting police and firefighter visits, and making neighborhood gatherings more environmentally friendly.

"What's great about St. Paul?" The Villager reader asks, Any Unusual Facts?

St. Paul is hotbed for non-profit charitable organizations.

The Salvation Army Citadel at 401 W. 7th St. helps thousands at Christmas time each year, and has a plethora of programs year round.

It was the FIRST Salvation Army building in St. Paul and started in January of 1887 as a point of service and worship, but didn't have a known address until February of 1888 when it is listed at 5th and Minnesota Street. The building moved a total of 26 more times until it located at its present site in 1959.

One of the biggest memories was the many neighborhood children and Salvation Army youth programs that used its gym for basketball games throughout the years.

In December 2000, 1,000 "Starkey Bears" were given out to neighborhood children at 401 W. 7th St. Paul. Starkey was the creator of Santa Bears, which sold 400,000 in just 3 days through Daytons. No Starkey Bears were ever sold.



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Crime Report

The following calls were gathered from recent Community Watch reports by the Ramsey County Sheriff's Department. For weekly crime reports by neighborhood from the St. Paul Police Department, visit <http://stpaul.gov/index.asp?NID=2399>.

Highland Park

Burglary—A home on the 2200 block of Highland Parkway was broken into between 3:00 p.m. Monday and 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 22-23.

Theft—A canoe was stolen on the 600 block of Mount Curve Boulevard between 1:30 and 7:00 a.m. Wednesday, June 24. The canoe had been secured to the roof of a car parked in the driveway in the front yard.

—A theft from auto occurred at the Highland Park Aquatic Center around 3:15 p.m. Sunday, June 28.

Weapons—Shots were reported fired near Mississippi River Boulevard and Ford Parkway at about 2:30 a.m. Wednesday, June 24.

—A 19-year-old man was arrested at Macalester Street and Randolph Avenue for possession of a BB gun in public at about 2:00 a.m. Wednesday, July 1. He was riding a bicycle at the time.

Miscellaneous—Police were dispatched to the 2100 block of Hartford Avenue on a report of a group of juveniles looking into vehicles at around 3:00 a.m. Tuesday, June 30. The juveniles were gone when police arrived, but windows had been broken in two vehicles.

Lexington-Hamline

Burglary—A home on the 1300 block of Laurel Avenue was broken into at about 8:00 p.m. Monday, June 29.

Miscellaneous—A woman was groped in the parking lot of the Target store on University Avenue on Friday June 26. A suspect was identified but released pending investigation.

—St. Paul police assisted Minneapolis police in recovering a "bait car" that is used to catch auto thieves on the 1200 block of St. Anthony Avenue at about 12:30 a.m. Friday, June 26. Five males were arrested for auto theft.

Macalester-Groveland

Burglary—Clothing, purses, jewelry and perfume were taken from a home on the 1600 block of Juliet Avenue between 7:00 a.m. and 8:30 p.m. Monday, June 29. Entry had been forced through a rear window.

—A home on the 1700 block of Berkeley Avenue was broken into between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Monday, June 29.

Theft—A fraudulent money order was passed at A. Johnson & Son Florist, 1738 Grand Ave., at about 5:00 p.m. Monday, June 22.

—A wallet was stolen from the Macalester College admissions office at around 10:15 a.m. Wednesday, June 24.

Arson—Five girls were cited for curfew violations and underage drinking at Mississippi River Boulevard and Summit Avenue just after midnight Saturday, June 20.

Miscellaneous—Car windows were broken between 11:30 p.m. Thursday and 6:00 a.m. Friday, June 25-26, on the 1400 block of Scheffer Avenue, 1600 block of St. Clair Avenue, 1700 and 1900 blocks of Palace Avenue, 1900 block of James Avenue, and at Berkeley Avenue and Macalester Street.

Merriam Park

Burglary—A home on the 2000 block of Laurel Avenue was burglarized between midnight and 1:00 p.m. Saturday, June 27.

Theft—A theft from auto occurred at Fry Street and University Avenue around 5:00 p.m. Monday, June 8.

—A car was stolen at Fairview and University avenues between 11:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 30.

Miscellaneous—A 45-year-old Macalester-Groveland man was arrested on a Dakota County warrant for DWI at Prior and St. An-

thony avenues at about 10:30 p.m. Monday, June 22. Witnesses said the man was stumbling in the street. Police found him lying down on the boulevard intoxicated.

—A man was found staggering and intoxicated in traffic on the 2100 block of University Avenue at about 2:00 a.m. Sunday, June 28. He gave a phony name to police and was arrested.

—Police stopped a white Lexus at Summit and Cretin avenues at about 1:45 a.m. Sunday, June 28. The driver fled northbound on Cretin when police learned that he was wanted for a felony in St. Paul. The car was later found abandoned.

Snelling-Hamline

Burglary—A caller saw a man trying to climb a fence into a construction zone at Concordia University at about 12:30 a.m. Monday, June 22. Police stopped a 50-year-old Minneapolis man nearby. The man tried to flee from the officers as police attempted to pat him down. He was cited for obstruction.

Theft—Police arrested three juveniles for auto theft at Snelling and University avenues at about 5:30 p.m. Thursday, June 25. The stolen car was recovered.

Assault—A person was assaulted at Perkins Restaurant, 1544 University Ave., at about 2:30 a.m. Saturday, June 27. The victim's jaw was broken and needed emergency surgery.

Miscellaneous—A suspect was arrested for fraud when he was found selling bootleg DVDs and CDs around 2:00 p.m. Thursday, June 25 in the parking lot of Cub Foods on University Avenue.

Summit Hill

Robbery—A man was robbed at knifepoint at Pleasant and St. Clair avenues at about 1:30 a.m. Friday, June 26. A Blackberry phone, iPod Shuffle, cash and cigarettes were stolen.

Burglary—A laptop computer was taken from a home on the 500 block of Grand Hill on June 9-10. The burglary was reported on June 30.

—A home on the 700 block of Osceola Avenue and another on the 1100 block of Goodrich Avenue were burglarized between 10:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. Friday, June 26.

—Oxford Hill Condos, 1060 Grand Ave., was broken into between 12:30 and 1:00 a.m. Saturday, June 27.

Theft—Golf clubs, a pull cart and golf shoes were taken from a vehicle at Victoria Crossing West, 867 Grand Ave., between 1:30 and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, June 28.

Summit-University

Burglary—A wallet was stolen from a purse in a home on the 1000 block of Ashland Avenue between 11:00 p.m. Thursday and 2:30 a.m. Friday, June 25-26. The burglar ripped out a window screen to gain entrance to the residence, which was occupied at the time of the burglary.

—A home on the 1000 block of Portland Avenue was broken into between 3:00 and 4:30 p.m. Sunday, June 28.

Sex crime—A St. Paul man was cited for prostitution at Aurora Avenue and Farrington Street at about 3:30 a.m. Thursday, June 25.

West End

Burglary—Three TVs were stolen from a home on the 100 block of Forbes Avenue between 6:30 a.m. Friday and 2:30 p.m. Saturday, June 26-27.

Weapons—Shots were fired during a fight among a large group of teens at Osceola and Palace avenues at about 10:30 p.m. Monday, June 29. Police recovered bullet casings in the intersection.

Miscellaneous—Two men and a woman were arrested for possession of firearms, cocaine and heroin following the execution of a search warrant on the 200 block of Nugent Street at about 7:30 a.m. Thursday, June 25.



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How to Start a Business in Minnesota

7 p.m. Wed. • July 15 • James J. Hill Reference Library, 80 West 4th St., St. Paul • 651-265-5500

Mike Ryan, director of the Small Business Development Center at the University of St. Thomas where he advises small business clients from early-stage growth through maturity, will explain how to make your small business idea a reality.

Marketing Your Business & Yourself

7 p.m. Wed. • July 22 • James J. Hill Reference Library, 80 West 4th St., St. Paul • 651-265-5500

Dr. George Dierberger, entrepreneur and adjunct professor at Argosy University with a long history of marketing management at 3M, will deliver real world small business marketing strategies, ideas and tips that are simple, effective and affordable.

Getting Financing for Your New Business

7 p.m. Wed. • July 29 • Rondo Community Outreach Library, 461 N. Dale St., St. Paul • 651-266-7400

Cindy Collett, specialist with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), will focus on where to get the financing you need to start your small business. She will guide you through the services offered by the SBA, as well as other important funding resources for new businesses.

Ten Ways to Survive and Thrive in Today's Market

7 p.m. Wed. • Aug 5 • Rondo Community Outreach Library, 461 N. Dale St., St. Paul • 651-266-7400

Brian Singer, director of lending at the Neighborhood Development Center will provide strategies to sustain and adapt a business in hard economic times.

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Rondo Days are here again

26th annual festival set for July 16-18

A parade, live music, a drill-team competition and a senior citizen social are once again on tap for the 26th annual Rondo Days celebration on the third weekend in July.

Rondo Days, one of the largest African American-sponsored festivals in the state, pays tribute to the memories of the old Rondo neighborhood that was split in two in the early 1960s by the construction of I-94.

Every summer since 1983, Rondo Days organizers have done their best to span the canyon that was created by the freeway. This year's festival, which carries the theme "Celebrating the Village, the Land, the People and the Spirit," will begin with a free dinner for senior citizens from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 16, at Mount Olivet Baptist Church, 451 Central Ave. The dinner will include entertainment in honor of the neighborhood's elders. (Call 651-646-6597 to register.)

On Saturday, July 18, the Rondo 5K Walk and Run will begin at 9:00 a.m. at Martin Luther King Park, 270 N. Kent St. All ages are

welcome to participate.

The Rondo Days parade will step off at 10:00 a.m. Saturday. Marching units will converge at St. Peter Claver Church on Central Avenue and make their way to the festival grounds at Martin Luther King Park.

New this year is the Major Taylor Bicycling Club of Minnesota's bike run. The 25-mile ride will take participants from Minneapolis to St. Paul. (Visit www.majortaylormn.org.)

Following the parade, the Rondo Days festival will be celebrated from 11:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the park. The festival will feature live music by a variety of jazz, gospel and R&B groups, along with children's games, clowns, food and face-painting.

The annual drill team competition will take place from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Saturday in Griffin Stadium at Central High School. Some of the best drill teams in the country will be competing for prizes based on showmanship and creativity.

For more information, call the Rondo Days hotline at 651-646-6597.



Food, fun and a chance to reminisce are sure to draw a crowd to Rondo Days. PHOTOS BY ANNE BRANDRUD



Business Briefs

The Minnesota Trade Office, 332 Minnesota St., will hold a practicum from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 22, for those who want to increase export sales to Chinese customers. The cost is \$75 in advance or \$95 at the door, and includes light breakfast, lunch and materials. Call 651-297-4265.

Wolves Head, a new art store, opened on July 4 at 1665 Grand Ave. with an exhibition of art by Iraqi citizens and local international students. The exhibit will remain on view through July 25. Visitors may also sign up for art classes, including jewelry making, bead weaving, quilting, a men's sewing circle and other fiber arts. Store hours are 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. during the week and 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Sunday.

Free small business seminars being offered at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays include: "How to Start a Business in Minnesota" on July 15 and "Marketing Your New Business" on July 22 at the James J. Hill Library, 80 W. 4th St.; and "Getting Financing for Your New Business" on July 29 and "Ten Ways to Survive and Thrive in Today's Market" on August 5 at the

Grand opens doors to four-legged friends

Pet owners are once again being invited to stroll Grand Avenue with their furry friends during the fourth annual Paws on Grand promotion on Sunday, August 2. The participating members of the Grand Avenue Business Association will be offering sales, treats and other attractions from noon to 4:00 p.m. that day.

Proceeds from the events will benefit the Animal Humane Society (AHS), which will have tables set up at Whole Foods and Victoria Crossing with information about its programs, along with pet waste bags, free pet sitters, dog wading pools and water. The society's mobile services unit will also be implanting microchips in pets (\$40) and trimming nails (\$12) at Kowalski's on Grand.

Rondo Library, 461 N. Dale St. Call 651-265-5500 or visit www.sppl.org/workplace.

Southside Kettlebells has opened at 3107 42nd St. E., Minneapolis. Kettlebells, which are believed to have originated in Russia, are

Paws on Grand Passports to Fun may be picked up at the mobile services unit outside Kowalski's or at the society's information booths. Stamps may be collected from participating businesses and the passports may be turned in at the pet parade that will be held at 3:00 p.m. at Grand Avenue Veterinary Center, 1140 Grand, for a chance to win a prize. A pet talent show will follow the parade at 3:15 p.m. at the center. Registration forms will be available at the information booths and mobile unit.

There will also be a doggie kissing booth at Victoria Crossing where you can get a smooch from a pooch for a \$1.00.

For more information, call 651-699-0029 or visit www.grandave.com.

cast iron weights that look like cannonballs with handles. The weights reportedly help improve mobility, strength, endurance, power and body awareness. Classes are offered six days a week, and the first class is free. Visit www.Southsidekettlebells.com.

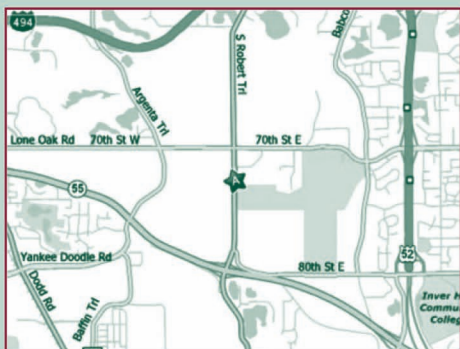
A job search representative from Goodwill-Easter Seals will help patrons with looking for a job, filling out applications, and working on their resumes from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Wednesdays, July 15-29, at the Central Library, 90 W. 4th St. Call 651-266-7000, ext. 5.

Aspire Chiropractic, 333 Grand Ave., will offer "Freedom from pain and symptoms" first-day services, including X-rays, from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. Thursday, July 16, for a \$25 donation to sponsor local veterans. Call 651-294-2332 to schedule an appointment.

St. Paul City Ballet successfully defended its Best in Show title by winning the same award for the second year in a row in the 2009 Grand Old Day parade on June 7. Its parade entry consisted of ballet dancers in recycled costumes and a giant Mother Earth made of recycled material. This year's parade included more than 70 units and was themed "It's Grand Being Green." The Best in Show recipient receives a 3-foot-tall traveling trophy to place in its business for the month of July. For the rest of the year, the trophy is displayed in the Grand Avenue Business Association's office.

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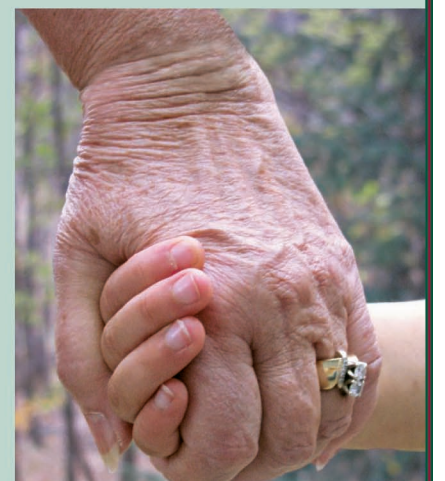
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Food

Mississippi Market Bigger, better natural foods co-op readies to open on West 7th Street

BY NANCY CROTTI

The 30-year-old Mississippi Market Natural Foods Co-op closed its store on Randolph and Fairview avenues on Saturday, July 11, and will open a new store that is twice the size at 1500 W. 7th St. on Thursday, July 16. The opening ceremony will begin at 10:00 a.m. that day with the dedication of a “peace pole.” There will also be refreshments from Mississippi Market vendors and ongoing mini-classes.

The \$5 million West End store is located next to Sholom Home Community Alliance’s new Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Apartments, a few blocks from the West 7th interchange to and from I-35E. After opening day, store hours will be from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. daily.

The move follows years of looking for a new location in the Highland Park and Mcalester-Groveland neighborhoods, a search that intensified after St. Paul Academy purchased the Randolph Avenue building for that school’s future campus expansion. Mississippi Market had leased the building from SPA for

“It’s exciting to open a brand-new store that’s being built to the environmental standards that we chose, and to be able to provide a deli, juice bar, fresh-cut meats and more selection.”

seven years, according to co-op general manager Gail Graham.

“It’s just been a great neighborhood to be a part of,” she said. “To be that close to St. Kate’s was sweet.”

When the search for a new location in the immediate area proved fruitless, the co-op expanded its search and ultimately opted to build on West 7th. At 13,345 square feet, the new store is roughly the same size as the co-op’s 10-year-old store at 622 Selby Ave., which will remain open, and will offer some features that the Randolph store was too small to ac-



Grocery manager Kim Price stocks shelves prior to the July 16 grand opening of the new Mississippi Market Natural Foods Co-op at 1500 W. 7th St. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

commodate, according to store manager Patrick Werle.

“It’s bittersweet,” Werle said of leaving the Randolph store, where he had worked since 1993. “Having had a lot of history in this store, I was sad that we couldn’t find a way to stay

in the neighborhood. But I also feel the co-op has a responsibility to branch out to new neighborhoods and I think people will realize it’s not as far as they think.

MISSISSIPPI MARKET ► 18



Hot Dish

By Morgan Smith

Plums carries on a McQuillan tradition

Dan McQuillan, owner of Plums Neighborhood Grill and Bar at 480 S. Snelling Ave., takes the “neighborhood” in his establishment’s name seriously. “We live in the neighborhood,” said McQuillan, 44. “We’ve got six kids. They go to local schools. We try to do our best to be a good neighbor.”

McQuillan and his family trace their ancestry back to the first McQuillan to arrive in St. Paul in the 1850s, the one who started the wholesale grocery business that helped finance the private schooling of a young F. Scott Fitzgerald.

“Don’t quote me on this,” McQuillan said, “but I think my dad’s great aunt was Scott’s mom.”

For most St. Paulites, the McQuillan name is most closely associated with McQuillan Plumbing, which according to Dan is the oldest continuously operating business in St. Paul. “My dad ran McQuillan Plumbing before he sold out to get into the bar business,” Dan said.

The elder McQuillan was co-owner of McIn’s, the bar and restaurant that preceded Plums in the same location at the corner of Snelling and Randolph avenues. Dan cooked and cleaned at McIn’s while attending high school at Cretin-Derham Hall. Dan then moved on to the University of St. Thomas, and his father sold McIn’s. The new owner, Dean Vlahos, founder of the Champps chain of restaurants, changed the name to Plums, but after six years he contacted Dan’s father to see if he was interested in buying it back, according to Dan.

“I was 25,” Dan said. “It seemed like a good time to go into the business.” So Dan took over Plums’ contract for deed.

Despite the downturn in the economy, Plums’ “numbers are fine,” McQuillan said. “We just get busy at different times of the day now. Happy hour isn’t as busy because fewer people are stopping by on their way home from work, and (with the smoking ban) we don’t get the patrons late at night having a drink and a smoke at the bar. But we make up for it at other times.”

One of those times is Sunday nights. Three years ago, Plums



The colorful Arcola Salad at Plums Grill and Bar comes with grilled chicken, mandarin oranges, walnuts and a Parmesan bread stick.

PHOTOS BY JANET HOSTETTER

began hosting a Minnesota Songwriter Showcase beginning at 9:00 p.m. on Sundays. Local musicians stop in and sing a couple of songs on Plums’ stage. Highland Park musician Nick Hensley or one of his buddies sits in and plays whatever instrument the singer needs for accompaniment, and another local musician, Jim Carey, runs the sound board.

My friends and I arrived at 7:00 p.m. on a recent Sunday. Plums’ patio was half full at the time and there were a couple of people seated at the bar, but the restaurant itself was all but empty. However, over the next two hours, the patrons trickled in and the restaurant was full by the time the entertainment started. The program featured some fine performances and a few light moments. When the infant of one of the vocalists crawled up on her lap, she didn’t miss a note but finished her song with the help of a talented bassist.

Plums has a host of large sandwiches, heaping plates of French fries and a nice assortment of salads on its menu. We started off with the sampler platter (\$10.95). Enough fried food to clog all of our arteries, it included chicken fingers, jalapeno poppers, mozzarella sticks, chicken satay and buffalo wings along with three dipping sauces. The peanut sauce for the satay was our favorite. Some of my friends thought the poppers were too mild, but everything on the plate, including the poppers, disappeared quickly.

One of my guests enjoyed his bowl of Manhattan clam chowder (a \$1.25 substitution for the fries). I wasn’t as en-

thused about the French onion soup that came with my entrée, which was the chicken pesto penne (\$10.95), a plate of sautéed penne pasta with red peppers, red onions, pecans, walnuts, white wine, parsley, parmesan and fresh basil in a mint pesto. I thought the pasta was a little heavy on the olive oil, but I took what I couldn’t finish home with me and enjoyed it even more the next day.

The fajita burger special (\$7.95) was quite tasty, as was the wild rice turkey burger (\$7.95). However, the star of the evening was the Virginia (\$7.25), a generous heaping of grilled turkey on wild rice bread with bacon, lettuce, tomato, Swiss cheese and thousand island dressing.

For dessert, we sampled slices of three different cheesecakes at \$4.25 each—key lime, raspberry and turtle. The key lime tasted more like a pie, and the turtle more like a torte, but both were OK. The raspberry cheesecake really was cheesecake, but it wasn’t any better because of it.

Plums offers a host of weekday happy-hour drink specials, all the Miller Premium Light you can drink for \$8.00 on Thursday night, vodka and chicken-wing specials on Saturday, and a build-your-own Bloody Mary bar on Saturday and Sunday. For my money, Sunday evening is the best time to stop into this neighborhood establishment. Dining on a tasty burger out on the patio and then slipping inside to listen to live music composed by local artists is about as good as it gets on a balmy summer night in Minnesota.

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17◀ MISSISSIPPI MARKET

"It's exciting to open a brand-new store that's being built to the environmental standards that we chose, and to be able to provide a deli, juice bar, fresh-cut meats and more selection," Werle added.

Market studies revealed that Mississippi Market's shoppers wanted more seating, natural lighting and a neighborhood gathering space, Graham said. The new store will offer all that and more: seating indoors for 30 and outdoors for 10; a full-service deli with a hot bar and salad bar; four cashier lanes; a staffed health and body care counter; a larger produce department with expanded cooler space and an ice table; classroom and meeting space with a demonstration kitchen; 55 parking spots, including dedicated spaces for an HourCar shared vehicle and for hybrid and compact cars; and twice the number of bicycle racks.

The store was built to meet the federal Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold standard, and will use 42 percent less energy than a conventional building of the same size and use, according to Christina Nicholson, the new store's project manager. The building's "green" features include permeable pavers with a runoff system to funnel storm water into a rain garden with native plants, sensor-equipped interior lights that shut off when there is enough natural light coming in through the 11 skylights, a high-efficiency rooftop heating and air-conditioning system, a white roof to reflect heat and light, a heat-recapture unit to reduce the amount of energy needed to heat water, and energy-saving LED lights in the new freezers



The new energy-efficient Mississippi Market on West 7th. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

and walk-in cooler.

Seventy-five percent of all construction waste was recycled and the co-op purchased a reconditioned bulk cooler and two produce cases from the Seward Co-op in Minneapolis.

Plans are to hire 15 new employees from the West 7th neighborhood.

Co-op member Mary Courteau of Macalester-Groveland recalls being among the first employees of Mississippi Market, where she began as a member-volunteer when the co-op split off from Merri-Grove Community Foods co-op in 1979. The first Mississippi Market opened at 1549 St. Clair Ave., the current location of ArtStart, and was managed as a collective.

Courteau went on to manage the store and was in charge when the co-op bought the former Vogel's grocery store on Randolph 18 years ago. The Vogel's building was three times the size of the original store.

"We walked in and said, 'Oh my God,

it's so huge! What have we done? It's too big!'" she recalled. "Within three years it was way too small."

The search for larger quarters included the sites of the former R.C. Dick's supermarket building (now Whole Foods Market) at Grand and Fairview avenues and the former Walgreens building on Snelling Avenue just south of Randolph. However, suitable commercial property in the neighborhood at the right price was hard to come by, according to Courteau, who left her position as general manager in 1995 but remains a co-op member.

Market studies showed that one-half to two-thirds of Mississippi Market's more than 9,000 member-owners will follow the co-op to its new location, according to Graham, and others may gravitate to the Selby store.

"I'm sure they're going to lose some (customers)," Courteau said. "We lost customers when we moved to Randolph. But there are always more people, too."

Tidbits

Local History Pub Crawls are stepping out at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays from the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. The two-hour programs will include visits to pubs in downtown St. Paul on July 15, Summit Hill on July 22 and the West End on August 5. A trolley will transport participants to the pubs. The tours are restricted to those age 21 and older. The cost is \$20-\$25. Drinks are not included in the price, but drink specials will be available at participating bars. Call 651-259-3015 or visit www.minnesotahistorycenter.org.

"The Fundamentals of Cooking" will be taught for 12 weeks this summer at All Inc., 185 W. Plato Blvd. Conducted by chef Ross Sveback, the classes will cover everything from the basics of baking to making the perfect egg souffle. They will be held from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Wednesdays and 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturdays in All Inc.'s recently remodeled and fully functional kitchens. The July 18 class will be on how to roast the perfect chicken. The cost is \$40 per class and includes tasting all of the food prepared. To register, visit www.allinc.com or call 651-227-6331.

com or call 651-227-6331.

The Midtown Farmers' Market, 2225 E. Lake St., Minneapolis, which is open from 8:00 to 1:00 p.m. on Saturdays, will now also be open from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. every Tuesday through the end of October. Along with shopping for locally grown fruits and vegetables, Tuesday evening market-goers will be able to listen to live music and enjoy dinner or a snack prepared by one of the market's vendors. Visit www.midtownfarmersmarket.org.

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Wednesday/July 15

A FREE TOUR OF RICE PARK will be offered at 10:00 this morning. Meet at the information desk at Landmark Center. Call 651-292-3063 to reserve space.

A VICTORIAN NIGHTS program on “Living Green in the 1870s” will be offered at 6:00 this evening at the Alexander Ramsey House, 265 S. Exchange St. Take a tour of the Ramsey House and garden to learn about “green” living in the Victorian Era and how some of the ideas can be translated into modern lifestyle. Admission is \$6.00-\$9.00. Call 651-296-8760.

A TEEN GIRLS’ CIRCLE will be offered from 3:00 to 5:00 this afternoon and on Wednesdays through August 12 at the West 7th Community Center, 265 Oneida St. The circle is free and open to all area high school girls, and includes activities, food and transportation. To register, call Jane Gregerson at 651-298-5493, ext. 215.

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS will hold a Culver’s “Pint for a Pint” blood drive from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. today at the YWCA, 375 Selby Ave. Call 1-800-448-3543.

Thursday/July 16

THE ST. PAUL METRO LA LECHE League will meet at 7:00 this evening. All expectant and nursing mothers and their babies are welcome. For meeting location, call 645-8516.

FREE FAMILY, CRIMINAL and immigration law consultations will be offered from 4:30 to 6:00 and 3:30 to 5:00 this evening, respectively, at the West 7th Community Center, 265 Oneida St. Attorney David Mortensen of Tarrant, Drummer & Liska will provide advice on family law or criminal law issues and Leslie Guyton of the Guyton Law Firm will advise on immigration. For an appointment, call Jane Gregerson at 651-298-5493, ext. 215.

Friday/July 17

THE RELAY FOR LIFE, a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society, will be held from 6:00 this evening until 6:00 tomorrow morning at the Highland Park Senior High School track. The ninth annual event will feature guest speakers, food, fun and funky music as teams of 8-15 people take turns walking or running around a track all night. Participant are encouraged to raise \$100 or more to support cancer research. Visit www.relayforlife.org/highlandpark.

Saturday/July 18

THE LONGFELLOW GARDEN CLUB will have a tour of members’ gardens this evening. Meet at Epworth United Methodist Church, 3207 37th Ave. S., Minneapolis, at 7:00 p.m. for directions and carpooling.

A CITY OF MENDOTA WALKING tour will be offered at 10:30 this morning from the Sibley House Historic Site in Mendota. View original landmarks in one of the oldest towns in the state on this 90-minute guided walk through historic downtown Mendota. After the tour, light refreshments will be served at the home of Henry Sibley’s clerk, Hypolite Dupuis. The cost is \$4.00 to \$6.00. Call 651-452-1596.

A RIVER HISTORY WALKING TOUR



Send the word over there.

Todd Hintz describes former infantry barracks on a walking tour of Fort Snelling’s Upper Post, where many World War II-era buildings still stand. Another tour will be offered at noon Sunday, July 26. The cost is \$4.00-\$6.00. Admission to the fort is not included. Call 612-726-1171. PHOTO BY ANNE BRANDRUD

will be offered at 10:30 this morning and on Saturday, August 1, from the Sibley House Historic Site in Mendota. The guided walk will include information about the history of “the Entry”—the juncture of the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers—and its importance to the fur trade and development of Minnesota as a state. Leashed dogs are welcome (please remember bags). The cost is \$4.00-\$6.00. Call 651-452-1596.

Sunday/July 19

AN ICE CREAM SOCIAL will be held by the Lexington-Hamline Community Council during the grand opening of the newly remodeled Hague Tot Lot from noon to 3:00 p.m. today at the park, which is located adjacent to the Hamline Avenue bridge over Ayd Mill Road. Bring a lawn chair and join in the food and fun. Volunteers are needed. Call 651-645-3207.

Monday/July 20

A CIRCLE OF PARENTS support group will meet from 5:30 to 7:30 this evening and on following Mondays at the West 7th Community Center, 265 Oneida St. Participation is free and child care and a light dinner are provided. Call Jane Gregerson at 651-298-5493, ext. 215.

OPEN SQUARE DANCING will take place from 6:15 to 8:00 this evening at the West 7th Community Center, 265 Oneida St. Music and caller provided by the Dakota Grand Squares. The cost is \$3.00 and families are welcomed. Call 651-298-5493.

Tuesday/July 21

A CONVERSATIONAL SALON will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 this evening at the Mad Hatter’s Tea House, 943 W. 7th St. The salon is free, but donations are requested for the program and treats. Call 651-227-3228.

WOMEN’S BREAST HEALTH and thermography will be discussed by

representatives of Crescenterra Health Center from 6:45 to 8:00 this evening at the Merriam Park Library, 1831 Marshall Ave. Participants will learn about early detection of breast disease using digital technology. Admission is free. Call 651-917-3990.

Wednesday/July 22

A HIKE FOR GROWNUPS will be offered at 7:00 this evening at the Dodge Nature Center in West St. Paul. The pace will be comfortable, but the terrain could be a bit hilly. There will be frequent stops for observing wildlife. The cost is \$10-\$14. A second hike will be held on August 19. Call 651-455-4531.

Friday/July 24

THE COFFEE HOUSE will be open for refreshments, live music, board games and conversation from 7:00 to 10:00 this evening at St. Luke Lutheran Church, 1807 Field Ave. Call 651-698-9443.

Saturday/July 25

A CIVIL WAR WALKING TOUR will be offered at 10:00 this morning at Fort Snelling. The tour will focus on the fort from 1858 to 1865, including the role President Lincoln played in the trials of the Dakota, and a walk down to the memorial located where the Dakota were held over the deadly winter of 1862-63. The cost is \$4.00-\$6.00. Admission to the fort is not included. Call 612-726-1171.

Sunday/July 26

AN ICE CREAM SOCIAL will take place from 1:00 to 5:00 this afternoon at Minnehaha United Church of Christ, 4001 38th Ave. S., Minneapolis. There will be ice cream sundaes, root beer floats, cones, a bake sale and a silent auction, as well as jazz featuring “The Girls,” Lori Dokken, Patty Peterson, Judi Donaghy and Erin Schwab, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Call 612-729-7556.

Monday/July 27

A WOMEN’S ROUND TABLE on investigating a crime scene will be offered at 9:15 this morning at the Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave. Katherine Igowsky of the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension will offer an inside look into evaluating evidence to find who “dunnit.” Contact Beth Friend at 651-255-4735 or bfriend@stpauljcc.org.

A VICTORIAN GIRL DAY ACADEMY will be offered today and tomorrow at the Alexander Ramsey House, 265 S. Exchange St. Girls ages 7-9 will experience Victorian fashion, table manners, crafts and parlor dancing. They are encouraged to wear dress-up clothes or “princess” outfits. Tours of the mansion will be offered each day to learn more about the lives of Ramsey granddaughters Laura and Anita Furness. A second session will be offered on Wednesday and Thursday, July 29-30. The cost is \$75-\$80. Call 651-296-8760.

THE ST. PAUL MIDWAY LIONS CLUB will hold its monthly meeting from noon to 1:30 p.m. today at O’Gara’s Bar & Grill, 164 N. Snelling Ave. The featured speaker will be state Attorney General Lori Swanson.

Tuesday/July 28

A CONVERSATIONAL SALON will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 this evening at the Mad Hatter’s Tea House, 943 W. 7th St. The evening will mark the start of the Little Book of the Odd Month Club. The first book that will be read and discussed is *Desert Solitaire* by Edward Abbey. The salon is free, but donations are requested for the program and treats. Call 651-227-3228.

THE ST. PAUL HIKING CLUB will meet at 7:30 this evening by Horace Mann Elementary School, 2001 Eleanor Ave. Call 651-455-0052.

Saturday/August 1

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. Take a 90-minute walking tour of what has been called one of America’s “greatest streets” and learn about the Gilded-Age mansions and the people who owned them, as well as the architecture, social history and current preservation issues of the historic neighborhood. The tours will continue every weekend in August. The cost is \$6.00-\$8.00. Call 651-297-2555.

Tuesday/August 4

“**MINNESOTA, LINCOLN** and the U.S. Civil War: An Evening with Ed Bearss” will be presented at 7:00 this evening at Fort Snelling. Bearss, former chief historian of the National Park Service, will speak about Minnesota’s important role in the Union’s victory in the U.S. Civil War. Admission is free. Call 612-726-1171.

NOOKS AND CRANNIES TOURS will be offered at 6:00 and 7:00 this evening at the James J. Hill House, 240 Summit Ave. Explore the back staircases, dust chutes, silver vault and more on this 90-minute “behind-the-scenes” tour, which will be led by a costumed interpreter portraying one of the construction workers. The cost is \$6.00-\$10. Call 651-297-2555.

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School Notes

Highland Park Senior High School freshmen Dena Coffman, Erica Dombro and Hannah Powers took first place in the senior group documentary category with their project on Sir Edmund Hillary in the 2009 National History Day competition at the University of Maryland. The students were awarded a \$5,000 History Channel documentary scholarship. Seventeen out of 32 Minnesota entries advanced to the national finals, with seven earning first-, second- or third-place medals.

Local students appointed to U.S. military academies include St. Thomas Academy seniors Kevin McMullen to West Point and John Lamey, Woody Stensland and Sam Johnson to the U.S. Naval Academy; and Cretin-Derham Hall graduates R.J. Speidel (class of 2008) and Carlitos Valero (2009) to West Point and the U.S. Air Force Academy, respectively.

The Highland Park Senior High School class of 1969 will hold its 40-year reunion at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, August 15, at the University Club, 420 Summit Ave. The cost is \$69. Visit www.hphs69.com.

St. Thomas Academy freshmen Tryg Veker and Daniel Sosa ranked ninth and 10th in the nation, respectively, in the National French Contest. Cadets also placing in the top 20 percent of Minnesota students taking the test included freshmen James Hartnett and 8th-grader Sifa Kajunju.

Five St. Paul students were chosen as ART contest winners for the 2009 Flint Hills International Children's Festival for designing posters with the theme "Flights of Fancy." The students were kindergartner Linnea Olberg of Horace Mann Elementary, 2nd-grader Soren Eversoll of Randolph Heights Elementary, freshman Rochelle Contreras of St. Paul Open School, homeschooled sophomore Mackenzie Lee and junior Pa Her of International Academy LEAP.

St. Thomas Academy seniors John Bellomo, Brennan Lee and Ryan Robinson have been presented with the annual Salute to Youth award in recognition of their achievements in volunteer projects, academics, sports, spiritual development and family. The program is sponsored by Degree of Honor, a St. Paul fraternal insurance society.



National History Day winners Dena Coffman, left, Erica Dombro and Hannah Powers. MN HISTORICAL SOCIETY PHOTO

IQ Academy Minnesota, an online school for students in grades 6-12, will host an open house from 10:00 a.m. to noon and from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Saturday, August 1, at the Holiday Inn-RiverCentre, 175 W. 7th St. The tuition-free school is currently enrolling for the 2009-10 school year. Visit www.iqacademymn.org or call 1-877-994-4766.

The Summit Preschool, 1524 Summit Ave., will hold an open house from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 21. Openings for fall are available in morning or afternoon sessions for children ages 3-5. Call 651-690-1520.

St. Thomas Academy won the College Options Foundation's 2009 JROTC Leadership and Academic Bowl on June 26-30 at George Mason University in Virginia. STA competed against 23 regional champion teams from around the world and defeated Lowell High School of San Francisco for the title. Team members included senior Tim Mannuzza, juniors Madison Whalen and John Ryan, and sophomore James Hartnett.

St. Paul Preparatory School, located on the first floor of Galtier Plaza at 380 Jackson St., will hold an open house from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Thursday, July 16. The school has openings in grades 9-12 for fall 2009. Call 651-288-4606 or visit www.stpaulprep.org.



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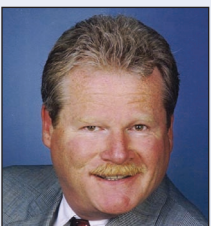
Jeannie Marver



DICK & TOM DISTAD
651-690-8516



PETER DONOVAN
651-690-8519



GARY FABEL
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KIM FLANAGHAN
651-695-3422



NANCY GIPPLE
651-497-4121



PAULA GLEESON
651-282-9679



MARNA HOLMAN
651-282-9619



KATHRYN
612-558

Names in the News

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Monument Chapter dedicated a new flagpole in June at the historic DuPuis House in Mendota. It replaced the original flagpole, which the chapter dedicated in 1939 but blew down several years ago. The new 30-foot-tall flagpole was donated by the chapter at a cost of \$1,335. American Legion Post 521 donated the flag and provided a color guard for the dedication ceremony. Visit www.sibley-friends.org/location.htm.

Local Girl Scouts receiving the Gold Award, the organization's highest honor for girls, include Katherine Heer of the Agriculture and Sciences Academy, whose service project included making a promotional video and a cabinet for Francis Basket and Clare's Closet in Highland Park; Monica Johnson of Visitation School, who organized a fun run based on the number pi; and Katherine Labuza of St. Paul Academy, who led volunteers in creating blankets for Sharing & Caring Hands.

Juanita Ikuta of Highland Park and fellow doctoral holder **Jody Neuman-Aamlie** of Macalester-Groveland are looking for women living in the *Villager* area who are interested in sharing their stories about child-rearing. They are especially

interested in women who have made significant parenting, personal, career or community service accomplishments while raising children under extreme circumstances and are willing to share their stories for publication. For information, e-mail demystify.perfectionism@gmail.com or call 651-233-0429.

Christopher Struve and **Nathan Arnosti** of Boy Scout Troop 91 received their Eagle Scout Award this spring at Pilgrim Lutheran Church. Struve is the son of Missy and Greg Struve and is a senior at Highland Park Senior High School. Arnosti is the son of Meg and Don Arnosti and is a senior at Central High.

Shawn Bartsh, a Highland Park attorney, has been elected vice president of the Ramsey County Bar Association. She will lead the organization as president in 2011-2012. Bartsh handles alternative dispute resolution and personal injury cases. She has served on the association's board since 2006.

Margaret Hasse of Macalester-Groveland was named a winner of the Midwest Independent Publishers Association's 19th annual Midwest Book Awards. She was honored in the poetry category for her book *Milk and Tides* (Nodin Press). Winning books are at www.mipa.org.



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Religious Notes

Jews age 55 and older are invited to join the Temple of Aaron Hazak group on an excursion to the Como Lakeside Pavilion to hear the Como Pops Ensemble perform at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, August 2. A picnic will follow. Participants are asked to bring their own supper along with a dessert to share. Call 651-698-4358.

"Sacred Life," a new informal worship service, is being offered at 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday at St. Luke Lutheran Church, 1807 Field Ave. All are welcome. Call 651-698-9443.

St. Clement's Church, 901 Portland Ave., is offering a Midweek Meet-Up on Wednesdays this summer. The program begins with a 6:00 p.m. potluck dinner. An activity will follow at 6:30 p.m. Call 651-228-1164.

The Temple of Aaron, 616 S. Mississippi River Blvd., will offer an informational grief group from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. on the first and third Wednesdays of each month (call 651-698-0767); "Coffee with Rashi" at 8:00 a.m. every Saturday led by Rabbi Alan Shavit-Lonstein

(no class August 15); a Talmud class at 6:30 p.m. each Thursday; a Hebrew class at 10:30 a.m. each Sunday; and a Bible class at 7:30 p.m. each Thursday. Call 651-698-8874.

A Mass for healing will be held at 7:30 p.m. Monday, July 20, at Lumen Christi Catholic Church, 2055 Bohland Ave. The Reverend Jim Livingston will celebrate the Mass, which will be preceded at 7:15 p.m. with the saying of a Rosary by the St. Francis Prayer Group. Call 651-699-7098 or 651-690-2553.



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Highland Fest



Sink your teeth into summer

Swing on over to Highland Village for three days of hot fun in the sun

BY BOB GILBERT

Highland Village is where it's happening on July 17-19 when the Highland Business Association rolls out its 26th annual Highland Fest. Three blocks of Ford Parkway will be closed to motor-vehicle traffic to make way for two music stages, three food courts, 80-plus artists' booths, a business and home improvement expositions, carnival rides and a host of other activities for people of all ages.

Highland Fest offers something for just about everyone. For music lovers, the festival will feature such regional acts as Mick Sterling and the Irresistibles on Friday evening, G.B. Leighton on Saturday evening and the Rockin' Hollywoods on Sunday afternoon. For creative types, there's the Highland Art Fair, a juried show and sale that will showcase the works of close to 90 artists and craftspeople. And for the sports-minded, there'll be a men's softball tournament on Saturday and Sunday at the Hillcrest Recreation Center and a 5-kilometer race and 1-kilometer fun run along Mississippi River Boulevard on Sunday morning.

A Strongman Competition will be held all

day on Sunday at Hillcrest, inviting entrants to push, pull, lift and drag such dead weight as a 250-pound keg, an 800-pound tire, a 240-pound oxygen cylinder, a 200-pound steel suitcase and a 630-pound wooden beam.

The Highland Fest Midway at Hillcrest will be packed with games and more than a dozen rides for young and old alike. A costumed children's parade will step out at 10:00 a.m. Saturday. The Kids' Corner will feature clowns, live music, face painting, pony rides on Saturday and a petting zoo on Sunday. Bingo will be played in the beer tent from noon to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, and a fireworks show will end the festivities in a flourish at 10:30 p.m. on both Friday and Saturday.

New this year to Highland Fest is the Beer Dabblers Showcase, which will be held from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Saturday in front of Highland Bank. For \$25, connoisseurs of frothy fermented beverages can sample more than 100 craft beers produced by three dozen different microbreweries.

"The Beer Dabblers Showcase is for people who really enjoy beer and want to sample the different kinds of high-quality brews that are available from little-known breweries," said



Joel Finley of Minneapolis' Longfellow neighborhood chomped down on a caramel apple at last year's Highland Fest, where Midway couple Jean Jordan and Jerry Ski were seen twisting the afternoon away. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

HBA executive director Shelly Harris. "The whole point is for education and entertainment, not for inebriation."

Highland Fest organizers are expecting attendance this year to top 60,000 for the three days. According to Harris, who serves on the board of the Minnesota Event and Festival Association, all St. Paul festivals have been doing better this summer, perhaps because people are staying closer to home due to the downturn in the economy.

Three dozen local businesses, agencies and institutions will be promoting their products or services from booths in the Highland Fest Business Fair. For the first time in a long time, Ford Motor Company will not have a major presence at Highland Fest. In its place, Highland Fest is staging a home improvement expo with informational displays and presentations by 18 local contractors, manufacturers and retailers.

"We thought that with our demographics and all the aging homes in the area, (the home improvement fair) would be a good draw," Harris said.

"We've also improved the layout of the festival in an attempt to make things run more effectively," said Anne Langford, chair of this

year's Highland Fest committee. "We've made the food court, the business fair and the art fair three distinct areas that won't interfere with each other."

The musical stage that traditionally stood in front of Barnes and Noble at Ford Parkway and Cleveland has been moved to the corner of Ford Parkway and Finn Street where it will augment the beer-tasting experience and not separate the art fair from the business fair and home improvement expo.

The total budget for Highland Fest is more than \$100,000 annually. Traditionally, the HBA turns a small profit from the event through business sponsorships and the fees paid by the art fair artists, the two dozen food vendors and other participants.

Highland Fest will run from 2:00 to 10:30 p.m. Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Saturday, and 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sunday.

To help make it a success, the HBA relies on a host of volunteers. Though the association has already enlisted more than 100, more are needed to help set up, maintain and tear down the festival grounds.

For more information on volunteering or on the festival as a whole, visit www.highlandfest.com.



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Highland Park ceramicist Miriam Shuros displays one of her found-iron wall creations (below) and her clay pendants (left). PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER



Fired up about art: Ceramicist Shuros perfects pendant designs

BY BOB GILBERT

There's a spiritual quality to the stone-ware jewelry made by Miriam Shuros of Highland Park. The images she presses into clay come from plants and ornate antique glass buttons whose circular shapes resemble mandalas.

Shuros is one of nearly 90 artists who will exhibit their creations in the 41st annual Highland Art Fair, which is being held on July 17-19 in conjunction with Highland Fest. Paintings, drawings, sculpture, pottery, photography, printmaking, jewelry, wearable art and works in glass, wood, fiber, paper, leather and mixed media will be shown and sold in the middle of Ford Parkway between Cleveland Avenue and Kenneth Street.

Since committing to pottery three years ago, Shuros has shown little interest in making traditional ceramics. Instead, she has focused on jewelry and sculpture. "I'm very conscious of what my work means," she said. "For me, it's about capturing something beautiful and making it accessible to someone else."

In searching for colors and designs, Shuros has developed the patience of an alchemist, experimenting with more than 90 different glazes and adjusting the manganese, feldspar, kaolin and flint content to get the desired results. "I've become interested in discovering better chemical applications so I can make more attractive designs," Shuros said. "I don't always understand the chemistry involved, but I know what works."

Shuros said she has "spent the last three years learning how to do it well. Though I share facts about my jewelry, I do not share the recipe for my glazes."

Shuros' ceramic pendants start out as chocolate-colored clay flattened to about an eighth of an inch with an extruder. She fires her pieces initially in a kiln that is heated to 1,600 degrees. After letting them cool, she applies the glazes, which she compares to chalky paint. She also sprinkles glass shards on top of the glaze and then fires the piece a second time in a kiln heated to 2,350 degrees. The heat melts the glass, which pools out into unpredictable designs, adding a sheen that gives the surface of her jewelry a greater sense of depth.

"Firing at the right temperature is everything, so the glaze doesn't pit and ruin the artistic effect," Shuros said. "I create my pieces with as much consistency as anything handmade can be. But everything is completely individual, since what happens in a kiln is often

spontaneous and never comes out the same way twice."

Shuros has about 40 jewelry designs in her catalogue. The lightweight, vitrified, nonporous pendants are waterproof and can even be worn in the shower.

Married and the mother of two children, Shuros is a native of Kingman, a city of 20,000 in the shadow of an extinct volcano in the high mountain desert of northwest Arizona. Her dream in high school was to get an appointment to a U.S. military academy. Though she was nominated by U.S. Senator John McCain to the Naval Academy in Annapolis, she opted to attend Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, where she earned a degree in art and education.

When she is not working with ceramics, Shuros teaches art part-time at Gethsemane Lutheran, a private elementary school in Maplewood. She is also working on a master's degree in art at the University of Wisconsin in River Falls.

The Highland Art Fair was among the best of the 26 art festivals in which Shuros participated last year. It was not only lucrative, she said, it allowed her to talk with neighbors and acquaintances who had not been familiar with her art. Her work is also sold at the Blue Moon Coffee Cafe on East Lake Street in Minneapolis.

Seeing one of her ceramic pendants around the neck of somebody around town is still a thrill for Shuros. This year she is introducing a new line of sculpture made from rusted scrap metal that she scrubs with steel wool, paints with clear enamel and decorates with her ceramic circles. But ceramic pendants are still her mainstay.

Shuros claims that she is the only member of the Minnesota Button Society who collects but doesn't exhibit her buttons. Her interest in them is only to further her art. While her vintage buttons are no longer found on garments, she believes that using them to impress clay is another way of reincarnating their artistic spirit.

Shuros is just as passionate about her plant designs. "I understand the reason why so many people are inspired by nature," Shuros said. "The plants I press into my clay leave a lot of detail. It reminds me of the impressions that people leave on one another."

Like the rest of the Highland Fest, the art fair will begin at 2:00 p.m. on Friday and run through Sunday afternoon. For more information, visit www.highlandfest.com.

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Trips to the top of the Highland Water Tower will be there for the taking during Highland Fest. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

Water tower tour offers a room with view July 18-19

St. Paul Regional Water Services will once again open the arched doors of the historic Highland Water Tower for free, self-guided tours from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, July 18-19, during Highland Fest.

The water tower is situated on a knoll at the southeast corner of Snelling Avenue and Ford Parkway. Those who negotiate the 151-step, winding staircase leading to the tower's observation deck will be rewarded for their efforts with a panoramic view of much of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Convenient landings with benches are situated along the staircase for those who need to take a break during their climb to the top.

The construction of the Highland Water Tower was completed in 1928 at a cost of \$70,000. The tower was designed by Clarence Wigington, a city of St. Paul architect from 1915-1949. Wigington, the first African American architect to be employed by a major American city, took a 200,000-gallon steel water tank and encased it in a distinctive octagonal structure made of Kasota and Bedford stone. A collection of original blueprints of the tower, many of which bear Wigington's signature, will be on display inside the tower.

Although two newer water tanks now operate a stone's throw to the north, Wigington's 127-foot-tall tower is still used today to supply water and increase water pressure to the homes and businesses in the Highland Park and Macalester-Groveland neighborhoods.

Part of the purpose of the open house is to inform residents about the water utility's efforts to preserve and protect local water resources. Information about the utility's water purification process and distribution system will be available and utility employees will be on hand to answer questions.

St. Paul Regional Water Services is currently rehabilitating a water main that feeds the reservoir adjacent to the Highland Water Tower. The project includes work on 4 miles of underground pipes between the reservoir and the intersection of Lexington Parkway and Front Avenue. The Highland Park portion of the project, which includes access pits on Snelling Avenue, Randolph Avenue and Brimhall Street, is scheduled for completion by late July or early August.

The Highland Water Tower will also be open on October 10-11 for the annual viewing of autumn colors. For information, call 651-266-6350.

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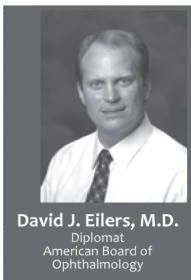
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Dam open house has a lock on drawing visitors

Those who want to learn how huge barges and small pleasure craft ply the navigable headwaters of the Mississippi River will have that chance when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers hosts its annual Highland Fest open house of Lock and Dam No. 1 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 18.

The open house will offer self-guided tours of the facility, which is located just south of the Ford Bridge on the Minneapolis side of the river. Visitors will be able to view areas of the lock and dam that are not normally open to the public. They will also be able to watch boats slip in and out of the lock and a short video of a boat trip down the Mississippi.

Up to 3,000 people are expected to stop at the lock and dam during Highland Fest, compared to the 500 to 600 people who turn out on a typical summer day.

Lock and Dam No. 1 opened for the first time to watercraft on July 3, 1917. Often referred to as the Ford Dam, the facility is one of 29 locks and dams that are operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on the Mississippi between Minneapolis and New Orleans.

The lock operates 24 hours a day during the boating season. The visitor center is open from 8:00 a.m. to dusk each day. For details, call 612-724-2971.

Simply Irresistibles

Mick Sterling brings his new band and renewed energy to Highland Fest stage

BY BILL STIEGER

There are just a few Twin Cities area musical entertainers who can pack a nightclub on any given night, and vocalist Mick Sterling easily qualifies as one of them. The leader of the former Stud Brothers has been rocking area nightclubs for more than 20 years and he's not about to stop, especially when he's fronting for a new group that's been blistering the paint off nightclub walls for the past nine months.

They are the Irresistibles, who will headline the entertainment lineup from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. Friday, July 17, on the main stage in Hillcrest Park during Highland Fest. Anyone who loves soul and rhythm and blues will find Sterling's new band, well...irresistible.

"I like to describe our sound and concept as Otis Redding meets Amy Winehouse meets the Commitments," said Sterling of his nine-piece band that includes two female vocalists, a horn section and one of the tightest rhythm sections—they book themselves separately as Toby Lee and the HDs—in the Midwest. "I feel just like I did back in the early days with the Stud Brothers. This group has that energy."

The Irresistibles need the energy. The group is playing 15 one-nighters this month alone. That includes setting up and tearing down a truckload of instruments every other day,

not to mention the traveling time.

"It's not that bad," Sterling said. "Most of our gigs are right here in the Twin Cities. It's a lot of work, but it's a lot of work that we love to do."

Sterling, 48, was born in Fort Dodge, Iowa. His parents moved to Minneapolis while he was still in his infancy. He said he wanted to be a musician since he was 5 years old. He played in amateur bands while attending Robbinsdale High School and sang with various groups in local bars during the early '80s.

"I think I can speak for all of us in the band when I say we're going to bring it when we play Highland Fest."

An early influence on the young Sterling was Bruce Springsteen. However, Sterling did not become a true professional until he left Minneapolis.

"I moved to St. Louis in '84," he said. "I played a lot of gigs down there and got my singing together. I felt pretty strong by the time I moved back to Minneapolis in '88, when we started the Stud Brothers."

The Stud Brothers earned their regional fame and paid their dues in Minneapolis by playing Sundays—



The Irresistibles, fronted by Mick Sterling with vocalists Cate Fierro, left, and Shalo Lee, will cap off Friday night's entertainment lineup during Highland Fest. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

traditionally off-nights for musicians—at Bunkers on Washington Avenue, mixing soul hits by James Brown, Etta James, Tower of Power and Wilson Pickett.

"Inside of a year we had lines going out the door," Sterling said. "We kept that gig for 17 years."

Mick Sterling and the Stud Brothers recorded numerous CDs, played hundreds of gigs and festivals, and regularly performed for the Heart and Soul Festival, a summer camp for children who live with HIV/AIDS.

"The Stud Brothers had a great run," Sterling said, "but the group simply played itself out. We made our statement and we broke up amicably."

So why does he call the new group the Irresistibles, and not Mick Sterling and the Irresistibles?

"For booking reasons, I've been calling it the Irresistibles featuring Mick Sterling, just to lend a recognizable name to a new band," he said. "But I like the group's name too much to mess it up. Besides, I'm not the only star in the group."

The Irresistibles also feature two vocalists that Sterling is thrilled about: Shalo Lee and Cate Fierro. "Shalo is an old friend who's been a force on the Twin Cities scene for a while," he said. "Cate is a new face in town. She came to one of my gigs and told me she sang and left her number. Well, I called and gave her a listen. She was absolutely terrific."

The band also includes Nick Salisbury on bass guitar, Toby Lee Marshall on Hammond organ, Blair Krivanek on guitar, Jordan Carlson on drums, Zack Lozier on trumpet and Gus Sandberg on

tenor saxophone.

The Irresistibles cover all the old soul chestnuts, and throw in a few surprises. "It's Your Thing" by the Isley Brothers is countered by "You Know I'm No Good" by Amy Winehouse. Otis Redding's "Try a Little Tenderness" is balanced with "100 Days, 100 Nights" by Sharon Jones & the Dap-Kings.

"Having the other two vocalists gives the group a lot of flexibility," Sterling said, "and we can do male/female songs like 'It Takes Two' by Marvin Gaye and Kim Weston."

Sterling believes the singing and musicianship of the Irresistibles will thrill the audience at this weekend's festival.

"I think I can speak for all of us in the band," he said, "when I say we're going to bring it when we play Highland Fest."

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Highland's Hensley brings bare-bones performances to fest

BY BILL STIEGER

The days when a musician could get by on talent alone are long gone. There are too many bands and too few venues. To succeed, today's artists not only must excel in their craft, they must know how to be promoters, publicists, networkers and business people.

Nick Hensley of Highland Park is a singer, agent and promoter who personifies the successful modern musician. He leads a band called Love Songs For Angry Men that just released a self-titled CD. He runs a booking agency called Superhero Productions. He hosts open mike performances on Sunday nights at Plums for the Minnesota Songwriters Showcase. He has also booked many of the acts for this weekend's Highland Fest, including the musicians who will perform under the title "Minnesota Naked."

"The whole Minnesota Naked thing comes out of Sundays at Plums," said Hensley, 33, who began hosting the open mike performances three years ago with bassist Nick Salisbury. "There are a lot of great local performers who deserve to have their talents recognized. It's called Minnesota Naked because these artists will be playing with just an acoustic guitar. The Minnesota Songwriters Showcase and Minnesota Naked projects help give these artists the visibility they deserve."

Hensley will perform as part of Minnesota

Naked at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, July 18, on the Pinehurst Bank Stage at Ford Parkway and Finn Street.

As a performer, Hensley often reminds listeners of Tom Waits. His voice carries a truckload of gravel and there's a Waits-like world-weariness in his ballads. However, his funkier tunes lend Hensley the persona of a soul man. He has the voice of a singer who has lived in fleabag hotels, lost his car in a poker game and sold his blood for a pack of smokes.

But he hasn't.

Hensley grew up in the middle-class Chicago suburb of Tinsdale. His enrollment at the University of St. Thomas, where he majored in music and communications, is what precipitated his move to Highland Park.

"I like to blame my voice on booze and cigarettes," Hensley said with a laugh. "Really, I quit smoking some time ago, but I was always attracted to singers like Waits, Ryan Adams and Bruce Springsteen. I was also influenced by Martin Zellar, a singer I think is terrific."

While attending college, Hensley's Chicago pal, Mike Ruiz, moved to St. Paul and helped him form a band called the District.

"It was Mike and me," Hensley said, "along with a rotating bunch of players we got from local colleges and Music Tech. We got some national and college radio play, and we showcased at a music festival hosted by the Bare Naked Ladies in Toronto. After that, we toured, playing 200 shows a year until Mike



Highland Fest performer Nick Hensley wails on a mouth organ. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

and I went our separate ways in 2002."

Hensley formed Superhero Productions as a vehicle for keeping the District on the road. "I was asked by some clubs to take over their bookings, which is how it got started," he said. "I book for O'Garra's Garage, Tiffany's and the Eagle Street Grill."

Macalester-Groveland's Joe Carey is often Hensley's partner in rhyme. Carey and his sis-

ter, Jessica, also of Macalester-Groveland, will open the Minnesota Naked performances at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday at Highland Fest.

Long Songs For Angry Men began with just Hensley and Carey. However, things apparently got a little out of hand at the recording session for their first CD.

"On the recording, we added a lot of other musicians," Carey said. "At our release party at the Cedar, we must've had eight to 10 musicians on stage."

Hensley and Carey aren't the only local residents who'll be playing with Minnesota Naked during Highland Fest. Singer-guitarists Jeff Ray and Thomas Kivi of Macalester-Groveland also are scheduled to play. Ray is a folk blues singer who plays a mean bottleneck guitar, and Kivi is a poignant singer and phrase turner who evokes memories of a young Bob Dylan, had Bob been a student of Socrates.

Hensley said he still enjoys playing solo gigs, but he plans to do four to six concerts a year with his full band.

"My wife and I just bought a house in Highland Park," he said. "We plan on raising a family, so my touring days are somewhat over. But the booking company is taking off and it allows me to push my songwriting, which is my real passion. My goal is to promote my songs and helping other musicians do the same. That's why we created the Minnesota Songwriters Showcase and the Minnesota Naked concerts for this year's Highland Fest."

Minnesota Naked concert lineup

Top local musicians who have been "stripped down" to guitar or piano will perform as part of Minnesota Naked from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, July 18-19, on the Pinehurst Bank Stage on Ford Parkway and Finn Street during Highland Fest. The lineup includes:

Saturday, July 18

1:00 p.m.—Brother and sister Joe and Jessica Carey of Macalester-Groveland have been playing throughout the Midwest for almost a decade. The acoustic duo plays songs by



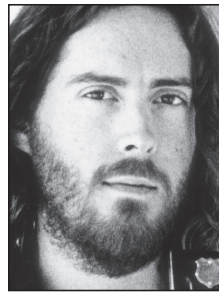
Joe Carey



Jessica Carey

the likes of Bob Dylan and the Beatles, along with their own material.

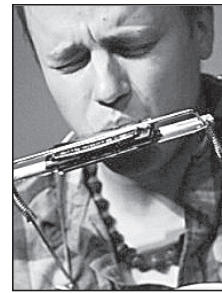
2:00 p.m.—Nick Hensley of Highland Park is the lead singer of Love Songs For Angry Men, which recently released its first CD.



Jeff Ray

3:00 p.m.—Macalester-Groveland resident Jeff Ray plays a hard-driving, foot-stomping style of blues-inspired folk.

4:00 p.m.—The acoustic trio Deluge blends soul, blue grass and country.



Thomas Kivi

Sunday, July 19

1:00 p.m.—Thomas Kivi of Macalester-Groveland started writing songs about a year ago and soon discovered his singing voice as well.

2:00 p.m.—Local singer and songwriter Ashleigh Still plays quirky, honest music from the deepest part of her soul.

3:00 p.m.—B4 I DIED is a new alternative folk-jazz group featuring work by accomplished songwriter Carl Franzen on vocals and keyboard, Carl Torgerson on guitar and vocals, and Nathan Shutes on keys, guitar and vocals.

4:00 p.m.—St. Paul singer/guitarist Carl Torgerson is the frontman for the power-folk-rock-funk trio Jistoray.

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Stage 1 Treasure Island Resort & Casino Stage

Friday 17th

•6:00 PM - 7:00 PM - Roster
McCabe

•7:30 PM - 10:30 PM

The Irresistibles

featuring Mick Sterling

*Fireworks will immediately follow

Sat. 18th

•10:00 AM - 12:00 PM - Shawn

Sweeney Music that Giggles!

•12:00 PM - 12:30 PM - Rince na
Chroir Irish Dancers: dance class
for children!

•1:00 PM - 2:30 PM - Romantica

•3:00 PM - 4:30 PM - The Alarmists

•5:00 PM - 6:00 PM - The Teddy

Holidays

•6:30 PM - 7:30 PM - The Limns

•7:30 PM - 8:00 PM - The Shimmy

Twins: Belly Dancers



•8:00 PM - 10:30 PM

GB Leighton

*Fireworks will immediately follow

Sun. 19th

•11:00 AM - 1:00 PM - The Swing

Daddies

•2:00 PM - 5:00 PM - The

Rockin' Hollywoods

Stage 2 Pinehurst Bank Stage

Friday 17th

•2:00 PM - 3:45 PM - Vicky Emerson

•4:00 PM - 6:00 PM - Don & Doreen

•6:30 PM - 8:00 PM - The Lost

Marbles

Sat. 18th

•10:00 AM - 11:30 AM - Rince na

Chroir Irish Dancers Performance

•1:00 PM - 5:00 PM - MNaked

Featuring:

•1:00 PM - Joe and Jessica Carey

•2:00 PM - Nick Hensley

•3:00 PM - Jeff Ray

•4:00 PM - Deluge

•5:30 - 6:30 PM - Highley's boys

•7:00 - 8:00 PM - Xibaba

Sun. 19th

•11:15 AM - 12:15 PM - Dancercise

Kids with Tessa

•1:00 PM - 5:00 PM - MNaked

Featuring:

•1:00 PM - Thomas Kivi

•2:00 PM - Ashleigh Still

•3:00 PM - Carl Franzen

•4:00 PM - Carl Torgerson

ARTISTS CLAY & CERAMICS

- 11 Lazare Rottach
- 18 Grace Pass
- 44 Lee Persell, Lee Persell Pottery
- 53 Mimosa Greer
- 56 Miriam Shuros
- 60 Tyler MacNeal
- 74 Kathleen Wellik, Dover Road Pottery
- 90 Adama Sow

ARTISTS DRAWING

- 8 Mary Ford
- 25 Jennifer Smock
- 86 Marian Adcock

ARTISTS FIBER

- 13 Bao Yang
- 20 Faye Fisher-Ward
- 87 True Yang

ARTISTS GLASS

- 3 Dan Neff
- 14 Theresa Charpentier
- 32 Greg Wagner
- 50 Jeanine Huot, Joy From The Heart
- 69 Jessica Dorrow, Sassy Glass
- 77 Sandra Crowley
- 79 Kathy Vaneps, Northern Night Lights

ARTISTS HENNA TATTOO

- 71 Deena Drewes

ARTISTS JEWELRY

- 1 L Cisco Cosgrove
- 7 Sandra Gustafson & Susan Quandt
- 12 Phillip Kahmann
- 16 Mary Best
- 21 Lisa Nelson, A Treasured Bead
- 27 Larissa Loden, Left Hand Originals
- 30 Todd Hawkinson
- 37 Cindy Mae Swee, Dakota Mae Design
- 45 Pam Smith, Phoenix Designs
- 49 Lauren Nicole Rusnak
- 57 Gail Jacobson
- 64 Grow Toulh
- 67 Alejandra Klaric
- 80 Barbra Miller
- 82 Mary Brekke, Yowza Bead Design
- 88 Patricia S. Conlin, The Goldsmith

ARTISTS LEATHER

- 31 Terry Evans

ARTISTS MIXED MEDIA

- 33 Terry Williams

ARTISTS OTHER

- 2 John and Joanne Colvin
- 28 Valerie Lyon
- 26 David Beckius
- 34 Susan Bass, The Soap Bar
- 36 Jeffery Gauss, Magnetic Originals
- 39 Ying Zhang
- 52 Janis Shortridge, Rustic Hearth Soaps, Textiles and Candles
- 54 Debb Morgen

ARTISTS PAINTING

- 10 Anita Martin
- 24 Stephanie Mirocha
- 35 Michael Schmidt
- 55 Lan-En (Amy) Wiegert
- 58 Cheuk Sang Yim
- 61 Shane and Kelly Anderson
- 75 Russel Dittmar
- 84 Megan Moore
- 89 Richard Graves

ARTISTS PAPER

- 29 Bethany Kihlstedt
- 42 Yukako Ovick

ARTISTS PRINT MAKING

- 4 Kendra Gebbia

ARTISTS PHOTOGRAPHY

- 5 Alan Hirsine
- 15 James Benda
- 23 Jim Gindorff
- 48 Lisa DeMore
- 65 Chris & Dave Angell, Angell's Images
- 73 Tracy Reese
- 81 Allen Gray, Allen Gray Photography

ARTISTS SCULPTURE

- 9 Tom Coben
- 43 Charles and Sharon Adams, Francis Metal Works

ARTISTS WEARABLE ART

- 19 Angie Sandifer
- 40 Patti Echols, Mississippi Moon
- 47 Susan Berns, Fairy Finery
- 59 Charlotte Harris
- 76 Scott Rohr

ARTISTS WOOD

- 6 Paul Schroeder
- 38 Troy Kaupang
- 46 Gary & Cynthia Malinowski, By Magic
- 70 Linda & Mike Poisson, Doodletown Toys
- 83 Jason Wallace

HBA BUSINESS FAIR

- 1 US Bank
- 2 Mgaile Studio
- 3 The Wellness Center
- 4 Team Edelstein
- 5 Snyder Drug
- 6 Planned Parenthood
- 7 Great Clips
- 8 Ensemble Music
- 9 Therapeutic Services Agency
- 10 Pinehurst Bank
- 11 RF Moeller Jeweler
- 12 Minnesota Greyhound Rescue
- 13 Classical Ballet
- 14 EmbroidMe
- 15 World Ventures
- 16 Tea Source and Let's Dish
- 17 College Nannies and Tutors
- 18 Music Together in the Valley
- 19 Sister Rosalind School of Massage
- 20 TCF Bank
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- 29 Friends of the Orphans
- 30 Open Heart Church
- 31 Highland Central Hockey Association
- 32 7th Street Storage
- 33 Lunds
- 34 Calvary Lutheran Church
- 35 Highland LifeCare Center
- 36 Envy Skin Clinic

FOOD & BEVERAGES

- 1 Pool and Yacht Club - Turkey Sandwich
- 2 Bennett's Chop and Railhouse
- 3 State Fair Mini Donuts & Cheese Curds
- 4 HBA Pop Booth
- 5 Udder Nonsense - Ice Cream, Frozen Candy Bars, Cheesecake on-a-stick
- 6 Shooter's Grill - Hamburgers & Brats
- 7 HBA Beer Tent
- 8 9-5 Beats 10-2-Life - Pork Chops, Corn on the Cob, Pickles
- 9 Hometown Creamery - Candy & Ice Cream

FOOD & BEVERAGES CONTINUED

- 10 CNR Food Concepts - Greek Fare
- 11 HBA Coke Booth
- 12 Kennedy Concessions - Hot Dogs, Brats, Cheese Curds, etc.
- 13 Kennedy Concessions - Fresh Quesadillas
- 14 Coccojo's Italian Ice
- 15 HBA Coke Booth
- 16 CNR Food Concepts - Greek Fare
- 17 Otte's Old Fashion Kettle Korn
- 18 Heavenly Feast BBQ
- 19 HBA Coke Booth
- 20 Vietnamese Cuisine
- 21 Taco Palace
- 22 Walleye Wagon
- 23 Bob's Fresh Lemonade
- 24 Cody Rides
- 25 HBA Coke Booth
- 26 HBA Beer Tent

OTHER ATTRACTIONS

- 1 Chatterbox Pub
- 2 Pioneer Press
- 3 Channel 45
- 4 Water Wars
- 5 Revolution Foods
- 6 Poney Rides - (Sat. Only)
- 7 Ford Fiesta Ride & Drive
- 8 Kathy Ehrhard, Face Paint/Tattoo
- 9 Bookmobile (Sunday Only)
- 10 BINGO (Sat. & Sun. Only)
- 11 The Beer Dabber Showcase (Sat. Only)
- 12 Strongman Competition (Sunday Only)
- 13 Petting Zoo (Sunday Only)
- 14 Fireworks - (Fri. & Sat. 10:30 p.m.)
- + Highland Water Tower Tours (Sat. & Sun. Only) - Off site
- + Army Corps of Engineers Lock and Dam 1 Tours (Sat. Only)
- + 5K (Sun. Only) - Off site and kids 1K "Fun Run"

MUSIC

- 1 Treasure Island Main Stage
- 2 Pinehurst Bank Stage
- 3 Shaded Viewing Tents

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- 3 New Windows for America
- 4 Mike Otto Construction
- 5 JNS Builders
- 6 Hage Concrete Works
- 7 Dominion Builders
- 8 Craftsman's Choice
- 9 Brinks Home Security
- 10 Sundance Construction
- 11 Western Construction
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- 13 Renewal by Andersen
- 14 Pratt Homes
- 15 Great Lakes Window and Siding
- 16 Selfscapes
- 17 Custom Remodelers
- 18 Donnelly Stucco Construction

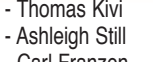
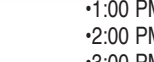
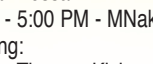
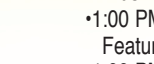
- Art
- Food
- Music
- Business Fair
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- Other Attractions



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On the Town



Peter Ross, shown reflected in the glass framing of his painting of a great blue heron, is one of 100 artists who will be showing their works at the second annual Art at St. Kate's on July 25. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

Art at St. Kate's

Peter Ross' paintings speak for themselves

By JUDY WOODWARD

Ask Peter Ross a question and the Macalester-Groveland artist will pause and deliberate before producing a minimalist's response. Inquire what he likes most about his art and Ross takes a while before finally breaking the silence. "I get real satisfaction from what others think of my work," he says.

The response is not surprising. In a world filled with self-promoters, Ross, 46, is a rare, genuinely modest man.

He may be short on small talk, but Ross says everything he wants—just not in words. His delicate wildlife drawings reflect the influences of a youth spent growing up in the countryside outside of Lake Elmo. But it is his whimsical side, displayed in deftly casual cartoons and a gently surreal sense of composition, that really gives Ross the chance to express himself.

In one piece, a papyrus painting reflects an ancient Egyptian

inspiration, until the viewer notices that a stately Minnesota moose has been carefully inserted amid the images of pharaohs, jackals and cats. In another piece, two bird nests balance on a single painted branch like weights on a scale, holding eggs never seen in nature.

A conventional painting of a large bird in flight reveals a penguin nestled artfully—if improbably—just behind the larger bird's head. Ross explained that the bird is an albatross, but did not have to explain the joke. There is no Ancient Mariner in sight forced to wear an albatross around his neck. Instead, Ross has created an albatross that carries a burden of its own. An avian comment on the human condition, perhaps? Without speaking a word, Ross has made his voice heard.

"Creatively, I'm always trying to come up with things that will make people smile—but not laugh," he said. "There's a difference."

Ross will be one of 100 artists having their say at the second annual Art at St. Kate's, a juried

art fair sponsored by the Artists' Circle and the Textile Center of Minneapolis. From 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 25, artists and crafts people working in everything from ceramics and fabrics to jewelry and glass will transform St. Catherine University's green lawn at Cleveland and Randolph avenues into an open-air gallery.

The day's focus is on the visual arts, but other senses will not be ignored. There will be strolling musicians and a food court for those who want to indulge their appetites for things other than art. Admission is free.

Growing up on Lake Olson in Washington County, with acres of woodland as his backyard, Ross always liked to draw, though he never thought of himself as an artist. He left for college with half-formed ideas of studying wildlife biology, but art was never far from his mind.

Ross can date the beginning of

PETER ROSS ► 29

Moonlighting ad executive brushes up on second career

By LARRY ENGLUND

Todd Hollingsworth is conflicted, but in a good way. As a small-business owner and artist, the 43-year-old father of two has had to balance entrepreneurship and a focus on the bottom line with a passion for painting and the demands of a growing family.

For the past 10 years, he and his wife, Tina, have owned and operated T&T Designs, an ad agency with a long list of clients that range from the Highland Business Association to SciMed. In his spacious office, however, Hollingsworth doesn't display examples of his advertising work. Instead, paintings hang on the walls and from the ceiling of the room.

Surrounded by large acrylic works and smaller watercolors, the Merriam Park resident talked with relish of his work in advertising, though he seemed to get tangled up when discussing his activities as a father and artist. "It's, uh, I don't know,

a midlife struggle," he said with a hint of disappointment in his choice of words. "A lot of my friends live in a kid-centric environment where they're working hard at a day job or it's all about the kids—which is fine. But many people have forgotten how to have fun."

At the end of his work day, Hollingsworth moves into his own kid-centric world of coaching his children's sports teams, volunteering at their school and taking advantage of the family fun the Twin Cities offers. "It's all about the kids until they hit the hay," he said.

Once his responsibilities to Max, 9, and Abbie, 5, have been fulfilled, "that's when the other aspect of my life kicks in," he said. "On Fridays and Saturdays I'll catch some local music at the Hexagon or Turf Club or stay up until 3:00 in the morning painting."

As an artist, Hollingsworth finds particular inspiration in the human form. His wife Tina is a favorite subject, as are his kids and some close friends. He originally set out to



Artist Todd Hollingsworth arranges paintings in his Midway studio. PHOTOS BY BRAD STAUFFER

create paintings in the style of the classic pin-ups, but "I settled on the face rather than the pose," he said. The results are striking and sometimes provocative. The women in his paintings stare out at the viewer with

a gaze that is variously inviting, innocent, challenging and questioning.

Though Hollingsworth also works in

HOLLINGSWORTH ► 29

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28◀ PETER ROSS

his serious commitment to painting and drawing with precision. "I didn't really start focusing until 1995," he said, which was the year he gave up drinking. "I started drinking at 16 to overcome shyness, but it was hampering the things I wanted to do."

Ross, who has been sober for 14 years, exhibits his work at three or four art shows each summer. He would like to do more shows, but for now art remains an avocation. Married with two teenage children, he works as a picture framer during the day. No one else in the family is an artist, "but my wife works in a gallery," he said. "She calls herself the art critic in the family."

Economic success and critical acclaim would be nice, but Ross remains resolutely low-key when he talks about his artistic goals. "I've rented a studio for the first time," he said, "because I want to get to the next level. To me, that's more technical proficiency."

The next level also involves more emphasis on originality in his paintings. "So many people paint deer jumping over the fence or pheasants flying up from the grass," he said. "I want to be the person who paints the owl head off-center, but still (gets the picture) perfectly balanced."

Given his preferred subject matter, Ross might be expected to compete in the annual Federal Duck Stamp contest, but he notes an important difference between his work



Peter Ross with his acrylic, "Cooperation."

and the duck stamp art. "My stuff appears detailed from a distance, but up close (it's) more imaginative," he said. "It doesn't bother me if a painting isn't scientifically accurate."

As for his long-term ambition, Ross is characteristically understated. "I don't think it would be burdensome to pursue art full time," he said. "Each piece of art is hard work at times, yet at other times I just can't get enough of it."

In other words, he is going to keep right on speaking through his art, the language through which he expresses himself best.

28◀ HOLLINGSWORTH

watercolor, most of his paintings are done in acrylic and crayon on 2-foot square pieces of wood that he buys at a local lumber yard. "The wood's got a nice texture, but it's not as bumpy as canvas," he said. He uses acrylics to create texture and adds details with a special brand of crayon. Finally, he gives the pieces a light dusting of spray paint to dull their appearance. "I like the finished product to look a little dirty and overworked," he said.

Hollingsworth creates other works on large sheets of vinyl recycled from the billboards he has created for clients. One 4-by-6-foot piece, done in a monochromatic palette of blues, grays and black, depicts a woman staring straight ahead, her eyes partially hidden in the shadow of a hat. "A friend gave me a photo that she took of herself," he said, "and I used that to create this piece."

Hollingsworth has exhibited his art at several coffee shops and taverns around town as well as at his church. "When I have an exhibition, I like to hang out and watch the reaction of people as they come in and look around," he said. Apparently, those who frequent the bars like his work. "A few get stolen each time," he said.

Hollingsworth will open a month-long exhibit of his paintings with a reception on Friday, July 31, at J&S Bean Factory, 1518 Randolph Ave. He will also be showing his work in September at Palmer's Bar on Cedar Avenue in South Minneapolis, and this fall his work will be part of a group show at the Spot Art Gallery in Northeast Minneapolis.

Spot Art Gallery puts out an annual call for submissions from Twin Cities artists, and gallery owner Scotty Johnson said he really likes Hollingsworth's use of color and design. "It's a little edgier and will fit in well with the other artists in the show," Johnson said.

Like other businesses, Hollingsworth's ad agency has been affected by the current economy and his work load is down. "That has allowed me to do more of this stuff," he said, gesturing to the paintings around the room. "I'm not up until midnight every night trying to get something done for a client."

Hollingsworth still enjoys the club scene. He sees it as a way to recharge his creative batteries. "I didn't go out much when I was younger," he said. "I was focused on my career." Now he is building a new career as an artist. He hopes that in his paintings people will remember the passion they felt "when they first discovered they were alive."



A detail from Todd Hollingsworth's acrylic painting, "Emo at the Hex."

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On the Town *Briefly*

Books

Common Good Books, 165 N. Western Ave., will present free readings by the following authors: Julie Kramer from *Missing Mark*, 7:30 p.m. Monday, July 20; J.C. Hallman from *The Hospital for Bad Poets*, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 23; Brian Duran from *Whiteout*, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 28. For information, call 651-225-8989.

Death Note, Vol. 1 by Tsugumi Ohba will be discussed by the Teens and Tweens reading group from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Thursday, July 23, at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1974 Ford Pkwy. Teens and tweens are invited to read the book and join the discussion. An animated program based on the book will be shown, and refreshments will be provided. Call 651-695-3700.

The Central Library History Book Club will discuss Stephen Ambrose's *D-Day, June 6, 1944: The Climactic Battle of World War II* on July 23. The club meets at noon on the fourth Thursday of each month in the fourth floor meeting room of the library, 90 W. 4th St. Everyone is welcome. Call 651-266-7000, extension 5.

The Erotic Slam, a fundraiser for St. Paul's national poetry slam team in which the city's best spoken-word artists break out their best poetry about love and sex, will be held at 8:00 p.m. Sunday, August 2, at the Artists' Quarter, 408 St. Peter St. Admission is \$5.00. Call 612-207-7991.

Dance

Square dancing and big band dancing will be yours to enjoy in July at the West 7th Community Center, 265 Oneida St. The Dakota Grand Squares will direct the former from 6:15 to 8:00 p.m. on Mondays. Admission is \$3.00 per person and families are welcome, though prior square dancing experience is required. The Golden Tones big band will preside over the latter between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. Wednesdays. Admission is \$3.00 and refreshments will be provided. For information, call 651-298-5493.

Exhibits

"Wolves and Wild Lands in the 21st Century," an International Wolf Center exhibit on the increasingly fragmented habitat for wolves in North America, is being displayed through August 23 at the Bell Museum of Natural History, 17th and University avenues in Southeast Minneapolis. Wolf researcher David Mech will share his insights on wolves from noon to 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 22. Admission is \$5.00, \$3.00 for students and seniors, or free for all on Sundays from noon to 5:00 p.m. Call 612-624-7083.

"Piece Process," functional art and sculpture by Chris Ahalt, Garrett Glaser, Mike Larson, Josie Lewis, Holly Vrieze Murray, Kyle Osvog, Chris Rand and Jason Wismar, is being displayed through August 1 at Vine Arts Center, 2637 27th Ave. S. in Minneapolis. A Meet & Greet and Show & Tell Potluck will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Friday, July 17. Call 612-728-5745.

"Intersections: Where Art and Fashion Meet," a pairing of art works and designer fashions, is being displayed through November 1 at the Goldstein Gallery in McNeal Hall, 1885 Buford Ave. Admission is free. Call 612-624-7434.

A juried exhibit of functional and sculptural pottery by Northern Clay Center faculty, studio artists and students will open with a reception from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Friday, July



Noises Off, the fast-moving farce by Michael Frayn that has fun with the foibles of a fifth-rate acting company, will be performed by the new Cretin-Derham Hall Summer Community Theater from July 24 through August 1. The play stars (clockwise from left) Ali Franklin, Bob Galligan, Shawn Powers, Emily Korf, Lydia Sifferlen, Kevin Lally and Milton Pappageorge. Show times are 7:00 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday, July 26, in Lillian Theater at CDH, 550 S. Albert St. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8.00 for students and seniors. Call 651-690-4187.

17, at the center, 2424 E. Franklin Ave. in Minneapolis. A reception for a current show by Northern Clay Center artists of the month Kristen Kieffer, Laura McCaul and Jeffrey Noska will be held at the same time. Call 612-339-8007.

Vintage World War II aircraft on a Wings of Freedom tour will be exhibited from July 15-17 at St. Paul's downtown airport. Visitors are invited to explore a B-17 Flying Fortress, B-24 Liberator and P-51 Mustang inside and out. Ground tours will be available from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Thursday and 9:00 a.m. to noon Friday. Admission is a donation of \$12, \$6.00 for children under age 12. Thirty-and 60-minute flights aboard the rare aircraft will also be available for a tax-deductible donation of from \$425 to \$3,200. For reservations or more information, call 800-568-8924.

Weavers from the Bolivian highlands will tell stories, explain their natural dyeing techniques, and demonstrate their traditional weaving in a free program from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Thursday, July 16, at the Weavers Guild of Minnesota, 3000 University Ave. SE. in Minneapolis. The Bolivian weavers will also be selling their works. Call 612-436-0463.

Film

The Maltese Falcon will be shown on July 17 as part of a series of free screenings in the courtyard of St. Paul's Central Library, 90 W. 4th St. Based on books, plays or comic strips, the series will also include *Barefoot in the Park*, July 24; and *The Quantum of Solace*, July 31. The programs will be cancelled if it rains. Call 651-222-3242.

Slingshot Hip Hop, the 2008 documentary about young Palestinians in Israel, Gaza and the West Bank who discover hip hop and use it to surmount divisions imposed by occupation and poverty, will be shown on Sunday, July 19, by the Twin Cities chapter of the International Jewish Anti-Zionist Network. The film will roll at 9:00 p.m. on the rooftop deck of the Bedlam Theatre, 1501 S. 6th St. in Minneapolis. Admission is free, though donations will be accepted.

Twilight (PG-13), the 2008 movie about a teenage girl who risks all by falling in love with a vampire, will be shown on Thursday, July 30, at the Highland Park Library, 1974

Ford Pkwy. The free program for teenagers will run from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served and a drawing held for a set of Twilight books. Call 651-695-3700.

Music

"Summer at Northrop," a series of free concerts from noon to 1:00 p.m. weekdays on Northrop Plaza at the University of Minnesota, continues with World Superpower, July 15; the Moss Piglets, July 16; Jelloslave, July 20; Romantica, July 21; and the Innocent Reggae Band, July 22. If it rains, concerts will be moved into Northrop Auditorium.

Singer-songwriters Mare Lennon of Mendota Heights and Jill Holly of St. Paul will perform on Thursday July 16, in a benefit concert for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. The benefit will begin at 6:00 p.m. with a silent auction at Old Chicago Pizza, Highway 42 and Cedar Avenue in Apple Valley. The music by balladeer Holly and jazz-folk artist Lennon will follow at 7:00. Tickets are \$10 and entirely tax-deductible.

"Mill City Live," a concert series running from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Thursdays in the courtyard of the Mill City Museum, 704 S. 2nd St. in Minneapolis, continues with indie rockers Gospel Gossip on July 16; the indie pop of Caroline Smith and the Good Night Sleeps, July 23; the Latin rhythms of the nine-piece Charanga Tropical, July 30; and the seven-piece neo-psychedelic First Communion Afterparty, August 6. Tickets are \$5.00 and include admission to the museum between 4:00 and 9:00 p.m. Food and beverages will be available for purchase from D'Amico Catering. Call 612-341-7555.

The School of Rock Music Midwest All-Stars will perform at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, July 19, at O'Garas Garage, 164 N. Snelling Ave. Four Twin Cities musicians will be among the talented teenagers. The doors will open at 5:30 p.m. The music begins at 6:00. Tickets are \$12.

"Nine Nights of Music," a series of free concerts beginning at 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays on the plaza outside the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd., continues with the old-time music of the Eelpout Stringers on July 21; the rhythmic two-steps and

waltzes of Cajun Hot Soles, July 28; and the Charmin Michelle Swing Band, August 4 with prizes for concert-goers dressed in the best 1940s-era threads. Instructors from Tapestry Folkdance Center will be on hand to teach the appropriate dance steps. Bring a lawn chair, pack a picnic supper or purchase food from the terrace grill. The museum galleries are also open to the public free of charge on Tuesdays. Call 651-259-3000.

Sacred harp singing will take place from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. Saturday, July 25, at Historic Fort Snelling. Everyone is welcome to sing along or just listen. Sacred harp, or shape note, singing is a 200-year-old American a cappella tradition that includes hymns, anthems and gospel songs. Loaner books will be available. Call 651-457-7762.

Theater

The Skin of Our Teeth, Thornton Wilder's tribute to the invincibility of the human spirit, is playing through July 25 at the Minneapolis Theater Garage, 711 W. Franklin Ave. Written in 1942, the Pulitzer Prize-winning comedy tells of a suburban American family, their maid and a host of other characters who prevail over a succession of natural and man-made catastrophes. Girl Friday Productions is presenting the show at 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$20 with discounts for students and seniors. Call 612-729-1071.

A brash but broke producer and his pals are holed up in a Times Square hotel rehearsing what they think will be a smash hit. They had better work fast. Nineteen hungry actors keep ordering food and the bill for room service alone could close the show before it opens. *Room Service*, a screwball comedy from the 1930s by John Murray and Allen Boretz, is being performed through August 2 at Theatre in the Round, 245 Cedar Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Show times are 8:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$20 with discounts for students and seniors. Call 612-333-3010.

Shakespeare & Company is back for another summer of classical theater on the outdoor stage at Century College, 3300 Century Ave. N. in White Bear Lake. Running in repertory through August 2 are three comedies—Shakespeare's *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* and *Much Ado About Nothing* and Moliere's *The Imaginary Invalid*. Show times are 7:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 6:00 p.m. Sunday. Bring a blanket or lawn chairs and a picnic supper. Tickets are \$12, \$10 for seniors, free for children under 12. For show dates, call 651-779-5818 or visit www.shakespeareandcompany.org.

Take a wild romp through France, compliments of the University of Minnesota Showboat Players. *Is There a Doctor in the House?*, an adaptation of Moliere's classic comedy *The Imaginary Invalid*, is being performed afternoons and evenings through August 29 aboard the Centennial Showboat docked at Harriet Island. Tickets are \$15-\$25 for the theater, or more with lunch, dinner and river cruise options. Call 651-227-1100.

The Brave New Workshop Saves the Planet, or Yes We Can, but Do We Have To? opens on Friday, July 17, at the Brave New Workshop, 2605 Hennepin Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Comedians Lauren Anderson, Joe Bozic, Josh Eakright, Bobby Gardner and Ellie Hino battle the world's evils in an effort to redeem their audience's funny bones. Show times are 8:00 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays and 7:00 and 10:00 p.m. Saturdays through October 31. Tickets are \$24 to \$27. Call 612-332-6620.

South Minneapolis comedienne Lorna

Landvik will perform her one-woman tour de force, *Party in the Rec Room*, on Friday, July 24, in a benefit for the Loft Literary Center. The program, will begin at 8:00 p.m. at the Loft, 1011 Washington Ave. S. in Minneapolis. In it, Landvik plays off suggestions from the audience, seamlessly working them into her constantly shifting monologue. Tickets are \$25, \$15 for starving artists. Call 612-215-2575.

Relive your high school prom and solve a murder mystery while you're at it. Attend the interactive drama *Murder at the Prom*. Set in the 1980s, the Young Artists Initiative production will be presented at 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, July 24 through August 1, at the First Lutheran Church banquet hall, 463 Maria Ave. Theater-goers are invited to dig out their best 1980s outfits, dust off their dancing shoes and join in the fun. Tickets are \$10, \$5.00 for seniors and students. Visit www.youngartistsmn.org.

The Most Massive Woman Wins, a play by Madeleine George about four women who meet at a liposuction clinic, will open at 5:30 p.m. Friday, July 31, in the Arena Theater at the University of Minnesota's Rarig Center, 330 21st Ave. S. in Minneapolis. A production of Theatre Unbound, the drama will continue to unfold at 2:30 p.m. August 2, 10:00 p.m. August 4, and 7:00 p.m. August 6 and 9. Tickets are \$10-\$12. Call 866-811-4111 or visit fringefestival.org.

Family

The Nightingale, Hans Christian Andersen's story of friendship and forgiveness adapted for the stage by Randy Sue Latimer, is being performed through August 2, at SteppingStone Theatre, 55 N. Victoria St. The drama tells of a Chinese emperor and a nightingale whose song is so enchanting, the emperor thinks there is nothing more

beautiful—until he is given a bejeweled mechanical bird. The poor nightingale is practically forgotten until illness strikes the emperor. Shows are scheduled mornings, afternoons and evenings Tuesdays through Sundays. Tickets are \$11, \$9.00 for seniors and children ages 2–17. Call 651-225-9265.

Music from the Appalachian mountains, the Louisiana bayous and other far-flung locales will be performed by Ten Penny Tunes at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, July 15, at the West 7th Community Center, 265 Oneida St. Call 651-298-5493.

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 author Kate DiCamillo and her new book, *Mercy Watson: Something Wonky This Way Comes*, at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, July 18; author Meg Cabot and her young-adult novel *Airhead*, 2:00 p.m. Sunday, July 19; and lion, tiger and bear stories with the WonderWeavers at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, July 25. Call 651-224-8320.

Music and juggling are on tap at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays this summer at the Hillcrest Recreation Center, 1978 Ford Pkwy. Part of the St. Paul Public Library's summer reading program, the 30- to 45-minute programs will feature Half Pint and Oscar on July 16; comedian and juggler Alan Johnson, July 21; and Ten Penny Tunes, July 23. Call 651-695-3700.

Wonderland: The Musical Misadventures of a Girl Named Alice will be performed by St. Mark's Community Theater at 7:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday, July 17 and 18, in Joseph Meyer Auditorium at St. Mark's School, Prior and Marshall avenues. Admission is \$5.00, \$3.00 for children, free to kids under age 6.

"Saturday Live!" free entertainment for

children at 11:15 a.m. Saturdays at St. Paul's Central Library, 90 W. 4th St., will feature a program on insects with Bruce the Bug Guy on July 18 and the history of knights and dragons on July 25.

Children ages 6-11 are invited to explore books with a woman and her dog on Saturday, July 18, at the Highland Park Library, 1974 Ford Pkwy. The "Paw Pals" team is offering free 15-minute sessions between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m. To register, call 651-695-3700.

"Summer Playhouse," a half-hour of music, dancing and puppet shows featuring Eloise, her nanny, dog Weenie and turtle Skipperdee, will be presented on Mondays, July 20 and 27, in Mendota Heights. The free program begins at 1:30 p.m. at Marie Park and at 3:00 p.m. at Mendakota Park. The shows will be canceled if it rains.

"Remarkable Reptiles" will be featured in a free hour-long show at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, July 22, at the West 7th Community Center, 265 Oneida St. Call 651-266-7000.

"Field Fiddlers," a nature program for preschoolers, will be offered July 22, 23 and 25 at the Dodge Nature Center, 365 W. Marie Ave. in West St. Paul. The 90-minute class begins at 10:00 a.m. The cost is \$14. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Preregistration is required. Call 651-455-4531.

Honk, a stage adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's story of "The Ugly Duckling," will be performed July 23 through August 1 by the Hillcrest Community Theater. Show times are 7:00 p.m. Thursday through Saturday at the Como Lakeside Pavilion, 1360 N. Lexington Pkwy. Tickets are \$10, \$8.00 for children age 12 and under. Call 651-695-3706.

"The Marriage of Grey Cloud" will be told by storyteller Duke Addicks at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, July 26, at the historic John H. Stevens House in Minnehaha Park. The

museum is open from noon to 4:00 p.m. on Sundays in July.

Et cetera

Cirque du Soleil's touring production of *Kooza* is playing through August 2 under the big top at Kellogg Boulevard and Broadway Street. The show combines acrobatics and clowning to tell the story of a melancholy man who meets up with a panoply of characters, including a king, a trickster, a pickpocket and tourist. Tickets are \$65-\$130, \$45.50-\$91 for children ages 2-12. Visit www.cirquedusoleil.com/kooza.

A "Doctor Who" Discussion Group will meet from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Thursday, July 16, in the Hillcrest Recreation Center Activity Room, 1978 Ford Pkwy. The group will watch an episode of the BBC science fiction program and then talk about it. All who follow the good doctor and his amazing adventures are welcome.

Circus Juventas will present its summer show, *Yulong: The Jade Dragon*, from July 31 through August 16 under the big top at 1270 Montreal Ave. Three guest artists from Taiwan will join the Highland Park circus' advanced students in this high-flying story about a peace-loving emperor of ancient China and a young woman who disguises herself as a soldier to save her elderly father from having to fight. Musical accompaniment will be provided by the CAAM Chinese Dance Theatre. Show times are 7:00 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and at 1:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for children and seniors reserved, \$15 for adults and \$12.50 for children and seniors general admission or \$25 for VIP seating. A Family Four-Pack (two adults and two children) of tickets for the shows at 1:00 p.m. Saturday is also available for \$50. Call 651-699-8229.



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Sports



The Wright Call

By Dave Wright

Lessons learned from visiting a real ballpark

Major League Baseball's relatively recent embrace of interleague play has been a mixed bag for Minnesota Twins fans. The local nine has been one of the biggest beneficiaries of the innovation. Only the New York Yankees have a better interleague won-loss record—by one game. The Twins went 6-3 on the road against the senior circuit in 2009, the same record they posted at home this year in interleague play. Still, it has been painful to watch Minnesota's pitchers step up to the plate in National League ballparks.

The Twins' interleague schedule this season included the usual trip to Milwaukee as well as trips to two of the best ballparks in the country—Chicago's Wrigley Field and St. Louis' Busch Stadium. The friendly confines of Wrigley are well-known in these parts. Chicago is easy to get to, and Cubs games are shown nationally on WGN-TV. In fact, Minnesota fans, given the rare opportunity to see the Twins play in Wrigley, arrived en masse for that weekend series and, by all accounts, had a great time.

I missed the Cubs series, but when the opportunity came to see the Twins play in St. Louis a few weeks back, I jumped at the chance, boarding a bus that departed from the lounge of former Central High School infielder Billy Leitner. There was nearly a 50-year age range among the passengers on that bus. The prospect of watching the Twins play with these folks was simply irresistible, especially since the games would be played in a relatively new outdoor ballpark in the downtown of a city that is famous for its love of baseball.

The new Busch Stadium, which opened in 2006, was basically built for one thing. Oh, I imagine you could stage a nice outdoor concert there, and in a pinch I suppose you could even figure out a way to play soccer or football there. But it didn't take long to determine that this is first and foremost a baseball park, and one that offers a lesson to those who are looking forward to the Twins' move to Target Field next April.

The new Busch Stadium was built in the shadow of the old one. That was convenient because the locals already knew how to navigate the streets get there. As newbies, we looked for signs on the freeway to direct us. We never found one. The ballpark is located close to the football stadium and the hockey arena, and other people just seemed to know where to go once they got downtown.

The traffic in downtown St. Louis flowed surprisingly well on game day. Though our bus chugged in less than a half-hour before the first pitch, we had little problem with city traffic on our way to the ballpark. In fact, things ran so smoothly that I never saw a single policeman directing traffic.

There's a good reason for that. Most of the parking facilities you see when you exit the freeway—in our case, I-70—are ramps that are three to five stories tall. The smaller surface

WRIGHT CALL ► 34

King of the courts

Urban tennis program pioneer heads to Hall

BY BILL WAGNER

Those who know the history of youth tennis in the Twin Cities over the past four decades know why lifelong St. Paul resident John King is headed to the Hall of Fame.

King, 67, of Summit Hill has played, coached and promoted tennis for all of his adult life. He will be rewarded for his contributions to his favorite sport when he is inducted into the U.S. Tennis Association (USTA) Northern Hall of Fame this fall at the Minnesota Valley Country Club in Bloomington. The USTA Northern governs tennis in Minnesota, North and South Dakota, and western Wisconsin.

King, a former standout tennis player for the University of St. Thomas, coached tennis at Minneapolis North and South high schools over the course of a 30-year teaching career in the Minneapolis Public Schools. He was also a teaching pro at the St. Paul Tennis Club and Town & Country Club, and a pro at several indoor facilities, including Como and Lilydale.

But he is perhaps best known for having started both the Minneapolis and St. Paul Urban Tennis programs. King was executive director of the St. Paul program from 1991-2006. He has lived in semi-retirement since then, but still has found time to teach tennis to senior citizens with physical or mental disabilities.

King was more than a little humbled about the news that he would soon be in the Hall of Fame. "It's awfully nice," he said. "I'll be in with a good group of people."

King will be joining 86 other members in the Hall, which is located in the Fred Wells Tennis and Education Center near Fort Snelling. It was started as the Minnesota Hall of Fame by Edina's Bob Larson, the former editor of *Midwest Tennis Magazine*, in 1979. It became the USTA Northern Hall of Fame in 2005.

When King was in prep school, he attended a seminary in St. Paul where tennis wasn't offered. However, he learned to play in St. Paul's parks as part of the Baker Boys, a group of youths who learned tennis by playing pickup games.

"There were no lessons back then," King said, "but we had 15 to 18 people show up each weekend. We got a little better each time."

As a collegiate player, King finished as an MIAC conference title runner-up



USTA Northern Hall of Fame honoree John King poses on the Central High courts where a St. Paul Urban Tennis lesson was being held. PHOTO BY BRAD STAUFFER

twice while attending St. Thomas. He won a sectional championship in mixed doubles in 1973 and starting in 1991 either won a section championship or was ranked first in his age group six of the next nine years. He also played on several USTA league teams that advanced to national championships, including the winning 5.5 team in Indianapolis.

His own early start in tennis gave him the idea of teaching the game to other urban kids. In 1970 he helped start the Minneapolis Urban Tennis Program, now known as InnerCity Tennis, and two decades later left to start the St. Paul Urban Tennis Program.

The St. Paul program grew from 125 youths at three sites in its first year in 1991 to more than 2,000 boys and girls ages 5-18 at 31 sites and 90 courts last year. In 2000, it was named by USTA as one of the top 15 park tennis programs in the nation.

Local tennis courts used by the St. Paul program include those at Macalester College; Highland and Central high schools; and Groveland, Merriam Park, Homecroft, Martin Luther King, Mat-tocks, Carty, St. Clair and Webster playgrounds. An All-City Tournament on Saturday, July 18, is expected to attract

more than 500 youngsters from St. Paul. (Visit stpaulurbantennis.org.)

King said the program was successful because there was enough tennis potential in the inner-city. Many believed that tennis was essentially for wealthy, white suburbanites, but not King. "We're precisely about changing that image," he said. "St. Paul has all these wonderful parks and courts you can play on for nothing."

These days, all of the dominating high school tennis teams are from the suburbs. However, five or 10 years down the road, King said, that could change. He noted that a couple of years ago Highland Park went to the state tennis tournament for the first time since the early 1980s.

"And the St. Paul public schools now have JV squads again," he said. "If participation continues to build like this, the city will become one of the major sources for players."

Marc Miller, executive director of the St. Paul Urban Tennis Program, also feels optimistic about the future of inner-city tennis and is grateful for the contributions King made to the program. "He had such a large network of connections," Miller said.

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Sports Shorts

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources recently announced free fishing in many of the state's parks, including Snelling Lake in Fort Snelling State Park. By eliminating the license requirement, the DNR hopes that those who have never fished before will try it during their state park visit. The DNR also has published a new booklet with details on 62 metro-area lakes and rivers where kids and families can fish from shore or a pier. For a copy, contact 651-296-6157 or info@dnr.state.mn.us.

The Mendota Heights Par 3 on Dodd Road is offering golf lessons on Tuesdays through July 28 at the following times: 5:00 p.m. for juniors ages 6 and older (\$53), 6:10 p.m. for parent-child pairs (\$96 for the pair) and 7:20 p.m. for adults (\$53). The cost includes three hour-long lessons and two rounds of golf. Youth golf camps are also being held throughout the summer and the course is available for birthday parties and glow-in-the-dark golf tournaments. Call 651-454-9822.

Dan Cole, the Common Man on KFAN Sports Radio, will serve as celebrity golfer and master of ceremonies for the 18th annual Human Services Inc. (HSI) Golf Classic on Monday, July 27, at Stillwater County Club. The tournament will begin with registration and lunch at 11:30 a.m., followed by a shotgun start and scramble format at 1:00 p.m. There also will be an evening dinner, live auction and awards program. Proceeds will benefit HSI's services and programs for those struggling with aging, mental illness, physical and sexual abuse, and chemical dependency. Contact Linda Zelig at 651-251-5069 or lzelig@hscare.org or visit www.hscare.org.

The inaugural Walk for Diabetes will be held at 3:00 p.m. Saturday, July 18, along West 7th Street in conjunction with the 10th annual Lightning Run, the largest charitable motorcycle ride in the Midwest. Walkers will travel part of the same route as the more than 2,000 motorcyclists who rally annually in support of diabetes research. The 2.2-mile walk will begin at Mancini's Char House, 531 W. 7th St., and end at the Summit Brewing Company, 910 Montreal Circle, where Lightning Run festivities will be taking place. A shuttle will take walkers back to the starting point. Those who cannot walk are invited to pull up a chair along West 7th to watch the parade of cyclists and walkers. The registration fee is \$10. Walkers who raise at least \$25 will receive a wristband to participate in Lightning Run activities taking place on July 17-18 at Summit Brewing (visit www.LightningRun.com). Prizes will also be awarded for pledges exceeding \$50. Registration begins at 2:30 p.m. on July 18 at Mancini's. Proceeds will support the University of Minnesota Schulze Diabetes Institute. For details, contact LuAnn or Rachel Tacke at thetackes@usfamily.net or visit www.firstgiving.com/LightningRun.



The Hi-Tower 15 and older baseball team took first place in the Mahtomedi Wood Bat Tournament on June 12-14. The team gave up only eight walks and eight runs in five games. Pictured, from left, are: (front row) Frank Pitera, Nick Johnson, Joe Zobel, Matt Wangler, Aaron Kast and Peter Morley; and (back row) assistant coach Greg Johnson, head coach Craig Meyer, Jim Haider, Adam Schiffman, Patrick King, Luke Anfinson, Tommy Johnson, Eric Slater, assistant coach Jay Johnson and Nate Meyer.

The basics of skateboarding will be taught by instructors from 3rd Lair during a program offered by the Mendota Heights and West St. Paul Parks and Recreation departments at noon on Monday through Friday, July 27-31, at the Rogers Lake Skate Park in Mendota Heights. The cost is \$166 for the week. Register at www.mendota-heights.com or in person at the Mendota Heights or West St. Paul city halls.

A Pins For Pets fundraiser will be held from noon to 6:00 p.m. Sunday, August 9, at Flaherty's Bowl, 1273 W. County Road E, Arden Hills. The event will help raise money for the Minnesota Spay/Neuter Project to help end pet overpopulation. Check-in starts at 11:30 a.m. A \$20 registration fee covers bowling, shoe rental, and dinner. Prizes will be awarded to those who raise the most pledges, as well as high scorers. There also will be other giveaways. Visit www.PinsForPets.org.

The sixth annual Mississippi River Challenge will be held on Saturday and Sunday, July 25-26. Participants will experience the Mighty Mississippi in a whole new way as they take a one- or two-day paddle down the river through the heart of the Twin Cities. Along the way, they will learn about the history and significance of the river at interpretive stops in scenic riverside parks. The challenge includes an optional night of camping out, featuring music, festivities and food at Fort Snelling State Park. Visit www.mississippiriverchallenge.org, or call Kristin Nierengarten at 651-222-2193, ext. 19.

Summer youth field trips are being offered this month and next by the cities of Mendota Heights, West St. Paul and South St. Paul. The schedule includes a trip to the Apple Valley Family Aquatic Center on Thursday, July 16, for those age 7 and older (\$15); a trip to Valleyfair on Thursday, July 23, for those age 10 and older (\$29); a trip to Cascade Bay on Thursday, July 30, for those age and older (\$16); and a trip to the West St. Paul Pool from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, August 6, for those age 6 and older (\$8.00). Round-trip transportation is included, except for the trip to the West St. Paul pool. Children should either bring a bag lunch or money for concessions. Call Mendota Heights at 651-452-1850, West St. Paul at 651-552-4150 or South St. Paul at 651-306-3690.

Nick Johnson, a recent Nativity School graduate who will be attending Cretin-Derham Hall this fall, was a one-man wrecking crew when the Hi-Tower Royals played their last game of the regular season on July 6 at the Ford Fields at Cleveland and Montreal avenues. Johnson hit three home runs in three at-bats and accounted for four RBIs for the underdog Royals, who defeated the first-place Angels 8-5. The teams are in the American League for kids ages 13-14. Playoffs run through July 19.

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32◀ WRIGHT CALL

parking lots—the ones that are primarily responsible for traffic backups—are on side streets or south of the ballpark. Thus, getting in and out of Busch was easy. A half-hour after the game, the streets around the ballpark resembled downtown St. Paul after dark—empty but for the folks walking to and from the various watering holes in the area.

I counted a dozen saloons within six blocks of the south end of the ballpark. They ranged from trendy sports bars (like Al Hrabosky's, a local version of Champps) to cozy musical venues. The bars were easy to get into, easy to get out of and—perhaps most important—always close to a waiting cab if you needed a ride to your hotel or another watering hole.

The same holds true north of the ballpark. However, since that area includes more hotels and the city's central business district, the bars there seemed to be higher-class joints. You might not feel comfortable in them if you're running around in a T-shirt and shorts.

Once you get inside Busch Stadium, you realize what we've been missing since the Twins vacated Metropolitan Stadium. Good ballparks have broad ramps for getting to and from the upper decks, not stairwells that accommodate no more than two people abreast. Friday night at Busch, we entered near left field. There was a wide entrance and plenty of concessions just inside the gate. Though the game was sold out, moving through the line was a snap. The Cardinals draw very well and probably have all hands on deck most nights. Still, it was a pleasant surprise to have an usher just inside the gate ready to direct lost souls to their destination.

We sat on the second deck in right field that first game. The evening sun made things a little unpleasant for the first couple of innings. Accordingly, the ushers didn't push to move people away from the shaded area just behind the seats. A good ballpark offers a lot of options for watching a game. Though there isn't much in the way of official standing room at Busch, there were plenty of people who took advantage of that shade, and from there they could see all of the action.

One of the things you notice in a real ballpark in a real baseball town is that the ball game really is the main attraction. Oh, there were a few instances when T-shirts were shot into the crowd and live footage from the Kiss Cam appeared on the Jumbotron. But since this was outside, the piped-in music wasn't so loud that older fans had to cover their ears.

The scoreboard in center field kept fans abreast of the out-of-town scores around the league as well as pertinent stats on the Twins and Cardinals players. It was all useful information and it came at the appropriate moments. I suspect August



St. Louis' multi-tiered Busch Stadium—a real ballpark for real baseball fans.

Busch, the team's late patriarch, would roll over in his grave if the scoreboard in his namesake stadium ever scrolled the message, "Walks will haunt."

For Saturday's game, we entered Busch at field level near first base and were surprised to discover a huge area beneath the stands where there were many concession and souvenir stands, a sitting area and plenty of room to move around. The temperature reached 99 degrees in St. Louis that afternoon, but the Cardinals were ready for it. The vendors had plenty of ice to keep the drinks cold, there were water hoses people could use to cool down, and the ushers even walked down the aisle a few times to tell some overheated fans that they really needed to get out of the sun. Fortunately, we were seated in the shade the entire game and were able to make room for those folks who weren't.

Among the biggest problems with the Metrodome are its long rows and the long climb to the second deck. The rows of seats at Busch are much shorter, and though its nosebleed section is probably just as high as the Metrodome's, it doesn't appear that way because Busch Stadium has three decks instead of two.

But the best thing about Busch is the atmosphere it engenders. The fans were intently interested in the game and in the visiting team that they knew little about. They voiced admiration for the play of Joe Mauer and Justin Morneau, both of whom happened to return to St. Louis this week for Major League Baseball's All-Star Game.

St. Louis fans love their Cardinals, but they love good baseball just as much. On Friday, when Joe Nathan fanned Cardinals slugger Albert Pujols in the ninth inning to preserve a 3-1 victory, grunts of admiration could be heard among the mutterings of disappointment.

"We had the guy we wanted at the plate with the game on the line," smiled a man from Tennessee, who said he comes to Busch five or six times a year to see the Cardinals play. "That's what we came for. Great ball game."

The guy could have said the same thing about the stadium.

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

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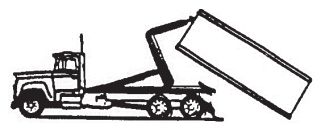
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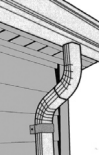


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